

Calvin Public Schools

P.O. Box 127 • Calvin, OK 74531

Phone 405.645.2411 • Fax 405.645.2384

Travis Graham, Superintendent



McKinney-Vento Best Interest Determination (BID) for School Placement

The McKinney-Vento Act requires schools to consider the school of origin as the first option in school enrollment. Parents may choose the school of origin or the school in the residency area where the child is currently living. Individuals who may be consulted when determining what placement is in the child's or youth's best interest include:

- the child or youth experiencing homelessness,
- the parents or caretakers of the child or youth,
- school division homeless liaisons,
- school principals/administrators,
- the student's teacher(s),
- homeless shelter personnel,
- school social workers,
- school counselors,
- the student's attorney.

PERTINENT DEFINITIONS

Homeless

A student is considered homeless if he lacks fixed, regular, and adequate housing. This is broader than just living "on the street." It includes temporarily living with other people because he had nowhere else to go; living in substandard housing (if it doesn't meet local building codes or the utilities are turned off, it is generally not adequate); living in emergency or transitional shelters, for example, trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) after disasters; or living in motels, camping grounds, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or any public or private place not designed for humans to live in. It also includes living in the school dormitory if the student would otherwise be homeless. A student living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent may be considered homeless even if the parent would provide support and a place to live.

Unaccompanied

When a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Youth

The Application and Verification Guide defines youth as a student under 22 years old. However, the July 29, 2015 Dear Colleague Letter states: "Applicants who are between the ages of 21 and 24 and who are unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of

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being homeless qualify for a homeless youth determination, and will be considered independent students.”

Recognized third parties

Recognized third parties include: private or publicly-funded homeless shelters and service providers; financial aid administrators from another college; college access programs such as TRIO and GEAR UP; college or high school counselors; other mental health professionals; social workers; mentors; doctors; and clergy. Unlike McKinney-Vento liaisons and HUD or RHYA-funded shelters, these third parties do not have the statutory authority to make a determination of homelessness. However, they can provide “relevant information” to financial aid administrators who are making a determination of unaccompanied homeless youth status in the absence of a statutory determination.

It is the school district’s responsibility to determine the school of origin and residency, and to resolve any conflict concerning the school placement focusing on the best interest of the student. Whenever possible, the school district should comply with the parents’/ guardians’/ unaccompanied homeless youth’s wishes. If the school district and parent/ guardian/ unaccompanied youth do not agree on the appropriate placement, the district’s Enrollment Dispute Resolution Process must be followed. The student should be enrolled in the school that the parent or unaccompanied homeless youth have chosen until the resolution process has been completed. If the school of origin is determined to be the best placement, the local homeless education liaisons from both divisions must work together to arrange transportation. The McKinney-Vento Act requires that a child or youth experiencing homelessness attend: The school of origin: the school that the child or youth last attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including preschool (administered by the district) and feeder schools; or The school of residency: the school identified by the attendance zone in which the student is currently physically staying. (IF students in the attendance area have additional options, the student may enroll in such an option IF there is room in the program and student meets any eligibility criteria). Whether the child or youth will attend the school of origin or the school of residency, enrollment should take place immediately.

Please contact Homeless Coordinator Jerad Winningham for additional information or assistance.

Travis Graham
Superintendent