



## HOMELESS/MCKINNEY-VENTO ACTION PLAN:

McKinney-Vento: Federal homeless education legislation

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act ensures the educational rights and protections of homeless children and youth so that they may enroll in school, attend regularly, and be successful. The legislation requires a local homeless education liaison in every school district to assist children and unaccompanied youth in their efforts to attend school. This act guarantees homeless children and youth the following:

- The right to immediate enrollment in school, even if lacking paperwork normally required for enrollment.
- The right to attend school in his/her school of origin (if this is requested by the parent and is feasible) or in the school in the attendance area where the family or youth is currently residing
- The right to receive transportation to his/her school of origin, if this is requested by the parent.
- The right to services comparable to those received by housed schoolmates, including transportation and supplemental educational services.
- The right to attend school along with children not experiencing homelessness. Segregation based on a student's status as homeless is strictly prohibited
- The posting of homeless students' rights in all schools and other places around the community.

While having the opportunity to enroll and succeed in school may seem like a given to many of us, the McKinney-Vento Act was enacted due to the numerous barriers homeless children faced in obtaining a free, appropriate, public education.

It is the goal of Syringa Mountain School to create public awareness of the rights of homeless children and youth and to ensure compliance with the law at the state and local levels. Syringa staff is aware and trained on the MV Act. To identify our students who qualify a questionnaire is included in our yearly enrollment forms regarding this topic and request teachers to notify us immediately when they are concerned about a child's living situation. Identified homeless students will have their school supplies fees waived and put on a food pack with the hunger coalition to receive snacks daily and a weekend food pack to go home. All extra curricular activities fees and transportation is covered for the students of need.

- *Collaborate with local education agencies (school districts) to assist in the identification of homeless families, and inform homeless families and youth of their eligibility for McKinney-Vento education services.*
- *Consider the educational needs of children when placing families in emergency or transitional shelter and, to the maximum extent practicable, place families with children as close as possible to their school of origin so as not to disrupt the children's education.*



Who is homeless?

The term "homeless children and youth" as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act;

Means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes—

- Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Children and youths who are living in a cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus/train stations, or similar settings,

Children doubled up with another family due to lack of permanent residence,

Children that are runaways, not allowed back in their home by parents, or Youth Unaccompanied

- Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above

*If there is a dispute regarding the educational placement of a homeless student, or if a school or school district/LEA denies a child, youth, or unaccompanied youth homeless status, then a written notice of explanation of such decision shall be promptly provided to the parent/guardian of the child, or to the youth, if unaccompanied by a parent/guardian. Such notice shall be in language the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth can understand, shall include a description of how to dispute the decision, and shall include a summary of the dispute resolution process.*

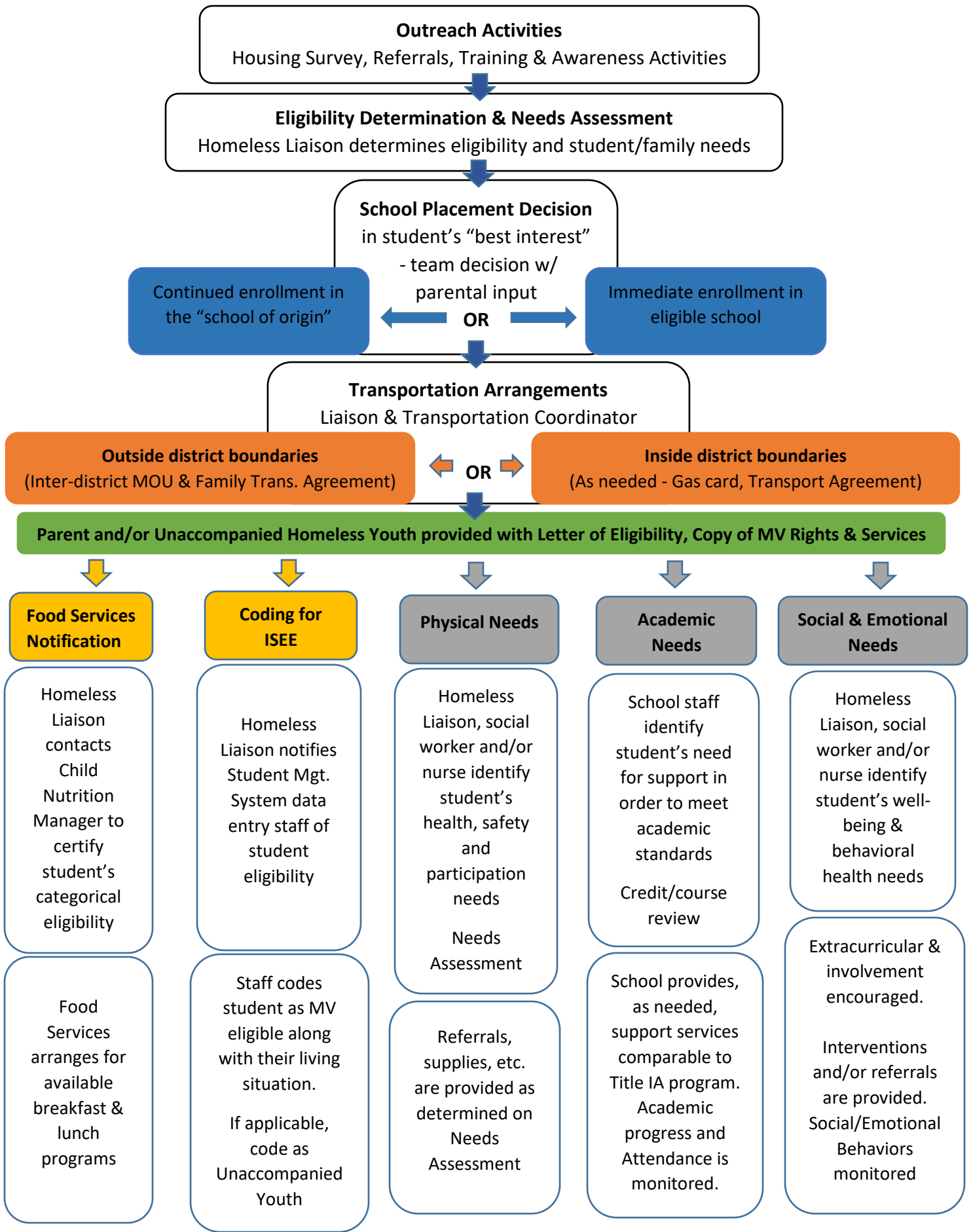
*If agreement cannot be reached between the parties regarding the educational placement or enrollment status of the student, then the school district/LEA shall promptly seek further assistance from the State Coordinator of Homeless Education to review and determine within ten (10) business days how the student's best interests will be served. All interested parties will be expeditiously informed of the State's determination in writing. The decision of the State Department of Education shall constitute final resolution.*

Please download the dispute resolution form from our website if needed:

<https://syringamountainschool.org/wp-content/uploads/DisputeForm-MVAct.pdf>

If you have questions regarding homeless status and provision of educational services, please contact Nigel Whittington, Homeless Liaison at 208-806-2880 x2

# McKinney-Vento Eligibility & Services Flow Chart



## Outreach Activities

Housing Survey, Referrals, Training & Awareness Activities

## Eligibility Determination & Needs Assessment

Homeless Liaison determines eligibility and student/family needs

## School Placement Decision

in student's "best interest"

- team decision w/  
parental input

Continued enrollment in  
the "school of origin"

OR

Immediate enrollment in  
eligible school

## Transportation Arrangements

Liaison & Transportation Coordinator

### Outside district boundaries

(Inter-district MOU & Family Trans. Agreement)

### Inside district boundaries

(As needed - Gas card, Transport Agreement)

OR

Parent and/or Unaccompanied Homeless Youth provided with Letter of Eligibility, Copy of MV Rights & Services

### Food Services Notification

Homeless Liaison contacts Child Nutrition Manager to certify student's categorical eligibility

Food Services arranges for available breakfast & lunch programs

### Coding for ISEE

Homeless Liaison notifies Student Mgt. System data entry staff of student eligibility

Staff codes student as MV eligible along with their living situation. If applicable, code as Unaccompanied Youth

### Physical Needs

Homeless Liaison, social worker and/or nurse identify student's health, safety and participation needs

Needs Assessment

Referrals, supplies, etc. are provided as determined on Needs Assessment

### Academic Needs

School staff identify student's need for support in order to meet academic standards

Credit/course review

School provides, as needed, support services comparable to Title IA program. Academic progress and Attendance is monitored.

### Social & Emotional Needs

Homeless Liaison, social worker and/or nurse identify student's well-being & behavioral health needs

Extracurricular & involvement encouraged.

Interventions and/or referrals are provided. Social/Emotional Behaviors monitored

# Idaho McKinney-Vento/Homeless Education Program Dispute Flowchart

(722(g)(1)(C) of the McKinney-Vento Act): Describe procedures for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youth.

