

Transportation of Homeless Students

Purpose

The purpose of this Technical Assistance Paper is to address the provision of transportation for charter school students who are homeless.

Background

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program is part of a federal law that addresses the problems that homeless children and youth face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth are entitled to receive the same transportation services that are available to non-homeless students.

McKinney-Vento defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. If a student becomes homeless, the school district must ensure transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian, to and from the school of origin. The school of origin is the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

Discussion

If a student in a charter school becomes homeless, the charter school should cooperate with the school district in making arrangements so that transportation is not a barrier to equal access for homeless students residing within a reasonable distance of the charter school as determined in its charter.

The Department of Education encourages new charter school founders and school district representatives to discuss this situation when negotiating a charter contract. Please consider how this situation relates to transportation funding, district school board policies, and general transportation provisions in the charter contract. The Department recommends specifically addressing procedures for providing transportation to homeless students in the charter contract.

Additional Resources and Information

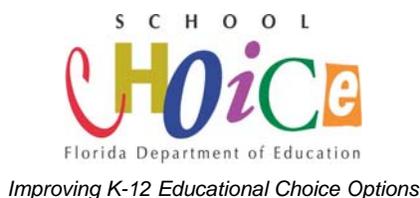
[Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes \(2008\)](#) – Charter Schools

[McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#) – Subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, addresses education for homeless children and youth. This federal law provides states with funding to ensure the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school.

[Education of Homeless Children and Youth Technical Assistance Paper](#) – This document contains detailed technical assistance related to the education of homeless children and youth in Florida. It was developed and published by the Florida Department of Education’s Bureau of Student Assistance.

For additional questions and information on charter schools, please contact the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at charterschools@fldoe.org.

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Office of Independent
Education and
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