

IVY PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Board Policy HOMELESS

Any person, including unaccompanied youth, who is otherwise eligible to be enrolled in a school except for lack, by virtue of being homeless, of a bona fide address within the zone of the school shall be accepted immediately into and registered as a scholar by the school. If said person does not have the required documents—birth certificate and certificate of immunization—the Head of Schools or his/her designee shall assist the parent/guardian or unaccompanied to acquire the necessary documents.

A scholar who is or becomes homeless may:

1. Attend the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, whether the homelessness condition occurs during or between academic years.
2. Stay in the school for the remainder of the academic year if the scholar becomes permanently housed during the academic year. The scholar must transfer to the school zoned for the permanent residence at the beginning of the next academic year.

If a homeless scholar arrives at school without a parent/guardian, the scholar shall be enrolled, and the school social worker notified. The social worker shall contact the parent/guardian and complete the enrollment process. Scholars must meet age eligibility criteria for enrollment. The Caregiver Authorization form can be used to enroll a homeless scholar without a parent or legal guardian. However, this form should not create further barriers or delay school enrollment for unaccompanied youth without the support of a caregiver.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a (2) et. seq., identifies homeless scholars as those who:

1. Lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence;
2. Share the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; live in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
3. 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
4. Live in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or
5. Are migratory and live in the conditions set forth in items 2, 3, and 4 above.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines unaccompanied youth as youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian [42 U.S.C. §11434A (6)] and eligible for immediate school enrollment. The absence of an available caregiver should not impede enrollment. Unaccompanied, homeless youth, who are on their own completely, should be enrolled in

school immediately, even if the scholar or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation. [42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(3)(C)(i)]. Schools cannot require caregivers to become legal guardians within a certain period of time after the scholar enrolls in school.

If the parent has an issue or dispute regarding enrollment, the parent /guardian or unaccompanied youth should contact the school social worker. The parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth can also ask the school for a Dispute Resolution Form to appeal the enrollment decision to the Head of Schools. Scholars shall remain enrolled in the school until disputes are resolved.

In accordance with federal and state policy, a scholar's homeless status shall not be a barrier to them receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school.

Effective Date: 03/21/19

Last Revised: 03/21/19

Authority and/or Cross-Reference