

# **Clay Central Everly Community School**

## **Education of Homeless Children and Youth**

**Homeless Liaison:** Marlana Tewes

**Duties of Liaison:**

Ensures that:

- Homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel through practices adopted by the district and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
- Homeless children and youths enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in schools of the district
- Homeless families, children, youths receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including Head Start and Even Start programs and preschool programs administered by the district, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and other appropriate services
- The parents and guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
- Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated which such children and youths receive service under this Act, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens.
- Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the Enrollment Disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- The parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all the transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school that is selected according to the child's best interests

Liaisons are required:

- To assist unaccompanied youth in placement/enrollment decisions, including considering the youth's wishes in those decisions, and providing notice to the youth of the right to appeal such decisions under the enrollment disputes provisions.
- To ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that might arise over school enrollment or placement.
- To assist children and youth who do not have immunizations, or immunization or medical records, to obtain necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records. As part of their duties, liaisons are required to collaborate and coordinate with state coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youth.

## **Identification of Homeless Children Enrolled and Not Enrolled Within the District**

### **Adopted definition:**

Homeless children and youth (school-age and younger) are:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:
  - Sharing the housing of the other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. (Doubled up)
  - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
  - Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
  - Abandoned in hospitals.
  - Awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youth 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 youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- The term unaccompanied youth includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This would include runaways living in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other adequate housing; children and youth denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to “throwaway children and youth”); and school-age unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other housing available.

In determining whether or not a child or youth is homeless, consider the relative *permanence of the living arrangements*. Determinations of homelessness should be made on a case-by-case basis.

**The adopted definition is communicated in staff, parent, and student documents.**

**See the following attached documents for evidence:**

- Definition in all handbooks
- Letter shared with every staff member
- Newsletter sharing definition with public

**Postings in the community:**

- See attached postings for school-aged youth and information for parents
- Posted in schools and community

**Documentation of annual record of homeless:**

- See printout from Project Easier, Homeless Information

**School Board policies and administrative rules have been reviewed:**

<b>Board Policy Name</b>	<b>Board Policy Number</b>	<b>Date of Adoption/Review</b>
Homeless	<b>501.15</b>	<b>June 2004</b>
Transportation	<b>702</b>	<b>April 2003</b>
Transfer of School Records	<b>501.5</b>	<b>February 1998</b>
School Fees	<b>503.11R1,R2</b>	<b>June 2002</b>
Residency	<b>501.6</b>	<b>February 1998</b>
Immunizations	<b>504.1</b>	<b>June 2002</b>
Activity Fees	<b>503.10</b>	<b>June 2002</b>

**The Clay Central Everly Community School District will ensure that:**

- School records of each homeless child or youth will be maintained
- Homeless children or youth will not be refused to enrollment or exclusion due to lack of immunization
- Fees and charges are waived if that would present a barrier to the enrollment or transfer of the child or youth
- Requirements, such as mandatory enrollment in a minimum number of course, which would constitute barriers to the education of the child or youth are waived.
- Transportation will be provided for the homeless youth or child according to Chapter 33.10(256)