MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION GRANT ASSURANCES

The local school district receiving McKinney-Vento funds agrees to:

1. designate a school district liaison for homeless children and youth who will ensure that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel; that homeless children and youth enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in school and receive educational services for which such families, children, and youth are eligible; that the parents or guardians of homeless children and youth are informed, in the language of the home, of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children; that public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is disseminated where homeless children and youth receive services, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens; that enrollment disputes are mediated according to Department guidelines; and that homeless children and youth receive the transportation services for which they are eligible, including transportation to the school of origin;

2. according to a homeless child's or youth's best interest, continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child's or youth's parent or guardian; or enroll the child or youth in the school that a non-homeless student who lives in the same area would be eligible to attend;

3. in the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the Homeless Education Liaison assists in the placement or enrollment decision, considers the views and advocates on behalf of the unaccompanied youth, and provides notice of the right to appeal to the youth;

4. immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, and immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic and medical records;

5. immediately refer the parent or guardian of the child or youth to the school district Homeless Education Liaison who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, if immunizations are needed;

6. maintain records ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district;

7. maintain a dispute resolution procedure in accordance with Department guidelines to address conflicts over school selection or enrollment and pending resolution of the dispute, admit the child or youth immediately to the school in which enrollment is sought, with transportation provided;

8. provide homeless child or youth with services comparable to services offered to other students;

9. coordinate the provision of services with local social service agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to homeless children and youth and their families;

10. review and revise any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youth in schools they select; and

11. provide data on the homeless students enrolled in the district as requested.

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