

BISON SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY FOR CHILDREN OR YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

As defined by McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2002, Subtitle B of Title VII, Section 725, as reauthorized under ESSA 2015, the term “homeless children and youth” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals or are awaiting foster care placement;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public, private place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in the circumstances described above.

The Bison School District policy is:

- Ensure the immediate provisional enrollment of children or youth experiencing homelessness until all enrollment records may be secured, i.e., academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation.
- Keep a child or youth experiencing homelessness in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child’s parent or guardian, subject to state laws on residency and enrollment.
- Ensure the elimination of stigmatization of segregated services and the elimination of other identified barriers for homeless children and youth.

- Provide children or youth experiencing homelessness with services comparable to services to other students in the school, including the following:
 - Transportation services
 - Educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria, such as services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or similar state or local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency.
 - Programs in vocational and technical education.
 - Programs for gifted and talented students.
 - School nutrition programs

Upon written notification of the district's decision, if the decision proves unsatisfactory, the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth shall be referred to the local education agency, Homeless Liaison.