

1 Joint School District No. 2, Meridian
2 Meridian Technical Charter High School, Inc. has adopted West Ada's (Joint School District No. 2) policy.
3 STUDENT PERSONNEL

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5 Series 500

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7 Policy Title Homeless Students Code No. 501.60

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10 In compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII, Subtitle B,
11 the No Child Left Behind Act, and Idaho Code 33-1404, Joint School District No. 2 Board
12 of Trustees has established the following policy to ensure that homeless children and
13 youth receive a free appropriate public education and are given meaningful opportunities
14 to succeed in school. Joint School District No. 2, in compliance with state and federal
15 law and regulations, will provide an atmosphere in which students are not segregated or
16 discriminated against on the basis of their homelessness.

17
18 **Definitions**

19 The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) defines "*homeless children and youth*" as
20 individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes:

- 21 a. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of
22 housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer
23 parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living
24 in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting
25 foster care placement;
- 26 b. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private
27 place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for
28 human beings;
- 29 c. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings,
30 substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- 31 d. migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a
32 parent or guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition.

33
34 "*Homeless liaison*" is the staff member designated by the superintendent as the person
35 responsible for carrying out the duties of the local homeless education liaison by the
36 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

37 "*School of origin*" means the school the child or youth attended when permanently
38 housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

39
40 **School Selection**

41 Each child and youth in transition has the right to remain at his or her school of origin or
42 to attend any school that houses students who live in the attendance area in which the
43 child or youth is actually living. Therefore, in selecting a school, homeless children and
44 youth will remain at their schools of origin to the extent feasible, unless that is against
45 the parent or youth's wishes. Students may remain at their schools of origin the entire
46 time they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they become
47 permanently housed. The same applies if a child or youth loses his or her housing
48 during the summer. Services that are required to be provided, including transportation to
49 and from the school of origin and services under federal and other programs, will not be
50 considered in determining feasibility.

51

52 Enrollment

53 Enrollment may not be denied or delayed due to the lack of any document normally
54 required for enrollment, including:

- 55 • Proof of residency
- 56 • Transcripts/school records
- 57 • Immunizations or immunization/health/medical/physical records
- 58 • Proof of guardianship
- 59 • Birth certificate
- 60 • Unpaid school fees
- 61 • Lack of clothing that conforms to dress code
- 62 • Any factor related to the student's living situation

63

64 Unaccompanied youth must be enrolled immediately in school. They may either enroll
65 themselves or be enrolled by a parent, non-parent caretaker, older sibling, or local
66 liaison.

67

68 Transportation

69 Parents and unaccompanied youth will be informed of this right to transportation before
70 they select a school for attendance. At a parent's or unaccompanied youth's request,
71 transportation will be provided to and from the school of origin for a homeless child or
72 youth. Transportation will be provided for the entire time the child or youth has a right to
73 attend that school, as defined above, including during pending disputes.

74 It is this district's policy that inter-district disputes will not result in a homeless student
75 missing school. If such a dispute arises, the Joint School District No. 2 will arrange
76 transportation and immediately bring the matter to the attention of the Idaho State
77 Department of Education Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and
78 Youth. In addition to receiving transportation to and from the school of origin upon
79 request, homeless children and youth will also be provided with other transportation
80 services comparable to those offered to housed Joint School District No. 2 students.

81

82 Services

83 Homeless children and youth will be provided services comparable to services offered to
84 other students in the selected school, including:

- 85 • Transportation
- 86 • Title I, Part A services - Children and youth in transition are automatically eligible
87 for Title I, Part A services, regardless of what school they attend
- 88 • Educational services for which the student meets eligibility criteria, including
89 special education and related services and programs for English language
90 learners
- 91 • Vocational and technical education programs
- 92 • Gifted and talented programs
- 93 • Before- and after-school programs
- 94 • Pre-School
- 95 • Free meals - On the day a homeless child or youth enrolls or is identified in
96 school, the school of origin shall submit the student's name to the district
97 Homeless Liaison for immediate processing.

98

99 Attendance

100 When applying any district policy regarding tardiness or absences, any tardiness or
101 absence related to a child or youth's living situation will be excused.

102 **Disputes**

103 If there is a dispute regarding the educational placement of a homeless student, or if a
 104 school or school district/LEA denies a child, youth, or unaccompanied youth homeless
 105 status, then a written notice of explanation of such decision shall be promptly provided to
 106 the parent/guardian of the child, or to the youth, if unaccompanied by a parent/guardian.
 107 Such notice shall be in language the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth can
 108 understand, shall include a description of how to dispute the decision, and shall include
 109 a summary of the dispute resolution process.

110
 111 In addition, the Joint School District No. 2 shall promptly refer the parent/guardian or
 112 unaccompanied youth to the homeless liaison, who shall carry out the dispute resolution
 113 process within ten (10) business days. The parent/guardian shall be referred to the
 114 homeless liaison who shall advise the parent/guardian of the child's rights, assist in and
 115 carry out the dispute resolution process. With respect to unaccompanied youth, the
 116 liaison shall ensure the same access to the dispute resolution process.

117
 118 During the pendency of the dispute resolution process, the child, youth, or
 119 unaccompanied youth shall be immediately enrolled or continue enrollment in the school
 120 of choice (school of origin or local attendance area). Enrollment shall include all
 121 educational services for which the student is eligible, such as attending classes and full
 122 participation by such student in all school activities.

123
 124 If agreement cannot be reached between the parties regarding the educational
 125 placement or enrollment status of the student, then the Joint School District No. 2 shall
 126 promptly seek further assistance from the State Coordinator of Homeless Education to
 127 review and determine within ten (10) business days how the student's best interests will
 128 be served. All interested parties will be expeditiously informed of the State's
 129 determination in writing. The decision of the State Department of Education shall
 130 constitute final resolution.

131

132 **Training and Information**

133 The district's Homeless Liaison will coordinate training for district staff regarding the
 134 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requirements.

135 Information regarding this policy, including the educational rights of homeless children
 136 and youth will be posted in every school in the district, as well as other places where
 137 children, youth, and families in transition receive governmental and community services.

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139 Date of Adoption:

140 02/09/10; 01/11/11

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Legal Reference:
 Code of Idaho 33-1404

- 145 ○ The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§11431 – 11436
 146 ○ Title I, Part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§6311 –
 147 6315
 148 ○ The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§1400 et. seq.
 149 ○ Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, 42 U.S.C. §§1751 et. seq.
 150 ○ June 5, 1992 Policy of the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S.
 151 Department of Health and Human Services.