**Juniata Valley School District**

**PROCEDURES FOR HOMELESS AND DISPLACED STUDENTS**

**General District Procedures for Displaced Students:**

*When a parent/guardian arrives to enroll a child and indicates they are homeless, the child(ren) must be enrolled immediately (within 24 hours) even if they are unable to provide the required documents for enrollment.  The district will require an emergency contact be provided.*

1. The Director of Student Services will review student’s rights under McKinney-Vento.  If possible, the family or staff will complete an intake form.
2. The District Liaison will evaluate the status of homelessness.
3. The District Liaison will inform via email each school principal, Food Service Director, and District Social Worker.
4. The office of transportation will work with the contracted bus service to establish immediate transportation.
5. The food service department will set up free breakfast and free lunch.
6. The Director of Student Services will work with the Juniata Valley Backpack Program for weekly food delivery if needed.
7. Additionally, the district will support the family by offering the following support:
   1. Assistance with educational needs (school supplies, activity fees, etc.).
   2. Assistance with personal supplies (clothing, bookbags, coats, etc.).
   3. Assistance with family support (counseling, housing, meals, etc.).
   4. Assistance with other district and community resources
8. The District Liaison will add the student to the ECYEH site.

**Specific Scenarios:**

Unenrolled Homeless Students (Not Unaccompanied):

1. If parents opt to enroll the child in the resident district, follow the procedures above.
2. Parents opt to remain in their district of origin.
   1. Notify the District Liaison from the district of origin of the family’s situation.
   2. Work with the district of origin to establish transportation.

Unenrolled Homeless Students (Unaccompanied Youth):

1. If youth or independent opts to enroll in the resident district, follow the procedures above.
   1. Student signs all paperwork.
   2. If an adult where the student is residing is willing, he/she may sign for the student and complete a caregiver form or a 1302 Affidavit.

Enrolled Student Becomes Homeless:

1. Family decided to withdraw from the district of origin and enroll in the district of residence.
   1. Inform the residing district of family’s homeless status.
   2. Set up transportation with the district of residence.
   3. Forward all paperwork to the district of residence.
2. Family residing temporarily in another district and continues to attend the district of origin.
   1. Inform residing district of family’s homeless status.
   2. Set up transportation within the residing district.

**Best Interest Determination:**

*The following questions should be considered prior to making a determination of homelessness:*

1. Is the student remaining in the school of origin?
2. Does the school have proper programming to meet the needs of the student (specialized education)?
3. Is the student best served moving to the district of residence due to his/her academic or behavior history?
4. Would the distance to and from the school of origin impact the student negatively?
5. Do the parents have a permanency goal that would support a change in placement?
6. Will the timing of a school transfer undermine school success?
7. Will changing schools undermine the child’s ability to stay on track to graduate?

**Dispute Resolution Process:**

*When an enrollment dispute arises based on the McKinney-Vento Act, the Juniata Valley School District will follow the procedures listed below:*

1. The student will continue to enroll and be admitted to the Juniata Valley School District.  This includes providing services to the students categorized as homeless.
2. The District Homelessness Liaison will contact the Regional Coordinator of Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) to aid in the resolution of the dispute.
3. If ECYEH Coordinator supports the district’s decision, an explanation will be sent to the parents/guardians along with the information for a right to appeal.

**Contacts:**

District:

Lisa Coble, District Homelessness and Foster Care Liaison 814-669-4422

Michael Zinobile, Superintendent of Schools 814-669-9150

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