

August 6, 2015

Revised September 2012

The Water Valley School District is currently identifying children and youth considered homeless for the 2014-2015 school year. The district policy is to provide services and procedures designed to insure homeless students receive resources provided by local, state, and federal funds. Attached is a checklist providing criteria used to identify eligible students for services and notify the Water Valley School District.

Trey Allman  
Federal Programs Director  
Water Valley Schools

#### Water Valley School District Homeless Policy

The following is the policy of the Water Valley School District:

1. The LEA shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.
2. The LEA will review and undertake steps to revise compulsory residency laws, regulations, practices, or policies to ensure that homeless children and youths are afforded the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths.
3. Homeless alone is not sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.
4. Homeless children and youths shall have access to the education and other services that such children and youths need to ensure that challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

Services may be provided through programs on school grounds or at other facilities; these programs and/or services shall not replace the regular academic program and shall be designed to expand upon or improve service provided as part of the school's regular academic program(s).

- A child that is without parental guidance or with guidance from any other family member will be represented by our guidance counselor or other faculty member that has an established relationship with the student.
- Providing tutoring, supplemental instruction and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of academic standards
- Educational programs for gifted and talented students
- Children with disabilities

- Students with limited English proficiency
- Services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or similar State or local programs
- Programs in vocational and technical education
- School nutrition programs
- Professional development and other activities for educator and pupil services, including personnel that are designated to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of the needs of homeless children and youths, their rights and specific educational needs
- Providing referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental and other health services
- Providing assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students, not otherwise provided through federal, state or local funding, to enable the student to attend school
- Providing developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through federal, state, or local funding for preschool-aged homeless children
- Providing uniforms, clothes and other personal items that are needed by the child in order for the child to attend school and educational related activities.
- Providing services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, in public school programs and services provided to non-homeless children and youth
- Providing before and after school, mentoring, summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance and supervision of educational activities
- If necessary, payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youth in school: including birth certificates, immunization or medical records, academic records, guardianship records and evaluations for special preprograms or services
- Providing education and training to the parents of homeless children and youth about the rights of, and resources available to them.
- Development of coordination between school and agencies providing services to homeless children and youth.
- Providing pupil services, including violence prevention counseling and referral for such services
- Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youth that may arise from domestic violence
- The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any non-school facilities made available to provide services
- Providing school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities or other appropriate locations
- Providing other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school