ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

McKinney-Vento Transition Education Program 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32641 Phone: (352) 955-7605 / Fax: (352) 955-7619 / Cell: (352) 275-8178

DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR MCKINNEY-VENTO EDUCATION PROGRAM.

STEP I- UNDERSTAND THE DUTIES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

• Guarantee the rights to a free and appropriate public education

- Appoint a Homeless Education Liaison in every school district to ensure:
 - immediate enrollment (even if families lack the necessary documentation)
 - access to needed comparable services (Free Lunch, Transportation, School Supplies, Etc...,)
 - school stability- Remain in School of Origin if after becoming permanently housed that school year!

• support for academic achievement (Uniforms, School Supplies, Referrals to outside agencies) REMINDER: Students are eligible for services for the entire school year!

For more on the McKinney-Vento Act, visit the NCHE website at http://www.serve.org/nche

STEP II- UNDERSTAND THE DEFINITION OF MCKINNEY-VENTO

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines *"homeless children and youths"* as *"individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."* However, because the circumstances of homelessness vary with each family's or unaccompanied youth's situation, determining the extent to which the family or youth fits the definition must occur on a case-by-case basis.

STEP III-CONSIDER DETERMINATIONS

Does the family live in any of the following situations?

- 1. a shelter/transitional housing (Interface, St. Francis, Peaceful Paths, etc..)
- 2. with family or friends due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason (doubled-up) Some pertinent questions to help determine if this is the case would include:
 - Does the student/family have any legal right to be in that home?
 - Can the student/family be asked to leave at any time with no legal recourse?
 - Is the living situation intended to be temporary or long-term?
 - Did the student/family move into the home as an urgent measure to avoid being on the street?
 - Did the family indicate not being able to provide proof of residency due to living with someone else?
- 3. cars, parks, campgrounds, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or similar setting
- 4. a hotel or motel

STEP IV- DON'T BE AFRAID TO GET THE FACTS

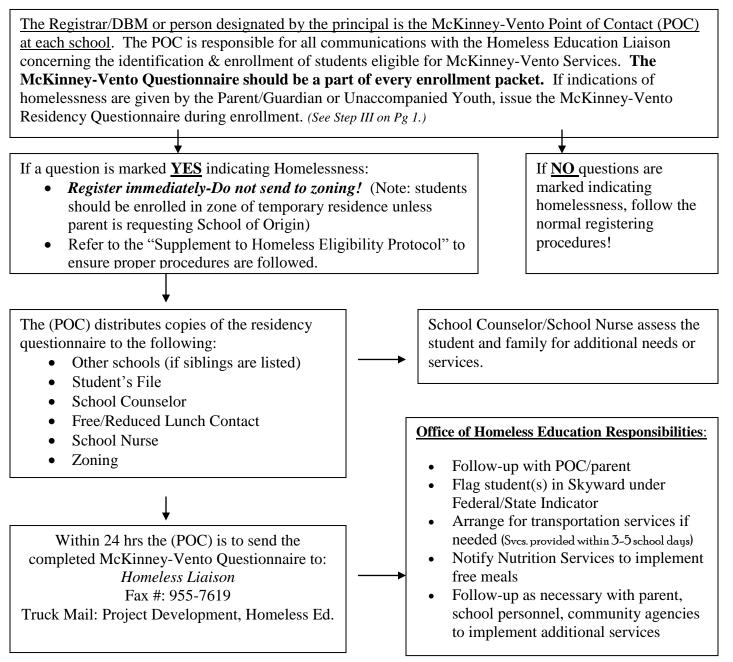
- <u>Respectively ask questions!</u>
- <u>Consider Indicators!</u>
- <u>Contact the Homeless Education Coordinator!</u>

Indications of homelessness include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Inability or hesitation to provide proof of address
- ✓ Statement from local shelter director or hotel manager
- ✓ Statement about living conditions/arrangements
- ✓ Attendance, behavior and grade concerns
- ✓ Abruptly withdrawing students

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PROTOCOL FOR IDENTIFYING & SERVING STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



Note:

Even if the student becomes permanently housed within the current school year, they are eligible for McKinney-Vento services for the entire school year!