



ISANA

Education for Homeless Students Policy

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in December 2001, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The purpose of this policy is to set forth the policies and procedures for enrollment and education of homeless children and youth at the ISANA Academies

Key Definitions:

“Homeless” students are those who lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residences and include:

1. Children and youths 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 (does not include trailers or mobile homes in a mobile home park), 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;
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing (e.g., condemned buildings), bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in conditions described in (1)-(3) above.

“School of Origin” means the school that a homeless student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the homeless student was last enrolled. If the school the homeless child attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which the homeless child was last enrolled, or if there is some other school that the homeless child attended with which the homeless child is connected and that the homeless child attended within the immediately preceding 15 months, the ISANA Liaison (defined below), in consultation with, and with the agreement of, the homeless child and the parent/guardian, shall determine, in the best interests of the homeless child, the school that shall be deemed the School of Origin.

“Best interest” means, to the extent feasible, continuing a student’s enrollment in the school of origin for the duration of his/her homelessness, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of his/her parent/guardian.

“Unaccompanied youth” means a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Contact Information:

The ISANA Liaison (“Liaison”) serves all ISANA Academies. The Liaison serves as a guide for homeless students and unaccompanied youth in the enrollment process with ISANA Academies. The Liaison is responsible for making placement decisions for homeless students on behalf of ISANA Academies.

The contact information for the Liaison is as follows:

Robert J. Thrash IV, Director of Pupil Services
3580 Wilshire Boulevard
(323) 291-1211

The Liaison for homeless students shall work to ensure that:

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordinated activities with other entities and agencies;
2. Homeless students enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in ISANA Academies;
3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible;
4. Parents/guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
5. Notices of the educational rights of homeless children are distributed at places where children receive services;
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law, school policy, and administrative regulation; and
7. Parents/guardians are fully informed of all transportation services that may be offered by ISANA Academies.

Enrollment at ISANA Academies:

A homeless student may continue attending his/her School of Origin for the duration of the homelessness and until the end of any academic year in which he/she moves into permanent housing.

Homeless students and unaccompanied youth who are interested in enrolling in ISANA Academies will have their requests to enroll reviewed by the Liaison.

In accordance with ISANA policies, charters, Education Code § 47605(d), and Education Code § 48850(a)(3)(A), a homeless student or unaccompanied youth may enroll at an ISANA Academy if the enrollment cap is not met for the student's grade level.

The Liaison will base placement decisions for the ISANA Academies based on the homeless student's Best Interest. A homeless student will, to the extent possible, be placed in his/her School of Origin, unless his/her parent/guardian requests otherwise.

If an ISANA Academy is able to enroll the student, the Liaison or designee will work with school staff to enroll the homeless student, even if the parent/guardian is unable to provide the school with the records normally required for enrollment. The Liaison will help contact the school last attended by the student to obtain these records. If the student needs to obtain immunizations or does not have immunization or other medical records, the Liaison will assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations or records for the student.

If the enrollment cap has been met for a prospective student's grade level, the student will be unable to immediately enroll with ISANA. The Liaison will notify the student and his/her parent/guardian. A random public lottery will take place once a year to determine enrollment for the following school year. Any students not enrolled through the lottery will be placed on the wait list. This lottery process will not discriminate against the homeless child or youth in any way.

Enrollment Dispute Resolution Process:

The dispute process only applies if the Liaison makes a determination that a homeless student be placed at a school other than his/her School of Origin. This dispute process does not apply if the schools' enrollment limitations prevented the ISANA Academies from enrolling the student.

During the dispute process, the homeless student shall be immediately admitted to the School of Origin.

Written Explanation During Dispute

The parent/guardian will be provided with a written explanation of the placement decision, including an explanation of the parent/guardian's right to appeal the decision.

The written explanation will be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated, and provided in language that the parent/guardian or student can understand.

Rights of Appeal

The Liaison will carry out the dispute resolution process as quickly as possible after receiving notice of the dispute.

If a parent/guardian disagrees with the Liaison's enrollment decision, he/she may appeal the decision to ISANA's Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer will make a determination on this appeal within ten (10) school days.

If the parent/guardian wishes to appeal the Chief Executive Officer's placement decision, the parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the Los Angeles County of Education per Education Code § 48853(h). If a parent/guardian appeals the placement decision, the Liaison will forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the county office of education on behalf of the parent/guardian.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors on April 3, 2018.