

## **Board Policy: Education for Homeless Children**

The governing board of the Tree of Life International Charter School will adhere to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to ensure that homeless children and youths have access to the education and other services needed in order for such children and youths to have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

The McKinney-Vento Act includes a number of requirements for LEAs, which also apply to charter schools that are LEAs. These requirements include the following [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)]: LEAs must

- continue a homeless child's education in the school of origin or enroll a homeless child in any public school that a non-homeless student who lives in the attendance area where the family is temporarily staying can attend, according to the child's best interest;
- provide written notice to parents, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, when the LEA sends the child to a school other than the one that the parents or guardians request;
- enroll a homeless child or youth immediately in school, even if the child or youth is unable to produce the necessary records, provided that there is space available in the grade level the child will enroll, and that the child meets other Charter school enrollment criteria and deadlines. In the case of lack of space available space, the Charter school would not have to enroll a homeless student but should assist the parents with finding another school in the local attendance area where the family is staying. The charter school will contact the LEA's local liaison for assistance with enrollment for the homeless child or youth.

The Charter School shall also provide support to homeless children and youth in the following ways:

- assisting the family with obtaining records for enrollment;
- assessing the children's academic needs and provide tutoring or other support to ensure that they will be successful during the stressful time of experiencing homelessness;
- ensuring the children have needed school supplies;
- providing time and space for a child or youth who does not have a proper study environment outside of school to complete homework or work on school projects;
- ensuring that a homeless child is not punished for behavior related to his or her homelessness, such as tardiness or not completing homework, and providing support to address the behaviors;
- waiving fees and removing barriers to students' participation in extracurricular activities;
- discussing needs the family, children, or youth have, and linking them with community services.
- providing transportation as needed to allow homeless children and youth to continue in the Charter school.