

**West Tennessee School for the Deaf  
HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

West Tennessee School for the Deaf (WTSD) is a State Special School serving as a school district located in Jackson, Tennessee. Our service area includes all west Tennessee counties lying between the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers. All of our students have hearing-impairments and WTSD has been determined to be their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). We serve children from 2 years of age to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Homeless Liaison for the West Tennessee School for the Deaf is Ms. Teresa Rice, WTSD Guidance Counselor. In the event a current student or future student at WTSD is classified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act, Ms. Rice will contact the Homeless Liaison of the student's LEA to inform them of the matter. Ms. Rice and the administration at WTSD will assist the LEA to ensure the student is provided transportation, temporary housing, if needed, full enrollment in school and implementation the student's IEP. The LEA is responsible for gathering personal information about the student and his/her family and sharing that information with WTSD administration.

The West Tennessee School for the Deaf does not receive any Title X funds for homeless education. The LEA of the student will provide all funding necessary to assist a homeless student and his/her family. In the event that we are called upon to help offset accommodations financially, we will use funds from our general budget, federal budgets and may request assistance from Friends of WTSD. Friends of WTSD, a student centered 501(c)3 organization, may provide initial, modest financial support to the student and his/her family. Our primary roles will include helping identify homeless students, contacting the LEA Homeless Liaison, implementation of the student's IEP and providing assistance the LEA, when needed.

**Definition of Homeless:**

Homeless students are defined as children who display the following:

- Displaced temporarily due to the loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason – may be living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, camp

grounds, public parks, transitional or emergency shelters; they may have been abandoned or awaiting foster care placement;

- Primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus/train stations or similar settings;
- Migratory students who meet one of the above circumstances.

### **Compliance Indicators:**

WTSD will provide the following services to students who are designated as homeless:

- Liaison to ensure that they are enrolled and receive all educational services appropriate to their hearing loss and instructional needs;
- Integration into any or all classes and programs that are appropriate to their educational needs;
- Transportation arranged through the school district in which the student resides.
- Monitor and attendance will reported to the school district in which the student resides.
- Enrollment regardless of missing school records, lack of permanent address or additional enrollment documentation;
- Access to all components of the school program;
- Breakfast and lunch without cost;
- School supplies without cost;
- Residential options as needed or requested for students throughout the school year;
- Interpreter services for deaf/hard of hearing parents or for parents who are Spanish speaking. Their educational rights are explained, and they are given printed copies of those rights;
- Connection of families to a variety of federally supported or faith-based program to provide food, clothing, shelter, and/or medical assistance throughout the calendar year.

Note: This policy is aligned with the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act.