



August 15, 2010

Dear Parents

Pursuant to section 724(c) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as reauthorized by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, I am writing to inform you of the access to education to be provided to homeless children and youth.

Pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Act, We want to ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. We have reviewed our practice and taken steps to adopt practices, or policies that remove barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success of homeless children and youth in school.

Homeless children and youth must have access to the education and other services that they need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Furthermore, we at Visions Unlimited Academy take care to include all into the mainstream school environment regardless of their homelessness.

Key provisions of the McKinney Vento Act that guide our practices in this area include the following:

- We have designated a liaison for homeless children and youth to help ensure that homeless children enroll, and have a full opportunity to succeed, in the schools of the district.
- Visions make school placement determinations on the basis of the “best interest” of the homeless child or youth. In making this determination, a district must, to the extent feasible, keep a homeless child or youth in the student’s “school of origin”, unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian. The school of origin is defined as the school the homeless child or youth last attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
- Visions Unlimited Academy makes the effort to ensure that homeless children and youth are immediately enrolled in school, even if the child or youth lacks the records normally required for enrollment (such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation).

- States and school districts must adopt policies and practices to ensure that districts provide or arrange for the transportation of homeless children and youth, at the request of the parent or guardian – or, in the case of an accompanied youth, the liaison – to and from the homeless child’s or youth’s school of origin.

If you know children and youth that need school and you require further information to help them or have questions regarding the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness, please contact Richard Valentine; Email: rvalentine@qwestoffice.net . You may also reach me at 520 586 8691.

Sincerely,

Richard Valentine
Director