

HOMELESS EDUCATION POLICY

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONAL POLICY #3.20

ADOPTED: 06/30/2015

AMENDED: 07/27/2015

AMENDED: 03/04/2019

Vista Oaks Charter School (VOCS), with the key provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, will provide equal access to all students. VOCS has designated an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as VOCS'S liaison for homeless children and youths, to carry out the duties described below. *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii)*

Comparable Services

VOCS will reserve such funds, as necessary, to provide comparable services to children that are considered homeless. *ESEA Section 1113(c)(3)(A)*

VOCS has provided a plan for the education of homeless children and youths enrolled at VOCS. The plan includes:

- Homeless children will be provided with the same opportunities and access to services as their peers.
- Students identified as homeless will be provided with a liaison (a VOCS staff member) to ensure that their needs are being met with the services that VOCS provides.
- Removal of barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youths in schools of the State.

Homeless Education Policy—ESEA Sections 722(g)(1)(I), 722(g)(1)(J)(i), 722(g)(1)(C), 722(g)(3)(E), and 722(g)(1)(J)(iii)

VOCS has adopted policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. *Non Stigmatized or Segregated—ESEA Section 722(g)(1)(J)(i)*

Enrollment Disputes

VOCS has adopted procedures for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youths. *Section 722(g)(3)(E)*

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment at VOCS:

- The child or youth will be immediately admitted to VOCS, pending resolution of the dispute;

- The parent/guardian of the child or youth will be provided with a written explanation of VOCS's decision regarding enrollment, including the rights of the parent/guardian, or youth to appeal the decision;
- The child or youth's, parent/guardian will be referred to VOCS's liaison, who will carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
- In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison will ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in VOCS pending resolution of the dispute.

Dispute Resolution Process—ESEA Sections 722(g)(1)(C) and 722(g)(3)(E)

Transportation

VOCS ensures that transportation will be provided, at the request of the parent/guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from VOCS. *Transportation—ESEA Section 722(g)(1)(J)(iii)*

Graduation Requirements

VOCS ensures that it will follow California Assembly Bill (AB) 1806, which allows a school district to exempt a student who is a homeless child or youth, as defined by Section 11434(a) of Title 42 of the United States Code who transfers between schools any time after the completion of the student's second year of high school from school district and statewide coursework requirements as specified in section 51225.3. Unless the district finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the school district graduation requirements in order to graduate by the end of the student's fourth year of high school. Students who qualify under AB1806 will be eligible to use the state coursework requirements of 130 credits.