

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS FOR
FORT DODGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The McKinney-Vento Act, Education of Homeless Youth Program, Subtitle VII-B, §722(g)(3), ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Dispute Resolution Process: If a dispute arises over Enrollment or School Selection, the child or youth in transition will be admitted immediately to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The student will also have the right as a student in transition to all appropriate educational services, transportation, and free schools meals while the dispute is pending.

Disagreements and disputes are to be settled as close to the point of conflict as possible. Each local homeless education liaison shall assist the family and school to ensure compliance with federal and state legislation and policy governing the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The liaison shall work with the appropriate school district representatives to address any policies or procedures that are identified as barriers in the access to and success within a free appropriate public education. The State Coordinator of Homeless education may be consulted at any time for technical assistance.

Level 1:

- School offers decision of enrollment or school placement
- If the parent disagrees with the schools decision, the parent must receive written notification from the school explaining the reason for the school's decision
- Local Homeless Liaison is notified and should attempt to mediate between the school and the parent to come to an agreement. The Local Homeless Education Liaison helps parent understand the decision or navigate to the next appeal level

Level 2:

- If the parent is still not satisfied, the parent shall receive information about how to appeal to the district level
- Local Homeless Liaison helps parent navigate the appeal process at the district level (may include an appeal to Central Office)

Level 3:

- If the parent is still not satisfied, the parent will receive information about how to appeal to the state level.

- State Appeal level requires a written appeal submitted to the state education director as outlined in IAC Chapter 33.
- Parent shall be given information regarding the right to appeal and manner of appeal to the department of education for resolution of the dispute, and shall document the notice given. The notice shall contain the name, address, and telephone number of the legal services office in the area.
- Parent shall be given information about the manner of appeal shall be by letter from the homeless child or youth or the homeless child or youth's parent or guardian to the director of the department of education. The appeal shall not be refused for lack of notarization, however. Representatives of the public school districts denying access to the homeless child or youth and the child, youth, or parent or guardian of the child or youth shall present themselves at the time and place designated by the department of education for hearing on the issue. The provisions of 281—Chapter 6 shall be applicable insofar as possible; however, the hearing shall take place in the district where the homeless child or youth is located; or at a location convenient to the appealing party.

Adopted: 6/8/15

Reviewed: