

Idaho Falls School District 91

Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Dispute Resolution Process

In compliance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII, Subtitle B, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act, and Section 33-1404, Idaho Code, the following procedures are established to promptly resolve disputes regarding the educational placement of students experiencing homelessness.

When determining the school enrollment of a student experiencing homelessness, the decision will be based on the best interest of the student and the request of the student's parent or guardian or the student if an unaccompanied youth. To the extent feasible, the student will be enrolled or continue enrollment in the school of origin. The school of origin is the last school in which the student was enrolled or the school last attended by the student when permanently housed.

Eligibility and placement decisions are made collaboratively with input from the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth, principal, school counselor, homeless liaison and any other person(s) familiar with the student and the homeless situation.

Idaho Falls School District 91 will provide the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth with a written statement of the eligibility or school placement decision, the right to appeal and the dispute resolution process. In addition, the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth will be referred to the homeless liaison for assistance in completing the dispute resolution process within ten business days.

If a dispute arises over eligibility for homeless services or school selection, the District will enroll the student in the school in which enrollment is sought by the parent or guardian, pending resolution of the dispute.

A district-level team comprised of the Director of Student Achievement and School Improvement, Director of Secondary Education or Director of Elementary Education and homeless liaison will review the decision and the appeal to determine eligibility or placement based on the best interest of the student.

If the dispute is not resolved to the satisfaction of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth, an appeal can be made to the State. The District will provide a copy of the state procedures with the decision letter. If the eligibility or placement decision involves more than one district, representatives from all districts involved and the State Coordinator will be involved in the dispute resolution process.