

Cassia County Joint School District No. 151

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Dispute Resolution Process for the Homeless Education Program (FiT)

In compliance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII, Subtitle B, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and Section 33-1404, Idaho Code, the following procedures are established to promptly resolve disputes regarding the educational placement of students experiencing homelessness in the Cassia County School District. A student is considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act if the student lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

School enrollment of a homeless child or youth will be determined based on the best interest of the student and the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth. To the extent feasible, the student shall be immediately enrolled or continue enrollment in the school of origin, defined as: the school last attended by the student when permanently housed; or the last school in which the child was enrolled.

If there is a dispute regarding the educational placement of a homeless student, or if a school or school district denies a child, youth, or unaccompanied youth homeless status, then a written notice of explanation of such decision shall be promptly provided to the parent/guardian of the child, or to the youth, if unaccompanied by a parent/guardian. Such notice shall be in language the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth can understand, shall include a description of how to dispute the decision, and shall include a summary of the dispute resolution process.

In addition, the Cassia County School District shall promptly refer the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth to the homeless liaison who shall carry out the dispute resolution process within ten (10) business days. The parent/guardian shall be referred to the homeless liaison who shall advise the parent/guardian of the child's rights, assist in and carry out the dispute resolution process. With respect to unaccompanied youth, the liaison shall ensure the same access to the dispute resolution process.

During the pendency of the dispute resolution process, the child, youth, or unaccompanied youth shall be immediately enrolled or continue enrollment in the school of choice (school of origin or local attendance area). Enrollment shall include all educational services for which the student is eligible, such as attending classes and full participation by such student in all school activities.

If agreement cannot be reached between the parties regarding the educational placement or enrollment status of the student, then the school district shall promptly seek further assistance from the State Coordinator of Homeless Education to review and determine within ten (10) business days how the student's best interests will be served. All interested parties will be expeditiously informed of the State's determination in writing. The decision of the State Department of Education shall constitute final resolution.