



## Homeless Education Policy

Para Los Niños Charter Schools; Charter Elementary and Charter Middle; (Hereafter CHARTER SCHOOL) recognizes the right of all students residing within the school's boundaries, including those who are homeless, the opportunity to enroll in, and participate in CHARTER SCHOOL educational and support programs. CHARTER SCHOOL will adhere to the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act and ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths. CHARTER SCHOOL will include specific information in outreach materials, websites, at community meetings, and regional center meetings notifying parents that the school is open to enroll and provide services to *all* students, which shall include a district standard contact number to access additional information regarding enrollment. A student's IEP will never be required prior to participation in any attendance lottery or as a condition of enrollment.

### **Definitions**

*Homeless* means students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
2. Children who may be living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement
3. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
4. Children and youth who are living in cars, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or trains, or similar settings
5. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in conditions described above

### **School Homeless Liaison**

The superintendent designates the following staff person as the School Homeless Liaison ("Homeless Liaison") for homeless students attending a school or program of the Board:

- Family Specialist

The Homeless Liaison shall ensure that:

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordinated activities with other entities and agencies
2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, its schools and programs
3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible
4. Parents/guardians are informed of the educational services and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children
5. Notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated at places where children receive services, such as schools, shelters, and community centers.
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law, Board policy, and procedure
7. Parents/guardians are fully informed of all transportation services

### **Student Rights**

Homeless students who are enrolled in CHARTER SCHOOL have the right to:

- Equal access to all educational programs and services, including transportation and school nutrition programs;
- Continue to attend CHARTER SCHOOL for the duration of homelessness or the current school year, whichever ends first;
- Attend CHARTER SCHOOL while homeless, unless there exists a legitimate reason for requiring attendance at another school; and
- Receive all educational services for which they are eligible (i.e., special education, gifted and talented, and LEP).

### **Transportation**

At the request of a parent or guardian—or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison—CHARTER SCHOOL shall provide or arrange for the transportation services of homeless students comparable to those offered to other students at the school. If a homeless student attending school at CHARTER SCHOOL moves to a shelter outside of school boundaries, the superintendent or designee may arrange transportation that enables the student to continue attending CHARTER SCHOOL the services of the school, the new home district, or an outside agency.

### **Enrollment and Attendance**

CHARTER SCHOOL will develop strategies for meeting the needs of homeless students and eliminating barriers to their attendance at school, including identification, and the provision of appropriate support services.

CHARTER SCHOOL must enroll homeless students, regardless of the lack of:

- Academic Records
- Proof of Residency
- Medical Records
- Immunization Records\*

*\*A 30 day conditional enrollment is granted if immunization records are not provided*

CHARTER SCHOOL shall immediately contact the last school of attendance to obtain missing records.

### **Dispute Resolution**

If a dispute arises between a school district and parents or guardians over school selection or enrollment, CHARTER SCHOOL must immediately enroll the child or youth in the school in which the parent or guardian is seeking enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute. CHARTER SCHOOL will provide to the parent or guardian a written statement of the school placement decision and the appeal rights. The homeless liaison will carry out the dispute resolution process described in the State plan.