



#### STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

# HOMELESS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE RESOURCE TEAM (HEART)

Serving McKinney-Vento Eligible Students (PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade)



#### MEET THE HEART TEAM

Carole Mitchell, District Homeless Education Liaison/ HEART Program Supervisor
Vacant, District Homeless Education Program Coordinator
Nina Hauser, Clerk Specialist
Pukdeetam Pukdeetho (Puk), Clerk Specialist

#### **HEART Community Liaisons:**

Janee Boyd
Wilguins Edmond
Julianna Garzon
Meibys Milian
Monique Thomas

#### **Location:**

Lauderdale Manors Early Learning and Family Resource Center 1400 NW 14<sup>th</sup> Court, Bldg. 3, Room 313 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311

Main Line: 754-321-1566

Email: <u>HEART@browardschools.com</u>

Website: www.bowardschools.com/heart



#### McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act/ESSA (via HEART)

- The McKinney-Vento Act defines children experiencing homelessness (PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade) as those who <u>lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.</u>
- > According to this federal legislation, qualifying students have the following rights:
  - i. Right to **immediate school enrollment** even when records are not present at the time of enrollment (30-day grace period to obtain);
  - ii. Right to remain in the school of origin, if in the student's best interest;
  - iii. Right to receive transportation to and from the school of origin;
  - iv. Right to receive support for academic success.



#### McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act/ESSA (via HEART)

- Overarching Intent:
- i. Access to a Free & Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- ii. Immediate enrollment
- iii. Educational stability
  - iv. Removal of barriers to enrollment, attendance and achievement in school

\*Removal of barriers now includes **outstanding fees or fines**, **or absences** and **enrollment includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities (extracurricular)** 

> Eligibility period: remains in effect for the entire school year



#### HEART REGISTRATION VIA STUDENT HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE (SHQ)

- The parent /guardian or unaccompanied youth will complete a Student Housing Questionnaire (SHQ) each school year.
- ➤ If the student has been identified verbally and are unable to complete a SHQ, the School-based Homeless Designee (or other designated staff) is notified of the student's status and may complete a SHQ on their behalf.
- ➤ The student is then registered in BASIS for HEART services by the HEART designee or other appointed staff.

**Note**: If access to the HEART folder in BASIS is needed by a designated staff member, please contact the HEART office at (754) 321-1566.

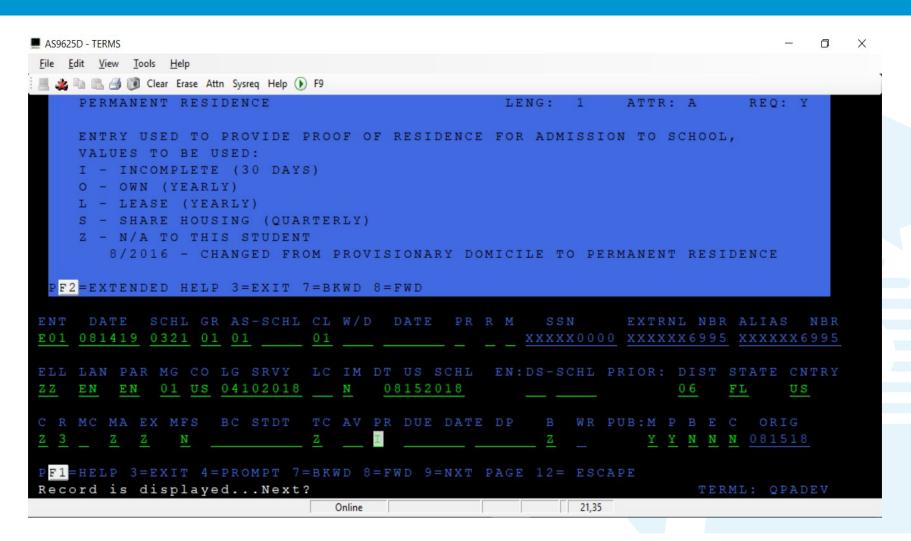


#### SHARED HOUSING AFFIDAVIT VS. SHARED HOUSING DOUBLED-UP (Homeless)

- ➤ Shared Housing is when two or more families mutually agree to split the expenses of the household. They do this by choice and the living arrangement is intended to be long term. Such families complete a Shared Housing Affidavit and coded in TERMS under "PR" in the A03 panel as "S".
- Sharing the housing of others "doubled-up" is when a family experiencing homelessness is residing with family or friends due to a loss of housing, economic necessity, or similar reason (e.g., fleeing domestic violence). Such families do not have a lease or mortgage in their name. They are coded in TERMS under "PR" in the A03 panel as "Z".



#### SHARED HOUSING AFFIDAVIT VS. SHARED HOUSING DOUBLED-UP (Homeless)





#### STUDENT ASSIGNMENT CODES

### In most cases, students experiencing homelessness have two options for school enrollment:

- 1. **Boundary school** this is the school zoned for their current nighttime address where they reside. The assignment code for these students is "01". Such students receive comparable services the same as non-homeless student attending your school such as transportation (within school boundary but reside more than 2 miles away).
- 2. School of origin the school the child or youth attended when permanently house or where last enrolled (out-of-boundary).
  Out-of-boundary transportation will be coordinated by the HEART program upon receiving a transportation request submitted by the HEART Designee via BASIS. The assignment code for such students is "84".

**Note**: Assignment codes should be reviewed before changing. Ensure that the A04 panel is updated to reflect the correct assignment code for the following school year. All HEART codes revert to 01.

#### **REMINDERS**

#### **HEART/McKinney-Vento Act Eligible Students Are:**

- Eligible to remain at the same school for the entire school year
- Eligible to attend feeder schools if homelessness continues from one SY to the next
- Automatically eligible to receive free school meals

#### **Additional Important Reminders:**

- Current address must always be updated in TERMS when reported
- Students not coded correctly in TERMS will be listed on error reports and will negatively impacting provision of federally mandated services.
- All TERMS panels must be completed for the student to be active on BASIS. Failure to do so will cause the HEART Designee the inability to register the student for HEART services via BASIS.



### QUICK REVIEW Students identified as experiencing homelessness:

- Must be immediately enrolled in the boundary school or school of origin regardless if all required documents are available at time of registration
- ✓ Proof of address is never required.
- ✓ Parents are given a 30-day grace period to provide other required registration documents if needed
- ✓ Parents must complete a Student Housing Questionnaire, not a Shared Housing Affidavit.



## QUICK REVIEW Students identified as experiencing homelessness:

- ✓ Primary Residence is a "Z" on the TERMS A03 panel
- ✓ Address indicated on the Student Housing Questionnaire is entered in TERMS and parents to report any change of address to the school
- ✓ Assignment codes are "01" for in-boundary HEART students and "84" for out-of-boundary HEART students
- ✓ Completed SHQ are given to the HEART designee for registration and record keeping. SHQ are never filed in student's CUM folders

If you have any questions, please contact the HEART Program Office at 754-321-1566



#### **QUESTSIONS**



Thank you for your time!





Dr. Rosalind Osgood, Chair Laurie Rich Levinson, Vice Chair

Lori Alhadeff
Patricia Good
Debra Hixon
Donna P. Korn
Sarah Leonardi
Ann Murray
Nora Rupert

### Dr. Vickie L. Cartwright Interim Superintendent of Schools

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