



I. PURPOSE

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act § 11431-11435, this policy ensures that homeless students have the opportunity to attend school with as little disruption as reasonably possible.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Emancipated Minor: A child under 18 who became independent through marriage or court order.
- B. Homeless Child: A child who lacks a regular, fixed, and adequate nighttime residence.
- C. Unaccompanied Youth: A child not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian and currently homeless.

III. POLICY

- A. Homeless students are entitled to immediate enrollment and full participation, even if they are unable to produce records required for enrollment, which may include:
 - 1. Medical records;
 - 2. Birth certificate;
 - 3. School records; and
 - 4. Proof of residency.
- B. To properly identify homeless or emancipated students, a school administrator or educator first must determine the residence of a student which involves the following considerations:
 - 1. The place, however temporary, where the child actually sleeps;
 - 2. The place where an emancipated minor, unaccompanied youth, or homeless child's family keeps its belongings; or
 - 3. The place which an emancipated minor, unaccompanied youth, or homeless child's parent/guardian(s) considers to be home.
- C. Determination of student's residence or place a student considers to be a permanent home, may not be based upon:
 - 1. Rent or lease receipts for an apartment or home;

Educating Homeless or Emancipated Students

2. The existence or absence of a permanent address; or
3. A required length of residence in a given location.

D. Athlos Academy has the following protocol for meeting the needs of students:

1. Within one (1) day of admitting a homeless student, the school's counselor or another employee designated by the administration as the homeless liaison shall be notified, and contact shall be made with the appropriate officials.
2. If there is a dispute concerning residence or the status of an emancipated minor or homeless child, the issue may be referred to the State Board of Education for resolution.
3. Homeless children and unaccompanied youth are entitled to receive transportation and other services that are available to non-homeless students.
 - a. Upon request of the parent/guardian(s) (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the homeless liaison) and evaluation of the "best interest of the child," transportation may be provided to and from Athlos Academy of Utah in accordance with state law and what is reasonable.
4. Homeless students will be eligible for programs for gifted and talented students and school nutrition programs as well as any other educational services for which the student meets eligibility criteria.
5. Homeless students shall be permitted to continue attending Athlos Academy of Utah, to the extent reasonable, unless it is against the wishes of their parent/guardian(s), and be permitted to remain at the school for the duration of the homelessness until the students move into permanent housing.
6. Athos Academy of Utah will continue efforts to assist homeless students in completing necessary and important records, especially immunization records.

Legal References:

[Utah Admin R277-616](#)

[McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act § 11431-11435](#)