

## **HOMELESS STUDENT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE**

In compliance with the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act the following procedures are established by the Bonneville Joint School District Board of Trustees to promptly resolve disputes regarding the educational placement of students experiencing homelessness, and shall be implemented in all District schools.

### **Educational Placement during a Dispute**

For the duration of a dispute regarding the educational placement of a homeless student in a particular school or if the District denies a child homeless status:

1. The student shall be immediately enrolled in the school of choice pending final resolution of the dispute.
2. The student shall receive all appropriate educational services, transportation, free meals, Title I, Part A, and full participation in all school activities.

### **Complaint Process**

1. The complaint shall first be presented orally and informally to the District's homeless liaison.
2. If the complaint is not resolved informally, the District's homeless liaison shall carry out the dispute resolution process pursuant to the District's Uniform Grievance policy #4112 as expeditiously as possible. The liaison shall:
  - a. Advise the parent/guardian of the student's rights, and assist in the dispute resolution process.
  - b. Ensure that the dispute resolution process is followed with respect to unaccompanied youth.
  - c. Keep records of all disputes in order to determine whether particular issues or schools are repeatedly delaying or denying the enrollment of children and youth identified as homeless.
3. The parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be given every opportunity to participate meaningfully in the resolution of the dispute.
4. The school where the dispute arises shall provide the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its decision. Such explanation shall:
  - a. Be in language the parent/guardian or unaccompanied student can understand;

- b. Include a description of how to appeal the decision, and a summary of the dispute resolution process; and
- c. Refer the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth to the District's liaison.

**Non-resolution of the Dispute**

If agreement cannot be reached between the parties regarding the educational placement of the student:

1. The District shall promptly seek assistance and review from the State Department of Education, who shall appoint a qualified individual to further assist in the dispute resolution process and determine how the student's best interests will be served.
  - a. The review shall be completed within seven (7) business days of the appointment of the reviewer.
  - b. The written findings, conclusions, and recommendation of the reviewer shall be provided to the District's Board of Trustees for consideration at the next scheduled meeting.
2. The Board of Trustees may accept or reject the recommendation, and such determination shall constitute final resolution of the dispute.