

Ensuring Continued Education Policy

The Wake Continuum of Care (NC 507) is dedicated to ensuring that all homeless children are provided the resources necessary to stabilize their housing, support their growth and development, and minimize the specific trauma associated with homelessness. To that end, the immediate assessment of a child's needs and connection to all early intervention and educational supports available and assisting guardians in advocating for their rights under the McKinney-Vento program is key. Therefore, homeless service providers should incorporate information from the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH Act) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) related to education assurances for homeless children and youth into all program intakes.

All providers receiving federal funding through the Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant programs for shelter, rapid re-housing, transitional housing, combined component, housing services, and permanent supportive housing for families and unaccompanied youth, are required to follow these practices in order to meet the developmental needs of homeless children and youth as defined under Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C §11434(a) 2)), as amended in 2009 by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, and adopted by NC 507.

School Enrollment

Every parent, guardian or custodian having charge or control of a child between the ages of seven and 16 years must enroll the child in school (*see*, N.C.G.S. § 115C-378). Program staff must provide the parent, guardian, and unaccompanied youth with information on school enrollment; and

- The district school that is the appropriate for the age/grade level of the child.
- The rights under the McKinney-Vento legislation to remain at the school of origin, if feasible; and to be immediately enrolled regardless of the availability of previous school records, health records, birth certificates, or proof of residency.
- The contact information for the Local Education Agency (LEA), or school social worker and/or the school's or district's McKinney-Vento Liaison.
- Parents or Guardians choosing to home school children should provide grade appropriate curriculum or web-based programming being used to support an adequate home-school program and ongoing progress in mastering grade-level material, via progress reports and/or testing results in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes.
- Homeless Programs will provide or make arrangements with the appropriate school's transportation service coordinator if requested by the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth to facilitate engagement in school-based services that are consistent with the student's needs.