



Project Impact STEM Academy

Invested in the life-long pursuit of knowledge.

McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution

Because the district disputes your McKinney-Vento status or it was determined that it is not in the student's best interest to attend Project Impact STEM Academy, we are providing this information packet to inform you of your right to appeal our decision. Included, you will find the following:

1. Written contact information for the school district's Homeless Liaison and State Coordinator (see below)
2. Receipt of dispute resolution packet (to be completed by the parent or unaccompanied youth and turned into the school office)
3. A detachable form that you can complete and turn into the school or Homeless Liaison to initiate the dispute process
4. A written step-by-step description of how to dispute the school district's decision
5. Summary of the McKinney-Vento Act

If, at any time, you have questions regarding the dispute resolution process, you can contact the district Homeless Liaison or the State Homeless Education Coordinator, and they will assist you with the process.

District Homeless Liaison

Name: Julie Lake

District: Project Impact STEM Academy

Address: 1422 S Tech Lane

City, ID Zip: Meridian, Idaho 83642

phone: 208-559-1123

State of Idaho Homeless Education Coordinator

Emily Sommer

Idaho State Department of Education

650 W. State Street - Boise, ID 83702

(208) 332-6904

McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Process

If a parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth wishes to appeal a school district's decision regarding school placement or eligibility:

1. The parent/unaccompanied youth must promptly submit a dispute resolution form (included in the packet received upon written notification of eligibility or school placement decision) to the district Homeless Liaison where enrollment is sought after receiving the district's Written Notification of Eligibility and/or School Placement Decision. (Level I)
2. Within ten (10) business days of their receipt of the complaint, the district must make a decision on the complaint and inform the parent or unaccompanied youth of their decision in writing.

If the parent or youth disagrees with the decision made at Level I and wishes to move the dispute resolution process forward to Level II, the parent or unaccompanied youth shall notify the district's Homeless Liaison of their intent to proceed to Level II.

1. The District must expeditiously forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the Idaho SDE Homeless Education Coordinator, for review and determination.
2. The entire dispute package including all documentation and related paperwork is to be submitted to Idaho State Department Education in one complete package via hard copy mail delivery. Documents submitted separately from the dispute package may not be reviewed. It is the responsibility of the District to ensure the dispute packages are complete and ready for review.
3. The State of Idaho Homeless Education coordinator, along with appropriate SDE personnel, will make a final decision within ten (10) business days of receipt of the complaint.
4. The final decision will be forwarded to the school district's Homeless Liaison for distribution to the parent and local Superintendent.
5. The decision made by Idaho SDE will be the final resolution for placement of a homeless child or youth in the district.

Dispute Resolution Form

Date: _____

I have received the explanation of the district's placement decision concerning my children/myself,(name): _____. I disagree with the district's placement decision, and I am appealing that decision for the following reasons:

I understand that the district will ensure that my child/I will have the opportunity to attend and participate at the school where enrollment is sought while the dispute is being carried out.

Parent/Guardian/Youth Signature

Date

School District Personnel Signature

Date

School District Use Only:

Date received: _____

Received by (Name and Title): _____

Summary of the McKinney-Vento Act

The McKinney-Vento program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, State educational agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth. Homeless children and youth should have access to the educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. States and districts are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth. Idaho addresses this issue in Idaho Code 33-1404: Homeless children and youth may attend any school district or school within a district without payment of tuition when it is determined to be in the best interest of that child.

The program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431 et seq.), (McKinney-Vento Act). The program was originally authorized in 1987 and, most recently, reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes:

1. Children and youth who are:
 - a. sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up);
 - b. living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - c. living in emergency or transitional shelters; d. abandoned in hospitals; or e. awaiting foster care placement.
2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

According to the McKinney-Vento Act, eligible students have rights to:

***Immediate enrollment:** *Documentation and immunization records cannot serve as a barrier to the enrollment in school.*

***School Selection:** Eligible students have a right to select from the following schools:

§ The school he/she attended when permanently housed (School of Origin)

§ The school in which he/she was last enrolled (School of Origin)

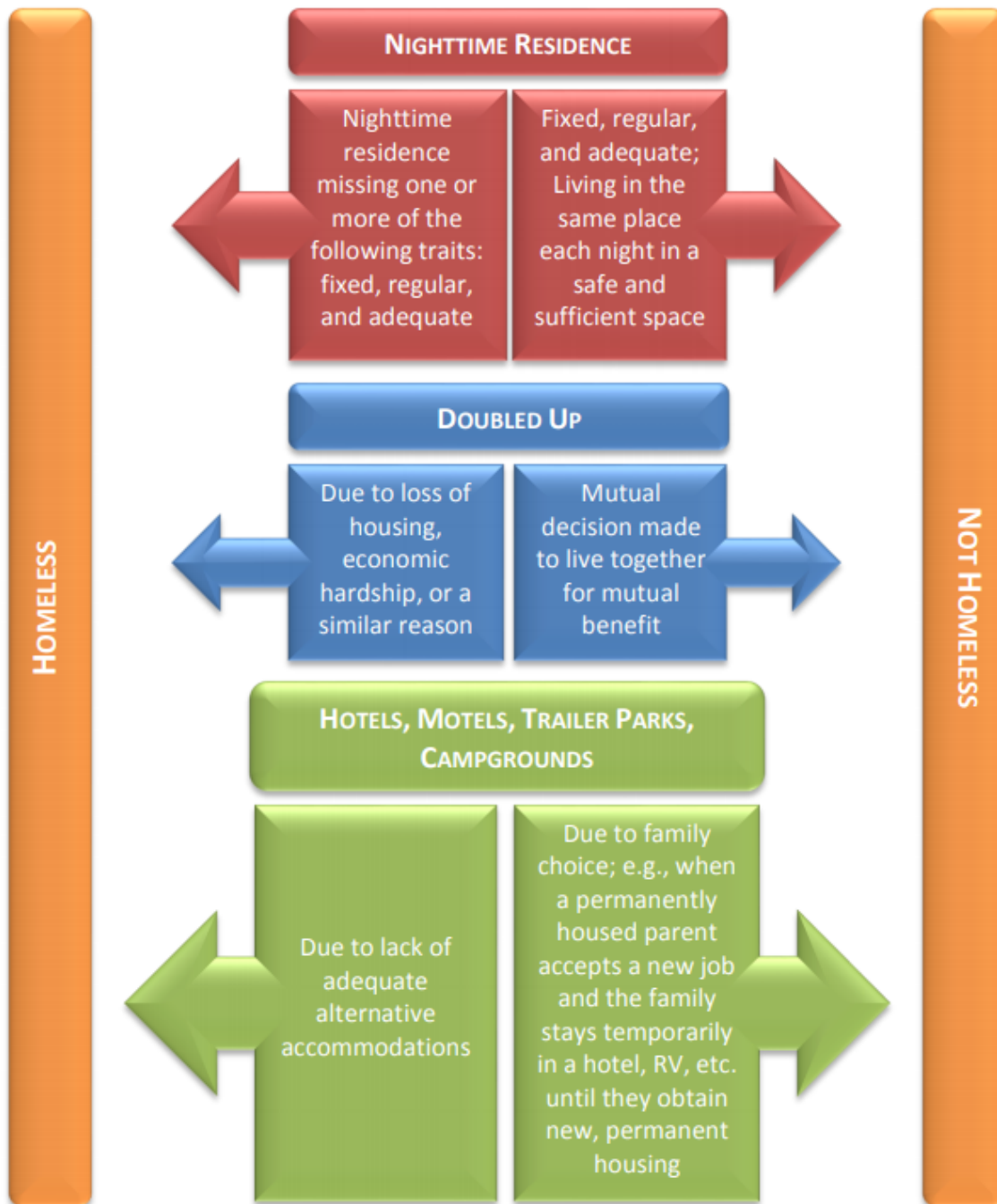
§ The school in the attendance area in which the student currently resides (School of Residency)

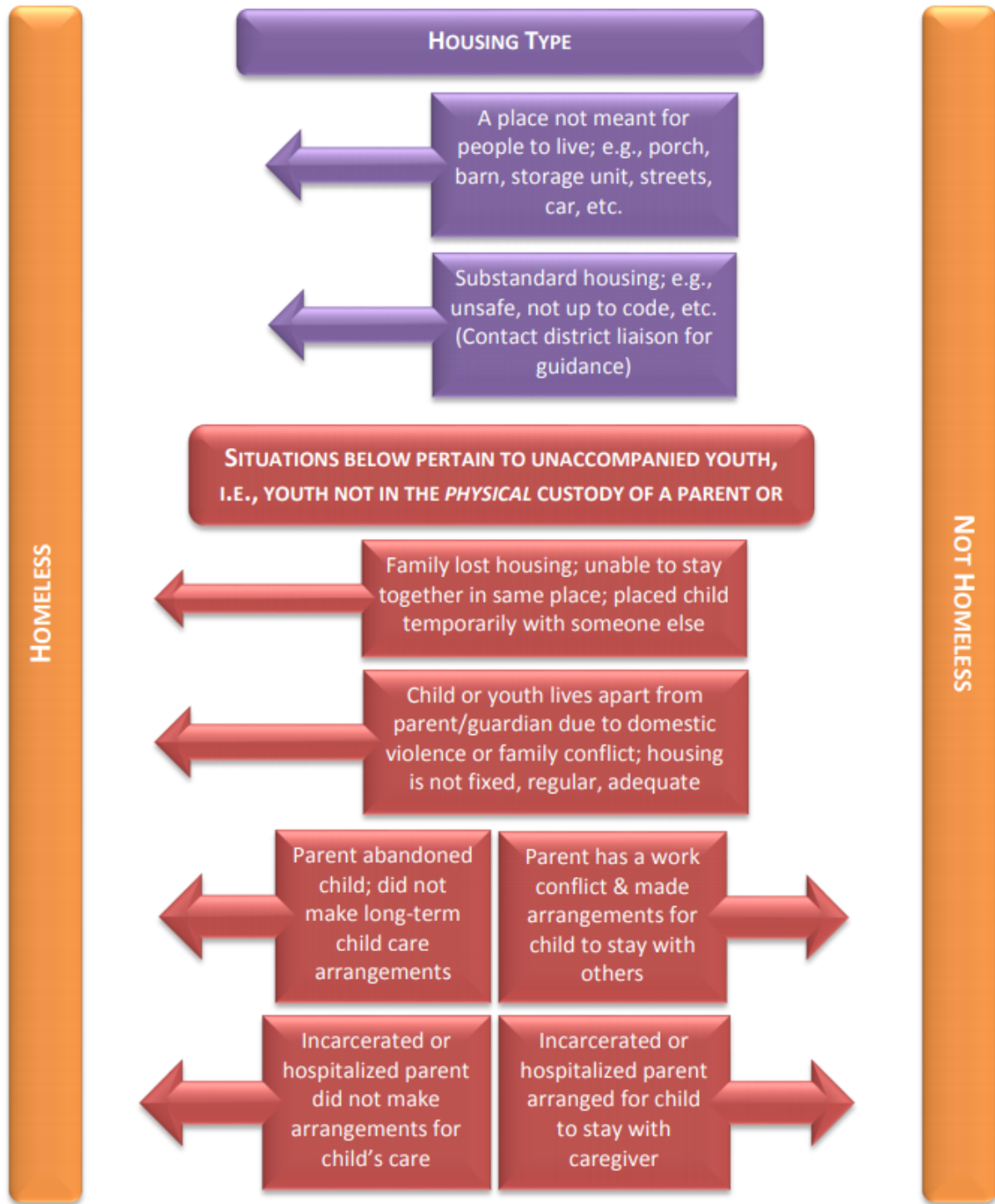
***Remain enrolled** *in his/her selected school for the duration of homelessness, or until the academic year upon which they are permanently housed.*

***Participate in programs** *for which they are eligible, including Title I tutoring programs, Free Lunch in schools with the, National School Lunch Program, Head Start & Even Start Preschool Programs.*

***Transportation Services:** *A McKinney-Vento eligible student attending his/her School of Origin has a right to transportation to and from the School of Origin.*

***Dispute Resolution:** *If you disagree with school officials about enrollment, transportation, or fair treatment of a homeless child or youth, you may file a complaint with the school district. The school district must respond and attempt to resolve it quickly. During the dispute, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school and provided transportation until the matter is resolved. The McKinney Vento Liaison will assist you in making decisions, providing notice of any appeal process, and filling out dispute forms.*





Receipt of Dispute Resolution Information

Date: _____

I, _____, am the parent, guardian, or youth attempting to enroll my child/ren or myself in the following school(s):

Child(ren) Name:

School(s):

I have received the explanation of my child's placement. This explanation included:

1. Contact information for the district's Homeless Liaison
2. A copy of the dispute resolution process
3. Paperwork to complete if I wish to dispute the district's decision
4. Directions on how to complete the dispute resolution paperwork
5. A summary of the McKinney-Vento Act

I understand that the school district will ensure that my child/ren will attend and fully participate in the school where enrollment is sought while the dispute process is carried out.

Parent/Guardian/Youth Signature

Date

School District Personnel Signature

Date

Upon receipt of the dispute resolution packet, please sign this form and return it to the school where you are attempting to enroll or to the district's Homeless Liaison.