

WE BUILD. WE LEAD. WE CHANGE

EL PASO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

2024-2025

MCKINNEY- VENTO POLICIES & PROCEDURES



PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY

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ABOUT EL PASO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT OUR DISTRICT

El Paso Leadership Academy was founded in 2014 and was built for the El Paso community, by native El Pasoans, specifically for El Paso students to receive the highest standard of education. Our goal is to give EPLA students the tools to achieve college and career success through a rigorous college preparatory curriculum while also providing them with opportunities to develop strong leadership skills. A life-long commitment to community service will empower our students to take an active role in shaping the future of their community. We will create a school where failure is not an option and students are given the knowledge and tools to identify and achieve their dreams.

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El Paso Leadership Academy Academic Revolution Center (EPLA ARC)

114 Texas Ave.
El Paso TX, 79901
[EPLA ARC Phone List](#)

El Paso Leadership Academy (EPLA Flagship)

1918 Texas Avenue
El Paso, TX 79901
(915)298-3900

EPLA East Middle & High School (EPLA East)

2101 Joe Battle
El Paso TX 79938
(915)298-3901

Welcome to **EPLA**

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WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

Our mission is to educate and empower students with tools essential to achieve their self-actualization, academic potential, and success.

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a nurturing environment as an elite and collaborative organization, that shapes independent thinkers and people ready to make their own rules.

Contacts

District McKinney Vento Liaison - Miriam Martinez - mrmartinez@epla.org

Flagship Campus McKinney Vento Liaison- Cynthia Rios- churtado@epla.org

Responsibilities

Registrars: Responsible for distributing the Student Residency Questionnaire and notifying campus liaisons about potential homeless students.

Campus McKinney-Vento Liaisons: Responsible for identifying homeless students, conducting meetings with students and families, notifying the LEA liaison, and ensuring support services are in place.

LEA McKinney-Vento Liaison: Oversees the implementation of McKinney-Vento policies, reviews disputes, and collaborates with other districts to provide necessary services.

School Administrators: Ensure that staff members are informed about McKinney-Vento policies and trained to support homeless students effectively.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the removal of barriers to the enrollment, retention, and academic success of homeless children and unaccompanied youth, in compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, parents/guardians, school staff, administrators, and McKinney-Vento liaisons within the Local Education Agency (LEA).

Definitions

The term “homeless children and youths”–

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and

(B) includes–

- (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;*
- (ii) children and youths 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 (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
- (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- (iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

*Per Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, “awaiting foster care placement” was removed from the definition of homeless on December 10, 2016; the only exception to his removal is that “covered states” have until December 10, 2017 to remove “awaiting foster care placement” from their definition of homeless.

School of Origin: The school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled. For our charter school, this refers to the public school in the student's home district or another school the student previously attended, with which we collaborate to ensure continuity of education and services.

Policy Statement

The LEA is committed to ensuring that homeless children and unaccompanied youth are enrolled in our school immediately, have access to transportation to our school when needed, and are provided with the necessary services to support their educational success. All barriers to enrollment, retention, and success for homeless students shall be identified and removed.

Procedures

1. A Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ) will be given in the enrollment package.
2. All SRQs will be reviewed by the campus McKinney Vento liaisons.
3. Registrar will code students accordingly.
4. Original SRQ will be kept in the cumulative folder and two copies will be kept with the MKV liaison and At-Risk folder.
5. All SRQs will be reviewed every school year.

Enrollment and Eligibility

Any student that is a homeless child and unaccompanied youth will be enrolled immediately, even without the required documentation that is asked for enrollment such as proof of residency, immunization records, or previous school records. The child or youth will automatically be eligible to receive services.

Eligible students have the right to:

1. Receive a free, appropriate public education.
2. Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
3. Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.

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4. Enroll in the local schools, or continue attending their school of origin if that is your preference.
 5. Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
 6. Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a dispute regarding eligibility, school selection, or enrollment, the student will be immediately enrolled in the school pending resolution. The campus liaison will schedule a meeting with the school principal to review all relevant documentation. Once a decision is made, the parent or guardian will be informed of the decision in a meeting and provided with written documentation. If the parent or guardian wishes to appeal, the case will be referred to the LEA McKinney-Vento Liaison, who will review the documentation. The final decision will be made after a meeting with the parent and the LEA liaison.

Provision of School Supplies and Services

Upon identification as homeless, students will be provided with essential school supplies, courtesy of the district office. The campus McKinney-Vento liaison will work with the district liaison to coordinate services and referrals to community resources. Collaborations with other support programs will ensure that all needs are met for the student's success such as:

- Clothing and shoes
- School fees
- School supplies
- Dental and Vision services
- Immunizations
- Counseling

Transportation

The LEA collaborates with a third-party transportation provider to ensure transportation services are provided. At the request of the parent, guardian, or McKinney-Vento Liaison for unaccompanied youth, transportation will be arranged to and from the LEA. If the student's home school is in another district, the LEA will coordinate with the liaison from the other district

to provide transportation. In cases where round-trip services cannot be provided, the districts will collaborate to ensure the student's transportation needs are met.

Policy Review and Revision

The LEA McKinney-Vento Liaison will review the policies and procedures annually, considering any updates from the state or the Education Service Center. Feedback from staff, parents, guardians, and students will be considered to address any barriers and improve support for homeless children and unaccompanied youth. Any revisions will be communicated to all relevant staff, liaisons, and stakeholders within the LEA.