

Homeless Education Policy

The Governing Board of **Olive Grove Charter School** (the “Charter School”) desires to ensure that homeless students are provided equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other children and youth. Homeless students will be given access to the education and other services that such students need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated in a separate school or program based on the student’s status as homeless.

I. Definitions

- ***Homeless student*** means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes students:
 - 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 (not including mobile home parks), or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
 - Who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
 - Who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
 - Who are migratory children who qualify as homeless for purposes of this part because the children are living in circumstances described above.
- ***Unaccompanied youth*** includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
- ***The Charter School is the school of origin*** when the student attended the Charter School when permanently housed or was last enrolled when the student became homeless. The Charter School will not be considered the school of origin when it is contrary to the wishes of a student’s parent(s) or guardian(s), or is not in the best interest of the student.

A student or unaccompanied youth shall be considered homeless for as long as he/she is in a living situation described above.

II. Homeless Liaison

The School's homeless liaison is: Xenia Palacios, Homeless Liason, xpalacios@olivegrovecharter.org. The School's homeless liaison is required to do all of the following:

- Ensure that homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- Ensure that homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in the School;
- Ensure that homeless students receive educational services for which such families, children, and youth are eligible, including Head Start and Even Start programs, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and other appropriate services;
- Ensure that the parents or guardians of homeless students are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
- Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the dispute resolution process outlined below;
- Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated where such students receive services under the MVHA, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens;
- Ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless student, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school;
- Coordinate and collaborate with State coordinators, local agencies providing services to homeless students, and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless students;
- Inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the Homeless Liaison.

III. Enrollment

All homeless students are required to follow the school's process for enrolling students, including filling out and submitting the school's enrollment packet on time. As with all students, enrollment depends upon availability. In the event of an oversubscription in a grade, homeless students will participate in the lottery as with any other student.

If the homeless student seeking to enroll is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency or other documentation, this will not serve as a basis for non-enrollment. Provided that the enrollment process has been followed in all other respects, a homeless student will be enrolled in the School despite the missing paper work. Upon enrollment, the School will contact the school last attended by the students to obtain relevant academic and other records.

If the student needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the School will immediately refer the parent or guardian of the student, or the unaccompanied youth, to the Homeless Liaison, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.

Enrollment Disputes and the Dispute Resolution Process

If a dispute arises over enrollment of a homeless student in the Charter School, the student will be immediately enrolled to the Charter School in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. “Enrolled” means attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

The Charter School will refer the student and/or his/her parents or guardians to the Homeless Liaison, who will carry out the dispute resolution in accordance with the process set forth below, as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Liaison will ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

Parents, guardians and unaccompanied youth may provide written or oral documentation to support their positions about enrollment and may seek assistance of social services, advocates, and/or service providers in the dispute process.

The Charter School will provide the parent or guardian of the student with a written explanation of the Charter School’s decision regarding enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth’s appeal the decision. The written explanation will be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated and provided in a language that the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth can understand.

If the dispute remains unresolved at the Charter School level or is appealed, then the Charter School Homeless Liaison will forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the homeless liaison at the county office of education (COE). The COE’s homeless liaison will review these materials and determine the school selection or enrollment decision within five (5) working days of receipt of the materials. The COE homeless liaison will notify the Charter School and parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth of the decision.

If the dispute remains unresolved at the COE level or is appealed to the State, then the COE homeless liaison will forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the State Homeless Coordinator. Upon review, the CDE will notify the parent/guardian/unaccompanied

youth of the decision relating enrollment in the Charter School within ten working days of receipt of the materials.

IV. Transportation

The Charter School will provide or arrange for transportation of a homeless student, at the request of the parent, guardian or Homeless Liaison, to the Charter School when the Charter School is the school of origin. If the student begins living in an area served by another local educational agency while continuing his/her education at the Charter School, the Charter School will contact that local educational agency to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the student with transportation to and from the Charter School.

V. Comparable Education Services

Each homeless student will be provided access to services comparable to services offered to other students in the Charter School, including but not limited to the following:

- Educational services for which the homeless student meets federal, state and local program eligibility criteria
- Programs for gifted and talented students
- School nutrition programs

VI. Inventory

All equipment, including replacement equipment, acquired for \$500 or more, in whole or in part with MVHA funds will be maintained on a written inventory that includes a description of the property, a serial number or other identification number, the source of the property, who holds title, the acquisition date, and cost of the property, percentage of federal participation in the cost of the property, the location, use and condition of the property, and any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the property. A physical inventory will be taken and the results reconciled every two years. 34 C.F.R. 80.32. (the \$500 amount appears to be tied to state regulation not federal regulation).

Adopted: 7/12/16

Amended: