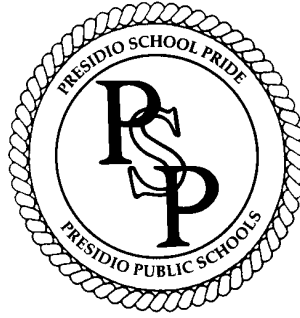


# Presidio Independent School District



## Homeless Plan

Presidio Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, disability or age in its programs and activities. For more information call 432-229-3375.

## Presidio Independent School District Homeless Plan

Children and youth in many different living situations are considered homeless under Federal law. Homelessness is a lack of permanent housing resulting from extreme poverty or from the lack of a safe and stable living arrangement. Children and youth in homeless situations often do not fit society's stereotypical images of homelessness. Therefore, educators may not realize the breadth of students who are considered homeless.

The term "homeless children and youths" (McKinney-Vento act Sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C. 11435(2))

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; 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 accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- (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.
- (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 who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

Presidio Independent School District (hereinafter referred to as District) has chosen to allocate part of Title I, Part A funds for services for homeless students in order to be able to provide services to eligible students in the event they enroll in the District and thus to avoid the delay of having to submit an amendment to the Title I application. All three campuses offer a Title I, Part A program.

Services provided to homeless students located on the above campuses may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Staff development for teachers, who may have homeless students in their classes, that provides the teachers with knowledge and skills to address the academic needs of homeless students
2. Tutorials
3. Extended day or week program
4. Summer program
5. Computer assisted instruction
6. Tuition/fees related to dual-credit courses and/or college examinations

The District further ensures any barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations will be removed. Students may enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, even if they do not have required documents, such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documents that the District may require for enrollment. Homeless children and youth are ensured that they will not be segregated or stigmatized on the basis of their status as homeless by being enrolled on any or all campuses and in any or all courses for which they are academically eligible. Services provided to homeless students will be provided on their campus of enrollment, except as is necessary for short periods of time for health and safety emergencies or to provide temporary, special, and supplementary services.

The District has designated a Homeless Liaison/Contact for the District and that staff person ensures the public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services. The District Homeless Liaison/Contact has been registered as the contact for the District on the Texas liaison database.

The District Homeless Liaison/Contact will notify either through meetings, personal contact, telephone, and/or email, school personnel, service providers, and advocates who work with families in homeless situations of the duties of the District Homeless Liaison/Contact. The District Homeless Liaison/Contact shall ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies through information disseminated during appropriate meetings with personnel.

The District will enroll a homeless child or youth in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend, or in their school of origin.

The District will keep homeless students in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible, unless it is against the parent or guardian's wishes. Students are permitted to remain in their schools of origin for the duration of their homelessness or until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing.

Transportation (no Title I funds may be used for non-supplemental transportation) will be provided to the school of origin, at the request of the parent or guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the District Homeless Liaison/Contact.

The District Homeless Liaison/Contact will help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youths' wishes, and provide youth with notice of their right to appeal an enrollment decision that is not their choice. The District Homeless Liaison/Contact will ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that might arise over school enrollment or placement.

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The child, youth, parent, or guardian will be referred to the District Homeless Liaison/Contact, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible.

The school will provide a written explanation of its decision and the right to appeal if a student is sent to a school other than that requested by a parent or guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the District Homeless Liaison/Contact. The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.

The District will obtain school records from the previous school. Students will be enrolled in school while records are obtained. Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district.

If the child or youth needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the enrolling school will immediately refer the parent or guardian of the child or youth to the District Homeless Liaison/Contact, who will assist in obtaining immunizations or immunization or medical records. Students will be enrolled in school in the interim.

The District will coordinate the provision of services with local social services agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to homeless children and youths and their families, including services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 12705) to minimize educational disruption for children and youths who become homeless. This coordination will be designed to ensure that homeless children and youths have access and reasonable proximity to available education and related support services (such as referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services), and to raise awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness.

If applicable, the District will coordinate with state and local housing agencies responsible for developing the comprehensive housing affordability to minimize educational disruption for children and youths who become homeless.

The District Homeless Liaison/Contact will collaborate and coordinate with State Coordinators for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to children and youth in homeless situations.

Each homeless child or youth to be assisted will be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected, including transportation services, educational services for which the child or youth meet the eligibility criteria (Title I, Head Start, Even Start, pre-school, educational programs for children with disabilities or for students with limited English proficiency), programs in vocational and technical education, programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition programs.

The District Homeless Liaison/Contact will inform parents or guardians through visits or by letter of educational and related opportunities available to their children and provide them with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.