

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.

DATE: October 7, 2005

SUBJECT: *Technical Assistance Paper on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth*

One of the goals of the Florida Department of Education is *Highest Student Achievement*. In support of this goal, the Department is pleased to provide a technical assistance paper (TAP) on The Education of Homeless Children and Youth. This TAP provides additional guidance to school districts as they strive to ensure educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, as amended and incorporated into the *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001, allows the state of Florida to distribute funding to local school districts to meet the requirements listed in the Act. The

CHERI PIERSON YECKE, PH.D.
CHANCELLOR, K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Department shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. In response to the requests from school districts, a technical assistance paper was developed to provide guidance and additional clarification.

This technical assistance paper provides information that is more specific and addresses issues and concerns identified by District Homeless Liaisons, such as segregation of homeless students, transportation to and from the school of origin, immediate enrollment, choice of schools, and automatic eligibility for free school meals. We are available to provide assistance as you and your staff address and meet the needs of homeless children and youth that may exist in the district.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Betty Applewhite, State Homeless Coordinator, at (850) 245-0709, or by email at betty.applewhite@fldoe.org.

CPY/eh

Attachments

cc: Mary Jane Tappen
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