

# Child Find/Rights of Homeless Students/Annual Notification to Parents

## CHILD FIND

Hope High School Online, an Arizona charter high school supports the early child education program called Child Find. Hope High School Online will provide information regarding the availability of early intervention services and special education services for children age birth to 22, including children enrolled in private and home schools. If you are aware of a pre-school age child who needs early education evaluation or services, ask them to call the school office at 800.426.4952 for referral information. We are committed to early intervention for children in need and welcome the opportunity to facilitate this process. To read more, see the Arizona Department of Education website address: <http://www.ade.state.az.us/ess/ChildFind/CfHome.asp>

## RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

Hope High School Online shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every homeless student shall have access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not homeless. This commitment to the educational rights of homeless children, youth, and unaccompanied youth, applied to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available. A student may be considered eligible for services as a "Homeless Child or Youth" under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act if he or she is presently living:

In a shelter, temporary shared housing, or transitional living program

In a hotel/motel, campground, or similar situation due to lack of alternatives

At a bus station, park, car, or abandoned building

In temporary or transitional foster care placement

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

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

School Selection: McKinney Vento 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, National School Lunch Program, Head Start, Even Start, etc.

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 Homeless Liaison will assist you in making a decision, providing notice of any appeal process, and filling out dispute forms.

For more information, refer to <http://www.azed.gov/schooleffectiveness/specialpops/> or contact:

Jennifer Blackstone  
Homeless Liaison  
Hope High School Online  
(602)674-5555  
(800) 426-4952 toll free  
[www.HopeHighOnline.org](http://www.HopeHighOnline.org)  
[jenniferb@blueprinteducation.org](mailto:jenniferb@blueprinteducation.org)  
Frank Migali  
Homeless Education Director  
Arizona Department of Education  
1535 W. Jefferson Street  
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(602) 542-4963  
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## ANNUAL NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school within 45 days of

a request made to the school administrator. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records without copies. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

- Parents or eligible students have the right to request in writing that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:
  - School officials with legitimate educational interest
  - 1. A school official is a person employed or contracted by the school to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health staff, law enforcement personnel, attorney, auditor, or other similar roles); a person serving on the school board; or a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;
  - 2. A legitimate educational interest means the review of records is necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the school;
  - Other schools to which a student is seeking to enroll;
  - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
  - Accrediting organizations;
  - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;

- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, sports participation (including height and weight of athletes) and dates of attendance unless notified by the parents or eligible student that the school is not to disclose the information without consent. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that protects the rights of students with disabilities. In addition to standard school records, for children with disabilities education records could include evaluation and testing materials, medical and health information, Individualized Education Programs and related notices and consents, progress reports, materials related to disciplinary actions, and mediation agreements. Such information is gathered from a number of sources, including the student's parents and staff of the school of attendance. Also, with parental permission, information may be gathered from additional pertinent sources, such as doctors and other health care providers. This information is collected to assure the child is identified, evaluated, and provided a Free Appropriate Public Education in accordance with state and federal special education laws. Each agency participating under Part B of IDEA must assure that at all stages of gathering, storing, retaining and disclosing education records to third parties that it complies with the federal confidentiality laws. In addition, the destruction of any education records of a child with a disability must be in accordance with IDEA regulatory requirements.

For additional information or to file a complaint, you may call the federal government at (202) 260-3887 (voice) or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD) OR the Arizona Department of Education (ADE/ESS) at (602) 542-4013. Or you may contact:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

Arizona Department of Education  
Exceptional Student Services  
1535 W. Jefferson, BIN 24  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

