Guilford County Continuum of Care Policy on the Education of Children and Youth

The Guilford County Continuum of Care (CoC) requires that all agencies receiving federal and/or state-based funding act in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law established to ensure that homeless and/or transient youth and families are aware of educational rights and protections that impact those who are school-aged.

This policy is a continuation of a policy originally adopted by Partners Ending Homelessness and entitled the System-Wide Policy on the Education of Children, which became effective on January 27, 2014. The Guilford County CoC Board of Directors and the CoC Membership formally adopted this policy as the Guilford County Continuum of Care Policy on the Education of Children and Youth on September 22, 2022. This policy will be reviewed annually by the CoC Board of Directors and the CoC Membership and will remain in effect until it is changed by the Guilford County CoC, by the McKinney-Vento Act, and/or by federal legislation.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that children and youth who enter into the homeless service system are enrolled in Guilford County School, as appropriate; to ensure all families with children and unaccompanied homeless youth know of their academic rights; to ensure that children are connected to and enrolled in early childhood educational programs as available; to ensure that all homeless children are provided the resources necessary to stabilize their housing, support their growth and development; and to minimize the trauma of homelessness.

This purpose is achieved via partnerships between the Guilford County CoC, Guilford County Schools, Guilford County Child Protective Services, and other similarly situated agencies that work with children and/or families. Where applicable, this policy obligates service providers to assess the needs of clients and their children to refer and/or connect them to all early intervention and educational supports available, and to assist guardians in advocating for their rights under the McKinney-Vento program.

The Guilford County CoC governs itself in accordance with the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act related to education assurance, school enrollment, transportation arrangements, absences, etc.

All agencies will be expected to adhere to the following process to ensure that they are acting in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act:

1. Agencies should post Guilford County School posters informing families and youth of their educational rights in a conspicuous location where families and youth will see it.
2. As part of program intake/entry educational rights should be discussed with the family and/or any unaccompanied youth.
3. The Guilford County Schools Homeless Liaison should be contacted within 48 hours of program admission to arrange collaboration and needed services (i.e., transportation) with Guilford County Schools. This correspondence should be documented in the client's file.
4. The agency providing services to the family should contact available early childhood educational programs (i.e., Head Start) and assist families with accessing these programs.

Last Reviewed: 7/24/2025