**RIGHTS OF CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN TRANSITION – STEP UP SCHOOL**

**STEP UP Schools** shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. All children and youth in transition shall have access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as all other students. This commitment to the educational rights of these students will apply to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.

A student may be considered eligible for services as a “Child or Youth in Transition” 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 their transition and until the end of 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, etc.Under federal law, children and youth in transition at Step Up Schools will have access to appropriate public education and be given a full opportunity to meet state and local academic achievement standards. They will be included in state- and district-wide assessments and accountability systems. Our school will ensure that children and youth in transition are free from discrimination, segregation, and harassment.

**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 child or youth in transition, 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 decisions, providing notice or any appeal process, and filling out dispute forms.

Information regarding this policy will be distributed to all students upon enrollment and once during the school year. It will be provided to students who seek to withdraw from school. It will be posted on the school parent information board, as well as other places where children, youth, and families in transition receive services.

**For more information**, refer to http://www.ade.az.gov/schooleffectiveness/specialpops/homeless/

Governing board approval Dec. 13, 2018