ANDREWS ISD HOMELESS EDUCATION PLAN
Title I, Part A and Title X, Part C of NCLBA

Definition of Homelessness (McKinney-Vento Act Sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C. 11435(2))

The term "homeless children and youths:

(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).

TITLE I, PART A, ELIGIBILITY:

An identified homeless child shall be enrolled in the appropriate grade-level school and be placed on the school's Title I, Part A ranking list and served as the highest priority student in need regardless of current academic performance.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Enrollment and Retention

Andrews ISD shall review and revise, if needed, all policies and procedures to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations. Students who are homeless must enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the AISD schools.

Policies and Practices against Segregation and Stigmatization

Andrews ISD shall adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youth are not segregated or stigmatized on the basis of their status as homeless. Schools must not provide services in settings within the school that segregate homeless children and youth from other children and youth, except as is necessary for short periods of time for health and safety emergencies or to provide temporary, special, and supplementary services.

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS:

Dissemination of Educational Rights

Andrews ISD ensures public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the act.

AISD HOMELESS LIAISON:

Designation of the Homeless Liaison

Andrews ISD designates the Family Services Coordinator as the educational liaison for students in homeless situations.

Registration of the Liaison

The AISD Homeless Liaison must supply contact information to the Texas liaison database.

Notification of the Homeless Liaison
The AISD Homeless Liaison shall inform school personnel, service providers, and advocates who work with families in homeless situations of the duties of the homeless liaison.

Identifying Homeless Students
The AISD Homeless Liaison shall ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel and through coordination of activities with other entities and agencies.

ENROLLMENT RELATED ISSUES:

Immediate Enrollment of Students
"Enrolled" is defined as attending classes and participating fully in school activities. Students in homeless situations must be enrolled immediately even if they do not have the required documents, such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documents.

School Selection
AISD must 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.

School of Origin
"School of Origin" is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled. AISD must keep homeless students in their school of origin, to the extent feasible, unless it is against the parent or guardian's wishes. Students are permitted to remain in their school of origin for the duration of their homelessness or until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing.

Transportation
AISD must provide transportation to the school of origin, at the request of the parent of guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the AISD Homeless Liaison. Title I funds may not be used for this purpose. The AISD Homeless Liaison shall ensure that parents and guardians and unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, including to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation services.

Enrollment of Unaccompanied Youth and Notice of Appeal
The AISD Homeless Liaison shall help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school after considering the youth's wishes, and provide youth with notice of their right to appeal an enrollment decision that is not their choice. The AISD Homeless Liaison must ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that might arise over school enrollment or placement.

Enrollment of Students Pending Resolution of Disputes
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 shall be referred to the AISD Liaison, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the Enrollment Disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act after receiving notice of the dispute.

Written Explanation of the Denial of School Selection
A school must 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 AISD's Homeless Liaison. 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.

Obtaining School Records
Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school. Students must be enrolled in school while records are obtained.

Maintenance of Records
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 district; and in a manner consistent with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 123g).

Immunizations and Immunization Records
If the child or youth needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the enrolling school shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the child or youth to the AISD Liaison, who shall assist in obtaining immunizations or immunization or medical records. Students must be enrolled in school in the interim.

COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS:

Coordination of Services
AISD shall 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, to minimize educational disruption for children and youths who become homeless. This coordination shall 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.

Coordination with Housing Agencies
If applicable, AISD shall coordinate with State and local housing agencies responsible for developing the comprehensive housing affordability strategy described in the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act to minimize educational disruption for children and youths who become homeless.

Collaboration with THEO and School Personnel
The AISD Homeless Liaison must 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.

COMPARABLE SERVICES:

Each homeless child or youth to be assisted shall 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.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT:

Educational and Related Opportunities
The AISD Homeless Liaison must inform parents or guardians of educational and related opportunities available to their children and provide them with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

TITLE I, PART A, SET-ASIDES:

AISD Homeless Education Plan Elements paid for with Reserved Funds
No set-aside funding will be calculated. If Title I, Part A funding is depleted or another child currently receiving Title I, Part A services will be denied those services, the homeless child and/or the child currently receiving services shall be provided commensurate services using other state and local funds.