



# MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Of Directors

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Board Agenda Item #	III F
Date:	June 6, 2016
To:	Magnolia Board of Directors
From:	Caprice Young, Ed.D., CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead:	Kelly Hourigan, Chief Operations Officer
RE:	2015-2016 Student Policies

## Proposed Board Recommendation

I move that the board approve the 2015-2016 Magnolia Public Schools Parent Involvement Policy and Homeless Education Policy.

## Background

Magnolia Public Schools Board had adopted the Parent Involvement Policy and Homeless Education Policy last year but we have since asked legal to review these policies to assure we are in compliance with all legal mandates. No changes were needed since our board last approved both of the policies.

## Budget Implications:

There are no budget implications.

## Name of Staff Originator:

Kelly Hourigan, Chief Operations Officer

## Attachments:

2015-2016 Parent Involvement Policy and 2015-2016 Homeless Education Policy

## NCLB COMPLIANT PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

**I. Introduction**

Research has shown that the attitudes, behavior and achievement of children are enhanced when parents or other caregivers are involved in their children's education. To that end, the **Magnolia Public Schools (MPS)** (the "LEA") has adopted this parent involvement policy in order to promote learning and provide a more positive learning experience for the students of its schools.<sup>1</sup> This policy has also been incorporated into the LEA's plan developed pursuant to NCLB, and submitted to the California Department of Education with the LEA's Consolidated Application.

**II. Involvement in Drafting the LEA Plan**

Parents of participating children will be involved in the development of the LEA plan required by NCLB. On an annual basis, the LEA will submit the LEA plan to the Parent Council for review and suggested changes before the plan is submitted to the California Department of Education ("CDE") with the Consolidated Application. In addition, all parents of participating children will annually be invited to review the LEA plan and submit comments.

If the LEA plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the LEA will submit any comments from parents of participating children with the LEA plan when it is submitted to the CDE.

**III. Involvement in School Review and Improvement**

Parents of participating children will be involved, to the extent applicable, in the process of school review and improvement under NCLB. This includes disseminating the results of the local annual review of each school served under Title I, Part A to parents.

In addition, the parents of participating children will be invited to annually review the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy and other Title I, Part A activities and provide comments to the LEA.

**Identification of a school for improvement:** Before the LEA identifies its school for improvement, for corrective action, or for restructuring, it shall provide the parents of all children enrolled in the school with notice of an opportunity to review the school-level data, including academic assessment data, on which the proposed identification is based. If the **Principal** of the school believes, or a majority of the parents of the students enrolled in such school believe, that the proposed identification is in error for statistical or other substantive reasons, the **Principal** may provide supporting evidence to the LEA, which shall consider that evidence before making a determination.

**School plan:** Parents of participating children will be involved in the development and/or revision of a school plan required of the school identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring, which plan shall be approved by the LEA in accordance with NCLB.

**Notice required after school identification:** If the LEA's school is identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring, the LEA will promptly provide to all parents of children enrolled in the school (in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand), a notice containing the following:

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<sup>1</sup> Within this policy, the word "parent" is employed. This word is intended to reach any caregiver of students enrolled in the LEA's school, including but not limited to, parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc.

- An explanation of what the identification means, and how the school compares in terms of academic achievement to other elementary or secondary schools served by the LEA and the CDE;
- The reasons for the identification;
- An explanation of what the LEA or the CDE is doing to address the problem of low achievement;
- An explanation of how the parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement; and
- As applicable, an explanation of the parents' option to transfer their child to another public school under the control of the LEA, return to their district of residence or to obtain supplemental educational services for the child.

***Information regarding corrective action taken:*** The LEA shall publish and disseminate information regarding any corrective action taken at a school to parents of each student enrolled in the school in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

***Restructuring:*** Whenever a school fails to make adequate yearly progress after 1 full school year of corrective action or when the LEA is required to implement alternative governance, the LEA shall provide prompt notice to parents and provide parents with an adequate opportunity to comment before taking any action and to participate in developing any plan required by NCLB.

#### **IV. Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Other Support**

The LEA will provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist its participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance in the following ways:

- The LEA will distribute 95% of the funds reserved pursuant to NCLB to the school for parent involvement activities;
- The LEA (board and school leaders) will collaborate to devise a timeline for parental involvement activities throughout the school year and create a follow up tool to ensure that the activities occur.
- The LEA will develop the necessary technical assistance for planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

#### **V. Annual Meeting**

Within 60 days of the first day of school, the School shall convene an annual meeting to which all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs are invited and encouraged to attend. The School will hold additional meetings to ensure the maximum parental participation, providing the same information, to be offered at flexible times, such as in the morning or evening.

The information provided at the meetings will inform parents of the School's receipt of Title I, Part A funds and the specific requirements of Title I, Part A. Additionally, parents shall be informed of their rights to be involved in Title I, Part A programs.

## **VI. Notice**

Within **60** days of the beginning of school, the School will send [**e.g., via mail, sent home with students, and/or placed in orientation packets and/or registration packets**] a notice to [**if in a targeted assistance school**] [parents of participating children] [**or if in a school with a school wide program**] [all parents] containing, but not limited to, the following information:

- Information about Title I, Part A programs;
- An explanation of the requirements of Title I, Part A programs;
- A description of the rights parents have for participation in Title I, Part A programs;
- A description (including timing of meetings, location, etc.) of how parents can participate in the planning, review and/or improvement of the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program.
- A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the School, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
- An invitation to attend the annual meeting and additional meetings, providing information about the purpose of the meetings and the dates and times.
- A copy of the most current Parent Involvement Policy and a feedback form for parents to comment on its content.

With this notice, the School will include a survey for parents to complete identifying whether they will require transportation, child care or home visits in order to participate in the parental involvement program of the School. If there is sufficient need for transportation or child care at any of the parental involvement activities identified in this policy, the School may provide such services and notify the parents of such provided services.

In addition to mailing this notice to parents of participating children, the School will post the information on its website.

## **VII. Title I, Part A Program Involvement**

In order to involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan, the School will involve parents of participating students as follows:

- The School will conduct at least one Family Learning Night each year where all parents of participating children will be invited to the School to learn about the different Title I, Part A programs, details of this policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan. These meetings will be held at flexible times. Additionally, some may be located at community libraries or at parent volunteer homes for those who live far from the School.
- Parents not attending the Family Learning Nights will be contacted by a volunteer by telephone to encourage participation and inform them of future Family Learning Nights.
- The School will publish a regular Newsletter with notification of upcoming participation opportunities.

- The School will create a School Site Council (SSC) where it will plan, review and improve Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan. The SSC will meet at the School and will consist of:
  - The school principal
  - 1 Teacher representative elected by the faculty
  - 1 Parent representative elected by the Parent Club
  - 1 Student representative elected by the Student Council
  - 1 Community representative appointed by Magnolia Public Schools Central Office (MPSCO)
  - All parents of participating children will be invited to the SSC meeting.

Additionally, the SSC will be involved in decisions regarding how funds reserved for parent involvement activities are allotted for those activities.

- Each year, the School will hold an End of School Night, at which parents of participating children will be invited to review Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan and recommend any changes.
- **At least one** of parents of participating children will be invited to accompany School staff on retreats to participate in discussions and sessions dealing with Title I, Part A programs.
- If requested by parents of participating children, the School will schedule regular meetings where parents are able to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. The School will respond to such suggestions within **48 hours**.
- If the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to parents of participating children, the School will submit any parent comments on the plan when it submits the plan to the LEA.

### **VIII. Building Capacity for Involvement**

#### **A. Standards, Assessments, Title I Requirements, Monitoring Progress and Improving Student Achievement**

In order to ensure effective parental involvement and support a partnership among the LEA, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, the LEA will provide the following programs to assist parents in understanding State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the academic achievement of their children (collectively referred to "Standards and Requirements"):

- The LEA will encourage parents to serve on its board of directors;
- The LEA will seek input from the Parent/Guardian Club and the SSC on ways to assist parents to understand the Standards and Requirements.
- The LEA will encourage parents to serve on its board committees.
- The LEA will regularly publish in its Newsletter, and/or on its website, descriptions and explanations of State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local

academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the academic achievement of their children.

- Regular meetings will be held by the LEA at each school, at community libraries and/or parent volunteer homes to discuss how parents can work with educators to improve their child's academic achievement.
- The LEA will hold Back to School nights to introduce parents to the School's curriculum and its correlation to the State's academic content standards and academic achievement standards.
- Parents will be invited to attend regular classes to learn about State and local academic assessments and to take sample tests.

#### **B. Helping Parents to Work with their Children**

In an effort to foster parental involvement, the LEA will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement through the following programs:

- **Student-Teacher Status Portal:** MPS will use CoolSIS, an online web portal currently being used at all MPS. The use of the school website enables parents, students, and teachers to communicate more efficiently. Teachers have a webpage for every class in which they post course material, homework assignments, projects, course grade statistics and records of students' grades on quizzes, tests, class participation and homework assignments. Students and parents use confidential passwords to log on.

Families without home computers will be encouraged to come to the school and use one of the available computer stations. Classes are held at the school on how to use the portal as well as how to access it via free Internet access at public libraries if that is more convenient than coming to the school.

- The LEA will provide parents with access to literacy programs that bond families around reading and using the public library.
- The LEA will provide annual seminars on parenting skills and parent-child communication.
- The school's psychologist will work with parents to better understand their children and the issues facing them.
- The LEA will train parents how to tutor their children in the school.
- Individualized student and parent advisory sessions: Each of LEA teachers and mentors will be assigned to a small group of students. They will arrange two to four meetings at school during the school year to discuss their students' academic achievements.
- One-on-one meetings with the parents of academically low-achieving students to support the parent in providing the student the study environment he/she needs.

#### **C. Education on Parent Involvement**

The LEA will annually educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the School. The training shall take place each year in staff orientations, annual staff development materials and other in-service trainings held throughout the school year.

In order to better understand what works best for the current parents of participating children attending the LEA's schools, the education will take place after the following research is done (which shall be accomplished within the first 90 days of the commencement of the School year):

- **Home Visits:** Research has shown that one of the keys to successful teaching and schooling is creating personal connections with students inside and outside of school.<sup>2</sup> Knowing the students' outside interests, families, and home routines, and then using this information to connect in meaningful, individualized ways can have huge rewards in helping to create happier, healthier, and smarter kids. Recognizing these facts, the LEA will use home visits as one of the important features of its education program to not only improve student and school performance, but also to identify and intervene early with low-achieving students.

The LEA teachers will visit students at their homes to enhance student learning and involvement. Family visits offer invaluable insights about students. They can provide new understanding about students' learning styles. Visits might also reveal the emotional and social needs and behaviors of students. It is helpful to know if they react to problems with tears, anger, or withdrawal, and how they socialize with peers. Through family visits, teachers can identify students' latest interests or concerns, such as a new hobby, an upcoming trip, or a change in the family. The LEA staff uses an "Activity Module" in its school information system, i.e., CoolSIS, to plan and record home visits.

- A phone tree will be established where volunteers call all parents of participating students to solicit feedback and ideas for building ties between parents and the LEA, how to best communicate with parents and how to work with parents as equal partners.
- A survey will be sent home to parents of participating students that solicits information on what skills each parent has to offer the LEA and what types of parental involvement programs in which parents would most likely participate.

#### **D. Other Optional Parent Participation**

The LEA will involve parents in the development of the training regarding the importance of parent involvement for teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.

In order to maximize parental involvement and participation, the LEA will arrange school meetings at various times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at the LEA.

The LEA will adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

The LEA will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities, such as sponsoring events, providing volunteers for school activities, and creating internships for students.

#### **IX. Coordination with Other Programs**

If applicable, the LEA shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with programs such as Head Start, Early Reading First, and public preschool and other programs and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: [http://crede.berkeley.edu/products/print/pract\\_briefs/pb1.shtml](http://crede.berkeley.edu/products/print/pract_briefs/pb1.shtml)

The LEA will coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with these programs as follows: 1) requiring that the school conduct meetings involving parents, kindergarten or elementary school teachers, and Head Start teachers or, if appropriate, teachers from other early childhood development programs such as the Early Reading First program, to discuss the developmental and other needs of individual children; 2) developing and implementing a systematic procedure for receiving records regarding such children, transferred with parental consent from a Head Start program or, where applicable, another early childhood development program such as the Early Reading First program.

#### **X. Annual Evaluation**

The LEA, with the involvement of parents, shall conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under Title I, Part A, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under NCLB. The LEA will pay particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The LEA will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, this family involvement policy.

#### **XI. School-Parent Compact**

At the beginning of each school year, the School will enter in to School-Parent Compacts with parents of participating children. The School-Parent Compact will outline how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the School and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The Parent Council will annually evaluate the effectiveness of the School-Parent Compact and provide feedback and suggestions for revision.

#### **XII. Involvement of Parents of Limited English Proficient Students, Disabled Parents and Parents of Migratory Children**

The LEA shall implement an effective means of outreach to parents of limited English proficient students to inform them regarding how they can be involved in the education of their children, and be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels in core academic subjects and meet challenging State academic achievement standards and State academic content standards expected of all student. To accomplish this goal, the LEA will do the following:

- The LEA will hold regular meetings, and send notice of these meetings, for the purpose of formulating and responding to recommendations from parents of participating children.
- The LEA will provide language translators at parent meetings to the extent practicable.
- The LEA will schedule meetings to enable families to share information about culture, background, children's talents and particular needs for the schools.
- The LEA will provide parents of limited English proficiency with access to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to increase their English language proficiency to assist their children with homework. The school's principal will visit the classes to interact with the parents.



- **English Learner Advisory Committee:** The English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) is mainly a committee of parents or other community members who want to advocate for English Learners. The committee provides parents of English Learners opportunities to learn more about the programs offered to their students and advises the principal and the School Site Council (SSC) on programs and services for English Learners.

State law mandates each school site with 21 or more students of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in attendance, regardless of language, to form a functioning English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). The ELAC will be formed at the LEA when the School has 21 or more students of LEP.

The LEA will provide full opportunities for participation of parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children. To accomplish this goal, the LEA will do the following:

- The LEA will schedule meetings to enable families to share information about culture, background, children's talents and particular needs for the schools.
- Teachers will be encouraged to make home visits to discuss student progress with the parents. Parents, students, and teachers meet throughout the year to monitor students' progress.
- Teachers will meet one-on-one with parents of such students on an as needed basis to ensure the proper supports are in place for the student.

### **XIII. Notices**

In accordance with NCLB, the LEA will provide the following notices to parents of children attending Title I, Part A schools:

- Annual report card;
- A notice regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers;
- The notice regarding language instruction programs;
- Any other notices required by law.

### **XIV. Miscellaneous**

The LEA shall ensure that all information related to LEA and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The LEA will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents.

**MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MPS) HOMELESS EDUCATION POLICY****I. Introduction**

Title IA (Section 111(a)(1)) requires that a district (including independent charter schools) receiving Title IA Funds include in its district plan a plan to provide services to homeless students to ensure compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in December 2001, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

**II. Definitions**

Homeless children and youth means children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- Living in a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, such as cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings or substandard housing (for example, condemned buildings or garages), bus or train stations, or other similar settings
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks (does not include trailers or mobile homes in a mobile home park), or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care placement
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above

Unaccompanied youth includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. A child or unaccompanied youth shall be considered homeless for as long as he/she is in a living situation described above.

**III. Homeless Liaison**

The **Principal** will serve as the Homeless Liaison at each Magnolia Public Schools (MPS) school site.

The Homeless Liaison is required to:

- Ensure that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination with other entities and agencies.
- Ensure that homeless students enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in the schools of the Local Education Agency (LEA).
- Ensure that homeless families, children, and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start, and pre-school programs administered by the LEA, and referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services.
- Ensure that parents and guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

- Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the Act (such as school, family shelters, and soup kitchens).
- Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the dispute resolution provisions.
- Ensure that the parent/guardian of a homeless child or youth, or any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services and is assisted in accessing transportation services, if available and feasible.
- Assist unaccompanied youth in placement/enrollment decisions.
- Ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that might arise over school enrollment or placement.
- Assist homeless children and youth who do not have immunizations, or immunization or medical records, to obtain necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.
- Collaborate and coordinate with state coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youth.

#### **IV. General Assurances**

MPS provides the following general assurances:

- Homeless children and youth shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way.
- Homeless children and youth shall be provided services comparable to those received by other students in the school, including transportation services, and education programs for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as services provided under Title 1 or similar state and local programs; programs for students with disabilities; programs for students with limited English proficiency; vocational or technical programs; gifted and talented programs; and school nutrition programs.
- Homeless children and youth will have access to district administrative level reservation of funds (set-asides) for serving homeless students.
- MPS shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for these students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.
- MPS shall provide and post notices of the educational rights of homeless children and youth.

#### **V. Identification and Reporting**

Homeless children and youth will be identified through:

1. The application process for enrollment (self-identification)
2. School personnel recommendations
3. Coordinated activities with other entities and agencies

MPS will comply with all federal, state, county, and other data collections and reporting requirements regarding homeless children and youth.

#### **VI. School Selection**

Homeless 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)

A homeless child or youth's right to attend their school of origin extends for the duration of homelessness. If a child or youth becomes permanently housed during the academic year, he or she is entitled to stay in the school of origin for the remainder of the academic year.

As all MPS schools are independent charter schools, and therefore schools of choice rather than assigned district schools, placement decisions are based solely on parent request through the application process. In order to provide equal access to its schools, the MPS annual student recruitment plan shall include efforts to reach homeless families, children, and youth via free public events, community centers, and local homeless service providers. Homeless students may also be identified at the time of enrollment (through self-reports).

#### **VII. Enrollment and Records**

Homeless youth will not be discriminated against in the application process. Homeless children and youth will be allowed to apply for enrollment in accordance with current MPS enrollment policies even if the parent/guardian is unable to provide the school with the records normally required for enrollment such as previous academic records, birth certificate, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation. The MPS designee shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain the relevant records. If the student needs to obtain immunizations or does not possess immunization or other medical records, the designee shall refer the parent/guardian to the homeless liaison. The liaison shall assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations or records for the student.

In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison shall assist in the enrollment process. Unaccompanied youth shall be immediately enrolled if space is available even if unable to provide the school with the records normally required for enrollment(as above), and despite lack of parent or legal guardian's supervision or permissions, or "power of attorney" by supervising adult.

In accordance with current MPS enrollment policies and state regulations regarding charter schools, if the grade level for which a homeless child or youth has applied has more applicants than spaces available, a random public lottery will take place once annually in order to determine enrollment for the following school year. An "in-district" priority will apply during the lottery to homeless youth who self-identify as homeless during the lottery application process as to not discriminate against homeless children or youth due to lack of permanent housing. If a homeless child or youth applies for admission after the annual random public lottery, he or she will be placed on the waitlist in the order in which the application was received, even if the application is incomplete at the time of submission.

Any confidential record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, of each homeless child or youth will be maintained so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district.

#### **VIII. Nutrition Programs**

Homeless students automatically qualify for free breakfast and lunch at MPS schools. Families do not have to fill out an application or provide proof of income. Homeless students will be added to the free meals program as soon as they have been identified.

#### **IX. Transportation**

Per the McKinney-Vento Act, LEAs must provide services to homeless children/youth that are comparable to those received by other students in the school selected, including transportation. In addition, schools must provide transportation for homeless students to and from their school of origin, if feasible.

MPS, where feasible, applicable, at the request of the parent/guardian and/or in the best interest of the homeless children and youth shall provide transportation to students experiencing homelessness to ensure the students are able to stay at the MPS school of their choice for the duration of their homelessness.

MPS may work with the youth's district of residence or other agencies to provide transportation services.

#### **X. Enrollment Dispute Resolution Process**

*(per CDE Homeless Education Dispute Resolution Process -<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/disputeres.asp>)*

If a disagreement arises over school selection or enrollment, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school in which he/she is requesting enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute. Enrollment is defined as "attending classes and participating fully in school activities."

The school must refer the student, parent, or guardian to the LEA's homeless liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. The homeless liaison must ensure the dispute resolution process is also followed for unaccompanied youth.

A written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment must be provided if a parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth disputes such a school selection or enrollment decision, including the right to appeal. The written explanation shall be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated, and provided in a language that the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth can understand.

If the dispute remains unresolved at the district level or is appealed, then the district homeless liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the homeless liaison at the county office of education (COE). The COE's homeless liaison will review these materials and determine the school selection or enrollment decision within five (5) working days of receipt of the materials. The COE homeless liaison will notify the LEA and parent of the decision.

If the dispute remains unresolved or is appealed, the COE homeless liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the State Homeless Coordinator. Upon the review of the LEA, COE, and parent information, the CDE will notify the parent of the final school selection or enrollment decision within ten (10) working days of receipt of materials.