YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS

Monsenor Oscar Romero Charter School

Homeless Education Policy

Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School has designated Rene Quon as the liaison for homeless children and youths. He may be reached at mrquon@romerocharter.org or (213) 413-9600.

Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School agrees to implement the following policy ensure that all children and youth who are homeless receive a free appropriate public education and are given opportunity to succeed in school, consistent with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and requirements of submitting the Consolidated Application for accessing federal categorical funding.

Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School will ensure that children and youth who are homeless are free from discrimination, segregation, and harassment.

Information regarding this policy, including the educational rights of children and youth identified as homeless will be distributed to all students upon enrollment and once during the school year, provided to students who seek to withdraw from Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School, as well as other places where children, youth, and families who are homeless receive services, including family and youth shelters, motels, campgrounds, welfare departments, health departments, and other social service agencies. This policy is also available at (insert charter school URL)

Definitions

Children and youth experiencing homelessness means children and youth who are otherwise legally entitled to or eligible for a free public education and who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including:

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, campgrounds, or trailer parks due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting placement in foster care.
- Children and youth who have 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.

- Children and youth who are living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.
- Migratory children and youth who are living in a situation described above.

A child or youth will be considered to be homeless for as long as he or she is in a living situation described above.

Unaccompanied youth means a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, who meets the definition of homeless as defined above. The more general term youth also includes unaccompanied youth.

Enroll and *enrollment* means attending school and participating fully in all school activities.

Immediate means without delay.

Parent means a person having legal or physical custody of a child or youth.

Local liaison is the staff person designated by Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School as the person responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to the local homeless education liaison by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Identification

Children and youth who qualify as homeless in Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School will be identified. Data will be collected on the number of children and youth experiencing homelessness in Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School; where they are living; their academic achievement (including state and local assessments); and the reasons for any enrollment delays or interruptions in their education.

School Selection

Each child and youth enrolled at Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School identified as homeless has the right to remain enrolled. Services that are required to be provided, including transportation to and from the Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School and services under federal and other programs, will not be considered in determining feasibility.

Enrollment

Enrollment may not be denied or delayed due to the lack of any document normally required for enrollment, including:

- Proof of residency
- Transcripts/school records (Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School must contact the student's previous school to obtain school records. Initial placement of students whose records are not immediately available can be made based on the student's age and information gathered from the student, parent, and previous schools or teachers.)

- Immunizations or immunization/health/medical/physical records (If necessary, the school must refer students to the local liaison to assist with obtaining immunizations and/or immunization and other medical records.)
- Proof of guardianship
- Birth certificate
- Unpaid school fees
- Lack of clothing that conforms to dress code
- Any factor related to the student's living situation

Unaccompanied youth must be enrolled immediately in school. They may either enroll themselves or be enrolled by a parent, non-parent caretaker, older sibling, or local liaison.

Services

Children and youth experiencing homelessness will be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School including:

- Transportation
- Title I, Part A services - Children and youth identified as homeless are automatically eligible for Title I, Part A services
- Educational services for which the student meets eligibility criteria, including special education and related services and programs for English language learners
- Vocational and technical education programs
- Gifted and talented programs
- Before- and after-school programs
- Free meals - On the day a child or youth identified as homeless enrolls in school, Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School must submit the student's name to its food service program coordinator for immediate eligibility.

When applying any standing policy regarding tardiness or absences, any tardiness or absence related to a child or youth's living situation will be excused.

Disputes

If a dispute arises over any issue covered in this policy, the child or youth experiencing homelessness will be admitted immediately to Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School pending final resolution of the dispute. The student will also have the rights of a student who is homeless to all appropriate educational services, transportation, free meals, and Title I, Part A, services while the dispute is pending.

Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School will provide the parent or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its decision and the right to appeal and will refer the parent or youth to the local liaison immediately. The local liaison will ensure that the student is enrolled at Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School and is receiving other services to which he or she is entitled and will resolve the dispute as expeditiously as possible. The parent or unaccompanied youth will be given every opportunity to participate meaningfully in the resolution of the dispute. The local liaison will keep records of all disputes in order to determine whether particular issues or schools are repeatedly delaying or denying the enrollment of children and youth identified as homeless. The parent, unaccompanied youth, or school district may appeal the Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School's

decision as provided in Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School 's formal dispute resolution process.

Training

The local liaison will conduct training regarding Title X requirements and sensitivity/awareness activities for all staff of Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School.

Coordination

The local liaison will coordinate with and seek support from the local district and county coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, public and private service providers in the community, housing and placement agencies, local liaisons in neighboring districts, and other organizations and agencies. Coordination will include conducting outreach and training through those agencies. Both public and private agencies will be encouraged to support the local liaison and Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School in implementing this policy.