

# Supporting Students in Transition: A Parent & Guardian Guide

At **Brabeion Academy**, we are fully committed to maintaining an educational environment that protects and promotes dignity, individual worth, and mutual respect. If your family is experiencing temporary housing changes or housing instability, your children are protected under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and Brabeion Academy Policy 3060. Every student deserves the opportunity to participate in a safe, supportive atmosphere with equal access to all educational opportunities.

---

## Does My Family Qualify?

Under Policy 3060, a student qualifies as "experiencing homelessness" or as a "child/youth in transition" if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes children and youth who are:

- **Sharing housing** with other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (often referred to as "doubling up").
- Living in **motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds** due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in **emergency, transitional, or domestic violence shelters**, or abandoned in hospitals.
- Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Living in **cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings**, substandard housing, bus/train stations, or similar settings.
- Living as migratory children in any of the conditions described above.
- **Unaccompanied Youth:** Students who are not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian and meet any of the housing descriptions above. Unaccompanied youth have the right to immediate enrollment and can enroll themselves or be enrolled by a caretaker, older sibling, or the local liaison.

---

## Your Child's Rights & Services

If your student qualifies for support, they have the right to receive a free, appropriate public education and participate fully in all school activities and programs. Brabeion Academy provides the following comparable services:

Service Category	What Brabeion Academy Provides
<b>Immediate Enrollment</b>	Your child must be enrolled and begin instruction within <b>one full day</b> of an attempt to enroll. Enrollment <b>cannot</b> be denied or delayed due to a lack of documents normally required (such as proof of residency, academic transcripts, immunization/medical records, birth certificates, proof of guardianship, or unpaid school fees). Brabeion will immediately contact the previous school to request official records.
<b>School Selection &amp; Stability</b>	To ensure educational stability, it is presumed to be in the student's best interest to remain in their <b>School of Origin</b> (the school the student attended when permanently housed, or the school in which they were last enrolled). A student can remain there for the entire duration of their homelessness or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing, based on the best interests and wishes of the parent/guardian.
<b>Transportation Services</b>	Brabeion Academy will provide transportation services to and from the student's School of Origin or the school they choose to attend within the district. If the School of Origin crosses district boundaries, Brabeion will coordinate with the neighboring district to arrange and apportion transportation responsibility and costs.
<b>Free Meals Program</b>	Once verified as experiencing homelessness, your student will be expeditiously registered for free access to the <b>National School Lunch and Breakfast Program</b> . This eligibility commences immediately at the time of enrollment.
<b>Comparable &amp; Supplemental Programs</b>	Students are fully eligible for programs comparable to those offered to housed students, including Title I services, educational programs for children with disabilities (IDEA), English Language Learner (ELL) assistance, vocational/technical education, gifted and talented programs, and extracurricular activities.

---

# How Are Students Identified?

Brabeion Academy utilizes a supportive identification process to ensure families receive required services while maintaining strict confidentiality. Students can be identified via:

- **Self-Reporting:** A family or student notifies a school counselor, teacher, or the school registrar during enrollment or at any time during the school year.
- **Residency Forms:** Dissemination of a nighttime residency form at the beginning of each school year, along with a mid-year check-in form.
- **Community Referrals:** Internal referrals from trained school staff or external coordination with local community service agencies, shelters, and other school districts.

**Privacy & Protection Note:** Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), information regarding a student's living situation is treated as a confidential student education record and is *never* disclosed as public directory information. Students will never be discriminated against, segregated, or stigmatized based on their housing status.

---

## Dispute Resolution & Appeals

If a disagreement arises regarding school selection, eligibility, or enrollment:

1. The student will be **immediately enrolled** in the school where enrollment is sought, pending the final resolution of the dispute. They will receive full access to classes, activities, transportation, free meals, and Title I services while the dispute is active.
2. The school will provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a **written explanation** of Brabeion's decision, along with clear instructions on their right to appeal.
3. The school's local Homeless Liaison will help initiate an appeal within the school structure (reviewed by a leadership committee within 10 business days).
4. If an agreement is still not reached, the dispute will be appealed to the **Idaho State Department of Education Homeless Coordinator** for a final, binding decision. Parents and guardians will have every opportunity to participate meaningfully throughout the resolution process.

---

## How Your Homeless Liaison Can Help

The Chief Education Officer designates a dedicated school employee to act as the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison**. The Liaison is here to ensure your family's rights are protected and to assist you with:

- Navigating immediate school enrollment and arranging student transportation.
- Connecting your family with referrals to healthcare, dental services, mental health/substance abuse support, and housing agencies.
- Assisting unaccompanied youth in obtaining verification of their status as an "independent student" for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Providing you with meaningful opportunities to participate actively in your child's education.