

"STRIVE TO ENGAGE AND CHALLENGE EVERY STUDENTS' EDUCATION TODAY FOR TOMORROW"

GORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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PERTINENT DEFINITIONS

**From the 2020-21 Application and Verification Guide¹ and
the July 29, 2015 U.S. Dept. of Education Dear Colleague Letter²**

Homeless

A student is considered homeless if he lacks fixed, regular, and adequate housing. This is broader than just living "on the street." It includes temporarily living with other people because he had nowhere else to go; living in substandard housing (if it doesn't meet local building codes or the utilities are turned off, it is generally not adequate); living in emergency or transitional shelters, for example, trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) after disasters; or living in motels, camping grounds, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or any public or private place not designed for humans to live in. It also includes living in the school dormitory if the student would otherwise be homeless. A student living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent may be considered homeless even if the parent would provide support and a place to live.

¹ <https://ifap.ed.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/2020-05/2021FSAHbkAVG.pdf>

² <https://ifap.ed.gov/dear-colleague-letters/07-29-2015-gen-15-16-subject-unaccompanied-homeless-youth-determinations>

Unaccompanied

When a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Youth

Any student who is not yet 24 may qualify for a homeless youth determination.

Self-Supporting

When a student pays for his own living expenses, including a fixed, regular, and adequate housing.

At risk of being homeless

When a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate, for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing.

Recognized third parties

Relevant information can come from recognized third-parties such as private or publicly funded homeless shelters and service providers, financial aid administrators from another college, college access programs such as TRIO and GEAR UP, college or high school counselors, other mental health professionals, social workers, mentors, doctors, and clergy. Unlike McKinney-Vento liaisons and HUD or RHYA-funded shelters, these third parties do not have the statutory authority to make a determination of homelessness. However, they can provide "relevant information" to financial aid administrators who are making a determination of unaccompanied homeless youth status in the absence of a statutory determination.

