



State Board of Education

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JLAC Received
6-14-23

June 12, 2023

Melinda Miguel
Chief Inspector General
Office of the Chief Inspector General
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Ms. Miguel:

In accordance with Section 20.055(6)(h), Florida Statutes, attached is the six month status of corrective actions taken in response to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability Report #22-08, Homeless and Foster Youth Services.

If you have any concerns regarding this status report, please contact Mike Blackburn by phone at 850-245-9418 or by email at mike.blackburn@fldoe.org.

Sincerely,

Manny Diaz, Jr.

Attachment

cc: Mike Blackburn, Inspector General
Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations
Paul Burns, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools
Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System
Legislative Auditing Committee

Department of Education
Office of the Inspector General – Internal Audit
Six-Month Status Report on: OPPAGA Homeless and Foster Youth Services
Report #22-08 Issued: December 1, 2022
Status as of June 1, 2023

Recommendation: Require school district homeless liaisons and other educational staff who work with homeless students to receive training on trauma-informed care.

Response as of June 1, 2023:

The Florida Department of Education is drafting a rule for State Board of Education approval that will include language requiring school district homeless liaisons and other relevant staff to participate in professional development opportunities.

A rule development workshop was held on April 20, 2023, to obtain feedback from stakeholders. The window for comments is still open. The rule is scheduled to be presented to the State Board of Education for approval during the July 2023 State Board meeting.

Anticipated Completion Date & Contact:

Anticipated Completion Date: July 2023

Contact: Courtney Walker, Director, Florida McKinney-Vento Program – courtney.walker@fldoe.org
(850) 245-9946

Recommendation: Require school districts to check the residency status of students at least once per school year.

Response as of June 1, 2023:

The Florida Department of Education is drafting a rule for State Board of Education approval that will include language requiring school districts to disseminate and collect student housing data via survey questionnaires from students at least once a school year. This activity will be completed on a date to be specified. The rule will include required elements via the use of survey questionnaire. An optional model residency form will be developed by the Department and made available for school districts to use.

A rule development workshop was held on April 20, 2023, to obtain feedback from stakeholders. The window for comments is still open. The rule is scheduled to be presented to the State Board of Education for approval during the July 2023 State Board meeting.

Anticipated Completion Date & Contact:

Anticipated Completion Date: July 2023

Contact: Courtney Walker, Director, Florida McKinney-Vento Program – courtney.walker@fldoe.org
(850) 245-9946

Department of Education
Office of the Inspector General – Internal Audit
Six-Month Status Report on: OPPAGA Homeless and Foster Youth Services
Report #22-08 Issued: December 1, 2022
Status as of June 1, 2023

Recommendation: Require school districts to provide periodic training to all staff who interact with students on the school district’s obligation under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to identify and provide educational services to homeless students.

Response as of June 1, 2023:

The Florida Department of Education is drafting a rule for State Board of Education approval that will include language requiring school district McKinney-Vento Program staff to identify staff for training and provide training on the importance of identifying and supporting students experiencing homelessness, how to identify such students and what signs to look for, and what to do if staff suspect a student is experiencing homelessness.

A rule development workshop was held on April 20, 2023, to obtain feedback from stakeholders. The window for comments is still open. The rule is scheduled to be presented to the State Board of Education for approval during the July 2023 State Board meeting.

Anticipated Completion Date & Contact:

Anticipated Completion Date: July 2023

Contact: Courtney Walker, Director, Florida McKinney-Vento Program – courtney.walker@fldoe.org
(850) 245-9946

Recommendation: Prioritize housing for foster youth students on their campuses.

Response as of June 1, 2023:

In accordance with Florida Statutes, the majority of Florida College System institutions do not offer on-campus housing as a standard amenity. However, for the few institutions that do provide on-campus housing facilities, we can encourage them through regular meeting opportunities to prioritize the housing needs of this student population.