

## **Homelessness Policy**

Homelessness exists in our community. A combination of high housing costs and poverty causes many families to lose their housing. Many young people leave their homes due to abuse, neglect, and family conflict. Children and youth who have lost their housing live in a variety of places, including motels, shelters, shared residences, transitional housing programs, cars, campgrounds, and others. Their lack of permanent housing can lead to potentially serious physical, emotional, and mental consequences. San Tan Charter School will ensure that all children and youth receive a free appropriate public education and are given meaningful opportunities to succeed in our schools.

San Tan Charter School will also follow the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act. It is the policy of our school to view children as individuals. Therefore, this policy will not refer to children as homeless; it will instead use the term children and youth in transition. Under federal law, children and youth in transition must have access to appropriate public education and be given a full opportunity to meet state and local academic achievement standards.

They must be included in state- and district-wide assessments and accountability systems. San Tan Charter School will ensure that children and youth in transition are free from discrimination, segregation, and harassment.

Information regarding this policy will be distributed to all students upon enrollment and once during the school year, provided to students who seek to withdraw from school, and posted in San Tan Charter School, as well as other places where children, youth, and families in transition receive services, including family and youth shelters, soup kitchens, motels, campgrounds, drop-in centers, welfare departments, health departments, and other social service agencies.

Each year, schools that have been particularly creative or proactive in implementing this policy will be publicly recognized for the benefits they provide their students.