

Banner ID \_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**2025 – 2026 Unaccompanied Homeless Verification**

An Unaccompanied Homeless student is a person who meets the McKinney-Vento education definition of homeless (lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing) and is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

**Unaccompanied Homeless Policy**

On a case-by-case basis, students who are (1) unaccompanied and homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless may be deemed an independent student by the FAO through the Unaccompanied Homeless Verification process.

**Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Process**

Students must complete and return the Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Form along with supporting documentation to Buffalo State. Forms will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and all information will be kept confidential. The submission of the form does not guarantee the applicant will be deemed an independent student.

Upon receipt of the form, the FAO will review the student's circumstance and supporting documentation. Students who meet the definition of unaccompanied homeless will be deemed an independent student for the aid year. The FAO will notify students via their Buffalo State email address and permanent address of record. The student's status will carry forward in subsequent years unless the student notifies the Financial Aid Office that they are no longer at risk for homelessness.

**Definitions**

**Unaccompanied** – when a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

**Homeless** – lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing. For example, temporarily living with other people because he/she has nowhere else to go

**Self-supporting** – when a student pays for his/her own living expenses, including fixed, regular, and adequate housing

**At risk of being homeless** – when a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate

**Parent** – a student's biological or adoptive parent.

**Housing**

**Fixed housing** – stationary, permanent, and not subject to change

**Regular housing** – used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis

**Adequate housing** – sufficient to meet both the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home

Banner ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2025 – 2026 Unaccompanied Homeless Verification

Federal Title IV regulations stipulate that a student is independent if at any time **on or after July 1, 2024** he/she is determined to be an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or is self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. To be considered independent, you must demonstrate that you meet this definition.

**Part 1: Homeless Youth Qualifying Questions:** Answer all of the questions below. **At any time after July 1, 2024:**

- A.  Yes  No Are you living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian?
- B.  Yes  No Do you lack fixed, regular and adequate housing?

**Part 2: Documentation to Support Homeless Determination**

Can one of the following agencies provide documentation that **on or after July 1, 2024**, a determination was made that you are unaccompanied youth who is homeless or at risk of being homeless? **If you answer “Yes” to any question below, you must submit the documentation to the Financial Aid Office.**

- A.  Yes  No A School District Homeless Liaison
- B.  Yes  No The Director (or designee) of an Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing Program (funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- C.  Yes  No The Director (or designee) of a Runaway or Homeless Youth Basic Center or Transitional Living Program

**Part 3: Request for the Financial Aid Office to make Homeless Youth Determination**

Only complete this section if you answered **No** to all questions in Part 2.

**A. Submit a Personal Statement**

- a. Attach a separate sheet and explain your living situation **on or after July 1, 2024**. You must demonstrate that you meet the **Unaccompanied Homeless definition**.

**B. Provide your Contact Information for an in-person or telephone Interview with the Financial Aid Office.**

- If this is your first time requesting that the Financial Aid Office make a determination on your Unaccompanied Homeless Status, an interview is required.

a. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Availability (day of week/time of day): \_\_\_\_\_

d. Check one:  In-Person Interview  Telephone Interview

**Part 4: Affirmation and Signature**

- All the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_