

Policy: Education for Homeless Children and Youth

THIS POLICY COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

Homeless students in the district will have access to the education and other services needed to ensure that an opportunity is available to meet the same academic achievement standards to which all students are held. A liaison for students in homeless situations will be designated by the district to carry out duties as required by law.

The district will ensure that homeless students are not stigmatized nor segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. A homeless student will be admitted to the district school in the attendance in which the student is actually living or to the student's school of origin as requested by the parent and in accordance with the student's best interest. Transportation will be provided to and from the student's school of origin at the request of the parent, or in the case of an unaccompanied student, the district's liaison for homeless students.

The superintendent or designee will produce written guidelines for distribution to each school that explains the rights of homeless students and the responsibilities of the schools to meet their needs and eliminate barriers to school attendance. This information shall also be disseminated in writing and by other means designed to raise awareness of these rights and responsibilities to staff, homeless families and students, the public, and homeless service providers.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, children are deemed to be homeless under the following conditions:

1. A child who is lacking a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence and who has a primary residence that is publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, a temporary residence prior to being placed in an institution, or a place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
2. A child who is placed in a transitional or emergency shelter before placement in a foster home or home for neglected children.
3. A child who is temporarily living in a trailer park or camping area due to lack of adequate living accommodations.
4. A child who is in doubled-up accommodations due to loss of housing or other similar situation.
5. A child who is placed in a foster home due to lack of shelter space.
6. A migratory child who is staying in accommodations not fit for human habitation.
7. A child who has run away from home and lives in a runaway shelter, abandoned building, the street, or other inadequate accommodations.
8. A child who is placed in a state institution because he/she has no other place to be.
9. A child who has been abandoned by his/her family and is staying in a hospital.
10. A child whose parents or guardian will not permit him/her to live at home and who lives on the street, or other inadequate accommodations.
11. School-age unwed mothers or expectant mothers who are living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other available living accommodations.

SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

1. Pursuant to and in compliance with the requirements of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1990, 42USC11431, it shall be the policy of this school district, to the extent practicable under requirements relating to education established by state law, that each eligible child of a homeless individual and each eligible homeless youth will have access to a free appropriate education comparable to the education provided the children of district residents who are non-homeless, without isolation or stigma.