

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Students who are homeless shall have equal access to the same free and appropriate education as provided to other students who reside in the District. They shall be provided the services and have access to the programs and activities that are offered to other children, including educational services for which the children meet eligibility criteria.

Homeless children and youth as defined in Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (which generally means lacking a fixed, regular and adequate night time residence) are provided certain protections guaranteeing access to appropriate educational opportunities. Unaccompanied youth are homeless students not in the physical custody of parents or a guardian.

The District Homeless Liaison shall be the Pupil Services Director or his/her designee. The Liaison is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Ensure that homeless children and youth, including unaccompanied youth:
 - Are identified and enrolled in coordination with school staff and community agencies;
 - Are not segregated or stigmatized; and,
 - Enroll and have equal opportunity to be successful in school.

 2. Inform homeless parents/guardians and unaccompanied youth of:
 - Available educational opportunities;
 - Enrollment and transportation rights;
 - The right to appeal enrollment and transportation decisions;
 - Meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their child;
 - Community health and social service programs; and,
 - The appeal process in the event they disagree with District decisions.
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3. Assist homeless parents/guardians and unaccompanied youth to:
 - Obtain medical and academic records for school enrollment;
 - Secure preschool placement for their younger children;
 - Obtain necessary school supplies;
 - Mediate enrollment and transportation disputes; and,
 - Verify eligibility for participation in child food nutrition programs.

4. Coordinate:
 - With schools and community agencies to inform them of educational rights of homeless children and youth; and,
 - With the state Education for Homeless Children and Youth program coordinator to help homeless children and youth obtain the academic services they require to allow them to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all children are held.

The District will immediately enroll a homeless child or youth, even if medical and/or academic records are not available. Unaccompanied youth may enroll themselves in school.

Homeless children and unaccompanied youth are considered immediately eligible to receive free meals through the National School Lunch Program upon school enrollment.

Upon enrollment of a homeless child or youth, school officials will, in consultation with the parent(s) or guardian(s), make a placement decision in the best interests of the child or youth. To the extent feasible, the District will continue the enrollment of the child or youth in their "school of origin" for the duration of their homelessness, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent(s) or guardians(s). For the purposes of this policy, "School of origin" is defined as the school the homeless child or youth attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

At the request of the parent or guardian, transportation will be provided for a homeless child or unaccompanied youth to the student's school of origin. If the student remains living in the District, the District is responsible for transportation. If the homeless student continues enrollment in their school of origin outside of the District, the District Homeless Liaison will coordinate transportation with the other district and the two districts will share the cost of transportation through the duration of the homelessness. If the two districts cannot agree on how to share the transportation cost, they will share the expenses equally.

Should a child become permanently housed during the school year, the child will be given the opportunity to stay in their district of origin for the remainder of the school year.

If the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth is not satisfied with the decision, he or she may appeal the decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI, 53707-7841.

The School District shall not discriminate on the basis of any protected category under State or Federal law.

LEGAL REF: WI. ST. 118.13
PI 9 of Wisconsin Administrative Code
Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Title IX Ed. Amendment Civil Rights Act of 1991
Every Student Succeeds Act

Adopted: _____ July 11, 2018 _____
Last Revision: _____
Last Review: _____
