

Board Policy

Code No. 501.16R1

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH REGULATION

A homeless child or youth is defined as a child or youth from the age of 3 years through 21 years who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes the following:

1. A child or youth is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; is living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; is living in an emergency or transitional shelter; is abandoned in a hospital; or awaiting foster care placement;
2. A child or youth who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. A child or youth who is living in a car, park, public space abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting; or
4. A migratory child or youth who qualifies as homeless because the child or youth is living in circumstances described in paragraphs "1" through "3" above. So that enrollment of homeless children and youth of school age may be facilitated, the following policy areas shall be modified as follows:

Enrollment Requirements: Homeless students including unaccompanied youth will be enrolled immediately even if they are missing records and documents normally required for enrollment.

School Selection & Placement: Homeless students may attend either the school of origin or the school in the attendance area where he/she is actually residing. According to the McKinney Vento Act a child's district or origin is the district or school where the child was last enrolled or school where the child last attended while permanently housed. The deciding factor shall be the best interest of the child. As much as feasible, the child will not be required to change attendance centers within the district every time the child changes residences.

Waiver of Fees & Charges: Fees and charges which may present a barrier to the enrollment or transfer of a homeless child or youth may be waived at the discretion of the superintendent or designee.

Transportation: When students enroll in a new school, they must be provided with any transportation services that are offered to non-homeless students. In addition, homeless students may be provided transportation to their school of origin as required by the McKinney Vento Act.

Special Services: All services which are available to resident students are made available to homeless children or youths enrolled in the school district. Services include special education, talented and gifted, Title 1 programs. Vocational education, English as a second language programs, health services and food and nutrition programs.

Dispute Resolution Process: If a dispute arises over Enrollment or School Selection, the child or youth in transition will be admitted immediately to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The student will also have the right as a student in transition

to all appropriate educational services, transportation, and free schools meals while the dispute is pending.

The school homeless education liaison will provide the parent or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the district's decision on the disputed issue and the right of the parent or unaccompanied youth to appeal that decision. The parent or unaccompanied youth will be given every opportunity to participate meaningfully in the resolution of the dispute. The parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth may appeal the school district's decision as provided in the state's dispute resolution process 281-IAC 33.9(256).

Approved: July 14, 2014