

Education of Homeless Children

It is the policy of the District to ensure that:

1. Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless student has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other students;
2. Homelessness does not in any way separate homeless students from the mainstream school environment; and
3. Homeless children and youths have access to the education and other services that such children and youths need to ensure that such children and youths have an opportunity to meet the same challenging state academic standards to which all students are held.

The Board of Trustees directs all District schools to admit children who are homeless regardless of residence and irrespective of whether the homeless child is able to produce records normally required for enrollment. The Board shall not enter into an out-of-District attendance and tuition agreement with another district for a homeless child.

All schools and employees of the District shall work to ensure that children and youth who are homeless are free from discrimination, segregation, and harassment. The District will also strive to prevent stigma against students who are homeless.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply.

The terms “enroll” and “enrollment” includes attending classes and participating fully in all school activities.

The terms “homeless,” “homeless individual,” and “homeless person” include:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals; or inadequate housing lacking utilities, etc.;
2. Children and youths who have 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. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;

4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this part because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses 1 through 3 above; and
5. An unaccompanied student and homeless families with children and youth are also defined as homeless if they:
 - A. Have experienced a long term period without living independently in permanent housing;
 - B. Have experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves over such period, and
 - C. Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment.

“Children and youth in transition” is defined as children and youth who are otherwise legally entitled to or eligible for a free public education, including preschool, and who lack a fixed regular and adequate nighttime residence.

“Unaccompanied youth” is defined as a youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian who is in transition as defined above.

The term “school of origin” is defined as the school that the student attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including a preschool. When a student completes the final grade level served by the student’s “school of origin,” the “school of origin” may progress to the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all of its feeder schools the same as for all students attending one school and progressing to another school in the District.

Legal References:	20 U.S.C. § 6311, <i>et seq.</i>	Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies (Subchapter I, Part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act)
	20 U.S.C. § 1400, <i>et seq.</i>	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
	42 U.S.C. § 1758	School Lunch Programs - Program Requirements
	42 U.S.C. § 9831, <i>et seq.</i>	Head Start Programs
	42 U.S.C. § 11301, <i>et seq.</i>	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987
	I.C. § 33-1404	Districts to Receive Pupils

Policy History:

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