

Policy 3060

Students

Education of Homeless Children

A Homeless Child is defined as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing 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 lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
2. Children and youths who have primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated 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; and
4. Migratory children and youths who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because they are living in circumstances described above (1 through 3).

For purposes of this policy, the term “homeless” or “homeless individual” does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of the Congress or a State law.

Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless child has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other students. The trustees must assign and admit a child who is homeless to a school in the District regardless of residence and irrespective of whether the homeless child is able to produce records normally required for enrollment. The trustees may not require an Out-of-District attendance agreement and tuition for a homeless child.

The Superintendent or designee shall review and revise rules or procedures that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths. In reviewing and revising such procedures, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residence, birth certificates, school records, and other documentation.

Homeless students shall have access to services comparable to services offered to other students, including but not limited to:

1. Transportation services;
2. Educational services for which the student meets eligibility criteria (e.g., Title I);
3. Educational programs for children with disabilities and limited English proficiency;
4. Programs in vocational and technical education, as well as programs for gifted and talented students; and

5. School nutrition program.

Disputes

If a dispute arises over any issue covered in this policy, the child or youth experiencing homelessness will be admitted immediately to the school in which enrollment is sought pending final resolution of the dispute. The student will also have the rights of a student who is homeless to all appropriate educational services, transportation, free meals, and Title I, Part A, services while the dispute is pending.

The school where the dispute arises will provide the parent or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its decision and the right to appeal and will refer the parent or youth to the local liaison immediately. The local liaison will ensure that the student is enrolled in the requested school and receiving other services to which he or she is entitled and will resolve the dispute as expeditiously as possible. The parent or unaccompanied youth will be given every opportunity to participate meaningfully in the resolution of the dispute. The local liaison will keep records of all disputes in order to determine whether particular issues or schools are repeatedly delaying or denying the enrollment of children and youth identified as homeless. The parent, unaccompanied youth, or school district may appeal the school District's decision as provided in the state's dispute resolution process.

Training

The local liaison will conduct training regarding Title X requirements and sensitivity/awareness activities for all LEA staff.

Coordination

The local liaison will coordinate with and seek support from the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, public and private service providers in the community, housing and placement agencies, the LEA transportation department, local liaisons in neighboring districts, and other organizations and agencies. Coordination will include conducting outreach and training to those agencies. Both public and private agencies will be encouraged to support the local liaison and our schools in implementing this policy.

Preschool

This Policy will apply to preschools administered by the District.

The Superintendent or designee shall give special attention to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths not currently attending school. The Superintendent or designee shall appoint a liaison for homeless children.

A complaint regarding the placement or education of a homeless child shall first be presented orally and informally to the District's homeless liaison/coordinator. Thereafter a

written complaint must be filed in accordance with the District's Uniform Grievance Procedure.

Adopted

April 2015