

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

So that enrollment of homeless children and youth of school age may be facilitated, the following policy areas shall be modified as follows:

SCHOOL RECORDS

For students transferring out of the district, copies of records may be provided directly to the student's parents. In addition, students transferring into the district may provide cumulative records directly to the district. The district shall not require that such records be forwarded from another district before that student may enroll. The school shall then request the official records from the previous school. The district shall take necessary steps to protect records so that inappropriate disclosure of the student's living status is prevented.

IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Homeless students shall not be denied enrollment for lack of immunization record if:

1. They have a statement signed by a physician stating that immunization would be injurious to the child;
2. They provide an affidavit stating such immunization would conflict with their religious beliefs;
3. They are in the process of being immunized; or
4. They are a transfer student from another school.

The district shall make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from the information provided or shall arrange for the student to receive immunizations.

WAIVER OF FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and charges which may present a barrier to the enrollment or transfer of a homeless child or youth may be waived by the Superintendent based on free or reduced lunch eligibility.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS/PLACEMENT

Enrollment requirements which may constitute a barrier to the education of the homeless child or youth may be waived at the discretion of the superintendent. If the district is unable to determine the grade level of the student because of missing or incomplete records, the district shall administer tests or utilize other reasonable means to determine the appropriate grade level for the child.

RESIDENCY

For purposes of a homeless child or youth, residence for the purpose of attending school shall be where the child actually resides or the child's attendance center of origin. A child's attendance center of origin is the school district where the child was last enrolled. The deciding factor shall be the welfare of the child. As much as possible, the child will not be required to change attendance centers within the district every time the

child changes residence unless that change results in the child no longer being classified as homeless.

TRANSPORTATION

Policies or practices regarding transportation of students which might cause barrier to the attendance of a homeless child or youth may be waived by the Superintendent.

SPECIAL SERVICES

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

The contents of this policy and regulation shall supersede any and all conflicting provision in district policies dealing with the seven policy areas discussed above.

Additionally, District personnel shall take steps to:

1. Locate and identify homeless children or youth of school age who are in the District, whether or not they are enrolled in school.
2. Post information encouraging homeless children and youth of school age to enroll in the public school at community shelters and other locations in the District where services or assistance is provided to the homeless.
3. Examine and revise, if necessary, existing school policies or rules that create barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youth.
4. Cooperate with homeless agencies and organizations to explore comprehensive, equivalent alternative educational programs and support services for homeless children and youth when necessary to provide them an appropriate education program.
5. Place no barriers to the entry of homeless students into schools and allow for no delay in placement.
6. Shall take strong efforts to coordinate with parents, involve parents, and coordinate with local service agencies and other agencies in the provision of services to the homeless.

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