

## ST. MARTIN PARISH HOMELESS POLICY

The mission of the St. Martin Parish School District Homeless program is to provide homeless children and youth equal access to its educational programs and an opportunity to meet the same challenging State of Louisiana and District academic standards. Students will be protected from discrimination and will not be segregated on the basis of their homelessness.

Homeless students are identified during enrollment. The students shall be immediately enrolled even if the students lack records normally required for enrollment. School secretaries and/or guidance counselors submit referral forms to the homeless liaison who, in turn, sends forms to the homeless advocate. The homeless advocate completes a home visit to assess living arrangements and assist the parent/guardian in completing the homeless forms to ensure needs are being identified. Once the residency questionnaire form is completed, it along with the referral form, is sent to the homeless liaison's office. The homeless liaison reviews and approves the forms. The student is then identified as homeless on the parish mainframe by entering the student's primary nighttime residence. A copy of the referral form is sent to the School Food Service Supervisor to keep on file and to the school to be placed in the student's cumulative record. Homeless students automatically qualify for free lunch. The Title I Homeless Program provides school fees, supplies and uniforms for each registered homeless child.

Referral forms are sent to the School-Based Health Center coordinator. A social worker shall contact the homeless family to see if any assistance is needed. The school-based health centers offer preventive and primary health services that address the physical, emotional and educational needs of students.

The District shall provide transportation to the school of origin, school attendance area school or school requested for the duration of the homelessness. Transportation shall be provided in accordance with District transportation guidelines. If a family chooses to stay in the school of origin after permanent housing has been found, transportation (when possible) will be provided for the duration of that school year.

Each homeless child/youth shall be provided services comparable to other students in the school. Student data is used to determine the need for further academic services. The District uses Dibels, RTI and tutors paid with Title I. The district also provides Credit Recovery to high school students. Student folders are kept in the Homeless Liaison's office with homeless forms and documentation that the students' needs were met.

It is the goal of the District to provide the best education possible to every student and to blend homeless students into the general school population without stigma of their home situation.