

Billings School District 2 STUDENTS

Education of Homeless and Foster Care Children

Education of Homeless Children

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

Education of Children in Foster Care

Every foster child is entitled to equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other students. The district must assign and admit a child who is in foster care to a District school regardless of residence of residence and irrespective of whether the foster child is able to produce records normally required for enrollment.

The Superintendent will review and revise as necessary rules or procedures that may be barriers to enrollment of homeless children, foster children, and youths. In reviewing and revising such procedures, the Superintendent will consider issues of transportation, immunization, residence, birth certificates, school records, and other documentation.

Homeless students and students in foster care will have access to services comparable to those offered to other students, including but not limited to:

1. transportation services;
2. educational services for which a 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;
5. programs for gifted and talented students; and
6. school nutrition program.

The Superintendent will give special attention to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths not currently attending school. The Superintendent will appoint a liaison for homeless children as well as a homeless transition coordinator for students in foster care.

A "homeless child" is defined as provided in the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.

A "child in foster care" is defined as a "24 hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility." (ESSA, 2017)

Anyone having a concern or complaint regarding placement or education of a homeless child or foster child will first present it orally and informally to the District homeless liaison and foster care transition coordinator. Thereafter, a written complaint must be filed in accordance with the District Uniform Complaint Procedure.

Cross References: 1700 Uniform Complaint Procedure

Legal References: 42 U.S.C. § 11431, et seq. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act
§ 20-5-101, MCA Admittance of child to school

Policy History:

First Reading: February 23, 2004 – Board of Trustees
Second Reading: June 14, 2004 – School/Community Committee
Third Reading: June 21, 2004 – Board of Trustees
Adopted on: June 21, 2004
Effective on: July 1, 2004
Reading: First October 11, 2017
Reading: Second November 5, 2017 – Board of Operations
Reading: Third November 20, 2017 – Board of Trustees
Adopted: December 18, 2017 – Board of Trustees
Effective: December 18, 2017
Reviewed: December 17, 2018 – Board of Trustees