

HOMELESS STUDENTS: ENROLLMENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES: 3115

To the extent practical and as required by law, the District will work with homeless children and youth and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Homeless children and youth, as well as Head Start and comparable preschool programs, will be provided District services for which they are eligible.

Homeless is defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including, but not limited to:

- A. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason (“doubled up”);
- B. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- C. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- D. Abandoned in hospitals;
- E. Awaiting foster care placement;
- F. Living in public or private places not designed for humans to live;
- G. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations or similar settings; or
- H. Migratory children living in the above circumstances.

The Superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the District’s liaison for homeless students and their families.

To the extent feasible, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing, or through normal grade/school advancement. Request for enrollment in the school attendance area in which student is actually living is permissible. Attendance rights by living in attendance areas, other student assignment policies, or intra and inter-district choice options are available to homeless families on the same terms as families resident in the district.

Once the enrollment decision is made, the school shall immediately enroll the student, pursuant to District policies. If the student does not have immediate access to immunization records, the student shall be admitted under a personal exemption. Students and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible. Records from the student’s previous school shall be requested from the previous school pursuant to District policies. Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment consistent with District policies, including compliance with the state’s address confidentiality program when necessary. However, emergency contact information cannot be demanded in a form or manner that constructs a barrier to enrollment and/or attendance at school.

HOMELESS STUDENTS: ENROLLMENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES: 3115

Homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or neighborhood attendance area school, pursuant to District policies. If the school of origin is in a different district, or a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school of origin in this district, the districts will coordinate the transportation services necessary for the student.

The District's liaison for homeless students and their families shall work with local social service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youths and their families; other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers. This coordination includes providing public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools throughout the community. The District's liaison will also review and recommend amendments to District policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.

Cross References: Administrative Policy – 3120 Enrollment and Attendance Records
 Administrative Policy – 3413 Student Immunization
 Administrative Policy – 3231 Student Records

Legal References: RCW 28A.225.215 Enrollment of children without legal residences

 Title X, Part C No Child Left Behind Act, 2002
 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act