PUBLIC NOTICE – EDUCATION RIGHTS OF HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Danville Area School District is actively seeking to enroll children and youth who are homeless. If you are homeless or know of a child or youth that is homeless and not attending school, please contact the building principal who will provide information and assistance during the enrollment process.

Who is considered homeless? Any child or youth not attending school who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence is considered homeless and includes those who are sharing housing with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship. It also includes children and youth who are living in hotels, campgrounds, emergency shelters, cars, bus stations, or other similar settings. If you are not sure, please call.

What are the education rights of homeless children and youth? Our schools provide equal and comparable access to all students regardless of their home living situation. Homeless children and youth have specific rights that include:

1. Immediate enrollment in school and, when desired or feasible, at the school of origin.
2. Prompt provision of necessary services such as transportation and meal programs.
3. Appropriate support services and programs for which they are eligible such as programs for gifted, children with disabilities, vocational education, preschool, etc.
4. Academic assistance through the district's federally funded Title I program.
5. Parent or guardian involvement in school activities.

What is the school of origin? The term "school origin" means the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled. It is the district's responsibility to consider the best interests of the child or youth when making a decision regarding what school he or she should attend. Consideration must be given to placement at the school of origin unless doing so is so contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian.

What if there is a disagreement regarding school placement? The parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth (a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) may appeal the placement decision if the district makes a placement in a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth. The student will be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment was requested by the student or parent while an appeal is pending. The person indicated above will provide information and assistance regarding such an appeal.

No Child or Youth Should Be Denied Access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education