

## **ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS**

It is the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education's (the Board) intent to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless students in school in accordance with state and federal law. Colorado Springs School District 11 (the District) shall take reasonable steps to ensure that homeless students are not segregated or stigmatized and that decisions are made in the best interests of the student.

Terms used in this policy and its accompanying regulation, such as "homeless children and youth," "unaccompanied youth," "school of origin," "enrollment," and "attendance area school" shall be as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and its implementing regulations. For purposes of this policy and its accompanying regulation, "homeless students" shall refer to "homeless children and youth."

The term "homeless children" is defined in federal law to include the following:

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

- children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- migratory children and unaccompanied youths (i.e., those not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) who are living in circumstances described above.

Homeless children shall be admitted without payment of tuition or applicable fees.

Each homeless student shall be provided services for which the student is eligible, comparable to services provided to other students in the school, including transportation services, education services, career and technical education programs, gifted education programs, English language education, and school nutrition programs, regardless of residency.

Homeless students shall be provided access to education and other services that they need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held. All educational decisions shall be made in the best interests of the student.

The District shall coordinate with other districts and with local social services agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to homeless students as needed.

The Superintendent shall designate at least one staff member in the District to serve as the homeless student liaison and fulfill the duties set forth in state and federal law.

Decisions on enrollment and transportation for homeless students shall be made in accordance with

this policy's accompanying regulation.

Current practice codified 1994

Adopted May, 1995

Revised October 11, 2017

Revised November 11, 2020

LEGAL REFS.:       42 U.S.C. 11431, et seq. (McKinney Homeless Assistance Act)  
                          C.R.S. 22-1-102.5  
                          C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(dd)  
                          C.R.S. 22-33-103.5  
                          C.R.S. 26-5.7-101 et seq.