

Title: Homeless Children and Youth – Regulation

So that enrollment of homeless children and youth of school age may be facilitated, the following policy areas shall be modified as follows:

The Board will make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children and youth of school age within the District, encourage their enrollment and eliminate existing barriers to their receiving an education that may exist in District policies or practices. The designated coordinator for identification of homeless children and for tracking and monitoring programs and activities for these children is the Chief of Student and Family Services.

A homeless child or youth is defined as a child or youth between the ages of 3 and 21 who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

- Children and youth 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 accommodation; are living in emergency or transition shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youth 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 youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings or
- Migratory children or youth who qualify as homeless because the children or youth are living in circumstances described above.

School Records: For students transferring out of the District, records may be provided directly to the student or the student's parents. In addition, students transferring into the District may provide records directly to the District. The School District shall not require that such records be forwarded from another School District before that student may enroll. The school shall then request the official records from the previous school, but shall not deny further education to the student solely because the prior records are not available.

Immunization Requirements: Homeless students shall not be denied enrollment for lack of immunization records if:

Title: Homeless Children and Youth – Regulation

1. They have a statement signed by a licensed physician stating that immunization would be injurious to the health or well-being of the student or member of the student's family or household;
2. They provide an affidavit stating such immunization would conflict with their recognized religious beliefs unless state authorities have declared an emergency or epidemic;
3. They provide a statement that they are in the process of being immunized or
4. They are a transfer student from another school which confirms the presence of an immunization record.

The School District shall make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from the information provided or shall arrange for the student to receive immunization.

Waiver of Fees and Charges: Fees and charges that may present a barrier to the enrollment or transfer of a homeless child or youth may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent. A fee waiver form shall be completed by the family.

Enrollment Requirements/Placement: Enrollment requirements that may constitute a barrier to the education of the homeless child or youth may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent. If the School District is unable to determine the grade level of the student because of missing or incomplete records, the School District shall administer tests or utilize other reasonable means to determine the appropriate grade level for the child. The segregation of homeless children or youth from the other students is prohibited

Residency: For purposes of a homeless child or youth, residence for the purpose of attending school shall be where the child actually resides or the child's School District of origin. A child's School District of origin is the School District where the child was last enrolled. The deciding factor shall be the best interest of the child. To the extent feasible, the child shall be kept in the District of origin, except when contrary to the wishes of the child's parent or guardian. As much as possible, the child will not be required to change attendance centers within the School District every time the child changes residence unless that change results in the child no longer being classified as homeless.

Title: Homeless Children and Youth – Regulation

Transportation: Policies or practices regarding transportation of students that might cause a barrier to the attendance of a homeless child or youth may be waived by the Superintendent.

Special Services: All services that are available to resident students shall be made available to homeless children or youths enrolled in the School District. Services include but are not limited to free and appropriate special education, talented and gifted programs, vocational education, English as a second language programs, health services and food and nutrition programs.

Free and Reduced Lunch: Temporary status for students will be provided by the liaison upon notice from a building official. Status will be reviewed if the student no longer meets criteria as homeless. Temporary free status for the student in the National School Lunch Program will be provided after the homeless coordinator forwards a letter to Nutrition Services stating that the building official has identified the student as homeless. If a student's homeless status changes, their temporary free status will be cancelled and a Free/Reduced Meal Application shall be submitted by the family if appropriate.

The contents of this policy shall supersede any and all conflicting provisions in Board policy dealing with the policy areas above. Note: This is a mandatory policy and reflects both Iowa and Federal law.

Cross References:

504, 514, 520 \_\_\_\_\_

Legal References:

42 U.S.C. §§ 11431., 281 I.A.C. 33

Approved: May 30, 2000

Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised: April 26, 2005

April 13, 2010

May 26, 2015

June 25, 2024