

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 8.50 HOMELESS STUDENTS

(1) POLICY STATEMENT

The Milwaukee Public School District shall provide an educational environment that treats homeless students with dignity and respect. Homeless students are provided with equal access to educational programs provided to other students, have an opportunity to meet state and district academic achievement standards to which all students are held, and are not segregated or discriminated against on the basis of their homeless status. This commitment to the educational rights of homeless children and youth applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.

(2) DEFINITION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Under McKinney-Vento (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C., ss. 11431-11436, sec. 25), homeless children and youth are defined as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence." The term includes children and youth who:

- (a) are living with other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, including children and youth living doubled-up with family or friends;
- (b) are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative, adequate accommodations;
- (c) are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- (d) are abandoned in hospitals;
- (e) are temporarily housed while awaiting foster care placement;
- (f) have a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- (g) are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- (h) are migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

(3) RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

All homeless students have a right to:

- (a) immediate public school enrollment. A public school must immediately enroll students even if they lack health, immunization, or school records, proof of guardianship, or proof of residency;
- (b) enrollment in:
 1. the school he/she attended when permanently housed (school of origin);
 2. the school in which he/she was last enrolled (school of origin);
 3. any public school that non-homeless students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.
- (c) continued enrolled in his/her selected public school for as long as he/she remains homeless or, if the student becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year;
- (d) priority enrollment in certain preschool programs;
- (e) free breakfast and lunch;
- (f) books and school supplies;

- (g) participation in all school-related activities, i.e., tutorial, instructional support, Community Learning Centers, etc.;
- (h) information regarding how to get fee waivers, free uniforms, and referrals to low-cost or free medical services;
- (i) transportation to and from the public school of origin through the remainder of the current academic year, including preschool children who attend programs that provide transportation to non-homeless children;
- (j) assistance with the dispute-resolution process if a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school.

History: Adopted 6-25-09; Revised 12-18-2025
Legal Ref.: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et. seq.); Section 118.13, Wisconsin Statutes

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