



Policy Workshop

SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

Workshop Topics

- Policy 231: Students Experiencing Homelessness
- Policy 234: Educational Stability – Foster Care
- Policy 308: Residency Requirement/Waiver

Policy 231

Students Experiencing Homelessness



Policy 231- Students Experiencing Homelessness

Purpose:

The Board recognizes the challenges encountered by students experiencing homelessness and/or educational instability. The Board is committed to ensure that students experiencing homelessness or educational instability have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other district students. The Board shall make reasonable efforts to identify children experiencing homelessness or educational instability within the district, encourage and facilitate their enrollment, and eliminate barriers to their attendance, education and graduation, in compliance with federal and state laws, regulations, and Board policy

- Students shall NOT be discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless.
- Revised Policy to comply with updated laws.

Policy 231- Students Experiencing Homelessness

Homeless children and youths means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and includes: [\[26\]](#)

- Children and youths who are:
 - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - Living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters; or
 - 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;
 - Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above; and
 - School-aged parents living in houses for school-aged parents if they have no other available living accommodations.

Policy 231- Students Experiencing Homelessness

Explicitly grants Administration ability to waive specific requirements in Board policies, procedures and administrative regulations to the **extent that they create barriers for the enrollment and attendance of students experiencing homelessness or educational instability.**

Includes but not limited to:



Dress Code



Transportation



School sponsored or extracurricular activities for which students meet placement and qualification requirements, including clubs, athletics, performing arts, class trips, social events, career and technical education, internships and specialized classes



Fees related to school-sponsored or extracurricular activity participation fees



Examples (not exhaustive list): uniforms, materials, athletic physical exams, lost or damaged items, school id cards, lock rental/replacement, summer school or credit recovery, technology and graduation regalia



Graduation



Registration deadlines

Policy 231- Students Experiencing Homelessness

- The Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services, or designee, shall serve as the District's liaison for students experiencing homelessness.
- The Liaison shall:
 - Coordinate with agencies that provide services to homeless families to assist students.
 - Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless students are disseminated in locations frequented by families experiencing homelessness
 - Provide comprehensive data to the Coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH)
 - Connect the student with educational services that meet the student's specific needs, including expedited consultation with school staff including the school counselor, school social worker, school psychologist, the student's IEP team or the student's Section 504 Team.
 - Develop and execute a graduation plan for students in grades nine through twelve.
 - Provide professional development training to school staff on the educational needs of students experiencing homelessness

Policy 231- Students Experiencing Homelessness

Guidelines:

- Students enrolled in this district experiencing educational instability shall be provided support and services, as appropriate to each individual student's needs
- Minimal documentation shall be required for a student experiencing educational instability to qualify for supports and services.
 - Information used to determine that a student is experiencing educational instability may be confirmed verbally, in writing or by another manner by shelter providers, outreach workers, case managers, juvenile probation officers and others.
- Parents/Guardians and students have the authority to determine what information shall be shared with the district.
- Information related to the student's educational instability status shall be confidential and disclosed by the point of contact or other administrators only to other school staff who have a legitimate need to know unless authorized by the student or parent/guardian.

Policy 231- Students Experiencing Homelessness

Enrollment:

- A student experiencing homelessness shall continue to be enrolled at their school of origin, unless
 - It is determined that it is not in the Best Interest to remain at that school, or
 - The Student is an unaccompanied youth and has requested otherwise, or
 - The parents/guardians of the student request otherwise
- An unaccompanied youth or the parents/guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in any grade-appropriate school within the District, regardless of the District attendance area where the student is actually living or a school of origin in another district

Best Interest Determination:

In making a Best Interest Determination for a homeless student or youth experiencing educational instability, the district shall give priority to the request of the parent /guardian or unaccompanied youth.

The cost of transportation shall not be used as a factor in the Best Interest Determination.

Documentation related to the Best Interest Determination shall be maintained in the student's education record

Policy 231- Students Experiencing Homelessness

Timeliness of Enrollment:

The School shall immediately enroll a student experiencing homelessness and begin instruction

- Even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.

Transportation:

- Children experiencing homelessness and needing transportation to their school of origin will promptly receive transportation
- If the student is living outside of the District's boundaries, the District and the other district shall agree upon a method to apportion the cost of transportation for the student.

Policy 234

Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care



Policy 234 – Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care

Purpose:

The Board recognizes the challenges encountered by students experiencing foster care and/or educational instability. The Board is committed to facilitating the immediate enrollment; eliminating barriers to attendance, education and graduation; and providing additional supports in compliance with federal and state laws, regulations and Board policy, for such students. Thus, the Board adopts the within policy to provide for relevant definitions, guidelines and the delegation of responsibility for implementing this commitment.

- Revised Policy to comply with updated laws.

Policy 234 – Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care

Foster care means twenty-four (24) hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility.

- This includes, but is not limited to,
 - Placements in foster family homes,
 - Foster homes of relatives, group homes
 - Emergency shelters
 - Residential facilities
 - Child care institutions, and
 - Pre-adoptive homes.
- A child is in foster care in accordance with this definition regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed and payments are made by the state, tribal or local agency for the care of the child, whether adoption subsidy payments are being made prior to the finalization of an adoption, or whether there is federal matching of any payments that are made

Policy 234 – Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care

Explicitly grants Administration ability to waive specific requirements in Board policies, procedures and administrative regulations to the **extent that they create barriers for the enrollment and attendance of students experiencing homelessness or educational instability.**

Includes but not limited to:



Dress Code



Transportation



School sponsored or extracurricular activities for which students meet placement and qualification requirements, including clubs, athletics, performing arts, class trips, social events, career and technical education, internships and specialized classes



Fees related to school-sponsored or extracurricular activity participation fees



Examples (not exhaustive list): uniforms, materials, athletic physical exams, lost or damaged items, school id cards, lock rental/replacement, summer school or credit recovery, technology and graduation regalia



Graduation



Registration deadlines

Policy 234 – Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care

- The Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services, or designee, shall serve as the District's liaison for students experiencing homelessness.
- The Liaison shall:
 - Coordinate with local Children & Youth Agency to:
 - Establish formal mechanism to ensure the district is promptly notified of foster care placement or a change in foster care
 - Develop protocol on how to make a best interest determination; and
 - Develop/coordinate transportation procedures
 - Other school district on issues of prompt identification, transfer of records, transportation and inter-district activities
 - Other local service agencies that provide services to students experiencing educational stability
 - District Staff for provision of services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 - State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies

Policy 234 – Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care

Guidelines:

- Students enrolled in this district experiencing educational instability shall be provided support and services, as appropriate to each individual student's needs
- Minimal documentation shall be required for a student experiencing educational instability to qualify for supports and services.
 - Information used to determine that a student is experiencing educational instability may be confirmed verbally, in writing or by another manner by shelter providers, outreach workers, case managers, juvenile probation officers and others.
- Parents/Guardians and students have the authority to determine what information shall be shared with the district.
- Information related to the student's educational instability status shall be confidential and disclosed by the point of contact or other administrators only to other school staff who have a legitimate need to know unless authorized by the student or parent/guardian.

Policy 234 – Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care

Enrollment:

A student in foster care shall continue to be enrolled in their school of origin unless there is a determination that it is not in the student's **Best Interest** to attend the school of origin.

Best Interest Determination:

The Best Interest determination shall be made in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, court orders, and established local procedures.

In making a Best Interest determination, the District shall consider student-centered factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, appropriateness of the current educational setting, health and safety, and proximity to living arrangements including foster care placement.

The cost of transportation shall not be used as a factor in the Best Interest determination.

Documentation related to the best interest determination shall be kept in the student's education record.

Policy 234 – Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care

Timeliness of Enrollment:

- When a child in foster care or experiencing educational instability is placed in the district and seeks enrollment in District schools, the District's point of contact shall
 - Ensure the child is immediately enrolled and attending school, even if the records normally required for enrollment pursuant to district policies are not available
 - Ensure that the school last attended by the child is immediately contacted to obtain relevant academic and other records

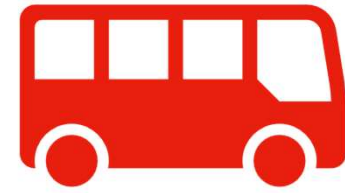
Transportation:

- Children in foster care needing transportation to their school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner
- The District shall collaborate with the local children and youth agency to develop a local transportation plan, and shall submit the plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education

Policy 308

Residency

Requirement/Waiver



Policy 308 – Residency Requirement/Waiver

Purpose:

The Board encourages all District employees to reside within the territorial boundaries of the City of Pittsburgh and requires certain members of the Superintendent's Executive Cabinet and Leadership Team to reside within the District. The Board will only consider waiving this requirement as set forth in this policy.

Policy 308 – Residency Requirement/Waiver

Revised Residency Requirement – Limited

District employees **who hold the position of Superintendent of Schools, Deputy Superintendent, Chief, and Executive Director** who were hired or promoted after June 25, 1981 and who do not hold a certification issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education **or are not already under an approved residency waiver** shall reside within the territorial boundaries of the District.

Residency waivers are only granted by the Board, upon recommendation at hiring by the Superintendent.

Policy 308 – Residency Requirement/Waiver

Effect of Policy:

The revisions to only require residency for those in the Superintendent's Executive Cabinet and Leadership Team shall allow the District to enhance its recruitment for all other levels of employees.

Prior to this revision, only a small number of employees were subject to the policy as most represented employees had negotiated CBAs that did not require residency.



What Questions Do You Have?



Thank You

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