Students Experiencing Homelessness-Enrollment Rights and Services

To the extent practical and as required by law, the district will work with homeless students and their families to provide them with equal access to the same free, appropriate education (including public preschool education) provided to other students. Special attention will be given to ensuring the identification, enrollment, and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school, as well as mitigating educational barriers to their academic success. Additionally, the district will take reasonable steps to ensure that homeless students are not stigmatized or segregated in a separate school or in a separate program within a school on the basis of their homeless status.

Homeless students, as defined by applicable state and federal law, will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, special education, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs, and school nutrition programs.

The superintendent or designee will designate an appropriate staff person to be the district's liaison for homeless students and their families. The liaison may simultaneously serve as a coordinator for other federal programs, provided that they are able to carry out the duties listed in the procedure that accompanies this policy.

The principal of each elementary, middle, and high school building will establish a point of contact for such youth. The point of contact is responsible for identifying homeless and unaccompanied youth and connecting them with the district's homeless student liaison. The district's homeless student liaison is responsible for training the building points of contact.

The superintendent or designee will adopt a procedure addressing the district's obligations under state and federal law regarding homeless students.

Last Revised:
Classification: **Critical**
Prior Revised Dates: **10.02; 10.04; 12.11; 12.14; 07.16; 11.16; 07.17; 10.17; 05.18; 07.19**

Legal References:

- RCW 28A.225.215 Enrollment of children without legal residences
- RCW 28A.235.280 Free school meals—Systems to identify students
- RCW 28A.320.142 Unaccompanied youth - Building point of contact - Duty of District
- RCW 28A.320.145 Support for homeless students.
- RCW 28A.320.192 On-time grade level progression and graduation of students who are homeless, subject to a dependency proceeding, at-risk youth or children, or have been released from an institutional educational facility—Rules
- RCW 7.70.065 Informed consent—Persons authorized to provide for patients who do not have capacity—Priority—Unaccompanied homeless minors
- SHB 2594 (2026 Regular Session)
- 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq. Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act [ESSA]

Management Resources:

- 2019 - July Policy Issue
- 2018 - May Policy Issue
- 2017 - October Policy Issue
- 2017 - July Policy Issue
- 2016 - November Issue

- 2016 - July Issue
- 2014 - December Issue
- 2004 - October Issue
- 2002 - October Issue
- Posters and Other Materials for Community Outreach - OSPI

Cross References:

- 3116 - Students in Foster Care
- 3120 - Enrollment
- 3231 - Student Records
- 3413 - Student Immunization And Life Threatening Health Conditions
- 4218 - Language Access

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