Orange Southwest School District
24 Central Street, Randolph, VT
802-728-5052

POLICY C13: STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS

The Orange Southwest School District (OSSD) is committed to the success of every student. Homeless students in the District will have access to the education and other services needed to ensure that an opportunity is available to meet the same academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

The District will designate a liaison for students in homeless situations to carry out duties as required by law.

The District will ensure that homeless students are not stigmatized nor segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. A homeless student will be admitted to the school district in which the student is actually living or to the student's school of origin as requested by the parent and in accordance with the student's best interest. Transportation will be provided to and from the student's school of origin at the request of the parent, or in the case of an unaccompanied student, the District's liaison for homeless students. Homeless students will have access to all programs and services for which they are eligible, including but not limited to special education services, preschool, school nutrition programs, and language assistance for English learners.

Definitions

Homeless students means those lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, which could include:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;

a. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds **due to** the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;

b. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;

c. Being abandoned in hospitals;

d. Having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;

e. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings; and

f. Migratory children living in conditions described in the previous examples.

2. **Enroll and enrollment** mean attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

3. **Unaccompanied youth** means a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

4. **School of Origin** means the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool. When a child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, it also includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

Administrative Responsibilities

The superintendent or designee shall develop written procedures to ensure the following rights of eligible students:

1. Equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public prekindergarten education, as is provided to other children and youth;
2. Immediate enrollment, even when records normally required for enrollment are not present;
3. Remain in the school of origin, if it is in the student's best interest, in order to maintain educational stability;
4. Access to all educational and related services for which they are eligible, including Title I services, educational programs for children with disabilities, educational programs for English learners, career and technical education, programs for gifted and talented students, and free school meals;
5. Full participation in school, which may include participation in extracurricular activities;
6. Transportation, provided by the local education agency (LEA), to and from the school of origin;
7. Privacy, such that information about a homeless student's living situation will be treated as a student education record and not deemed to be directory information.
8. Dispute an eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision, and for a child or youth to be admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending the resolution of the dispute.

Date Warned: October 14, 2026
Date Adopted: November 18, 2026
Legal References: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (as amended by ESSA) 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431 – 11432
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99