

Instruction

Education of Homeless Children

The District is committed to ensuring that all homeless students have equal access to the same free public education that other students have. As such, any homeless child, as defined in Education for Homeless Children Act (105 ILCS 45/1 et seq.) and the Education for Homeless Children Act who desires to enroll in the School District, shall be permitted to enroll in accordance with the requirements of that Act after appropriate investigation.

Definition of Homeless Students

Homeless students are children who lack a fixed, regular, and/or permanent nighttime residence and include those who are:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds because of a lack of alternative and adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Awaiting foster care placement;
5. Living in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings;
7. Living in a migratory situation that qualified as homeless because a child lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.

District Liaison for Homeless Students

The District shall appoint the administrator responsible for Student Services as the liaison for Homeless Students. The Liaison for Homeless Students will provide enrollment support and coordinate services within the School District and through community agencies in order to ensure that each homeless child has equal access to an education in the District.

Specifically, the Liaison has the following responsibilities and ensures that:

1. Homeless students enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in District schools;
2. Homeless families and children receive educational services they are entitled to, such as preschool care, and referrals to services, such as health care;
3. Making sure that the parents and guardians of homeless children are informed of the educational opportunities available to their children and are given opportunities to participate;
4. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is distributed where such children receive service, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens; and

5. Enrollment disputes are mediated appropriately. If a dispute arises between the District about school selection or enrollment, the District must immediately enroll the student in the requested school, pending resolution of the dispute.

Enrollment Records for Homeless Students

Homeless students will enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in school activities. If critical enrollment records, including immunization and medical records, are not immediately available for homeless children, the Liaison and school staff will work with other agencies to obtain them in a timely manner.

Placement of Homeless Students

The Liaison for Homeless students, with the help and assistance of other school District faculty and staff, will decide on homeless student's placement in school based on the student's best interests. In making this determination, the District shall, to the extent feasible, continue the student's education in his or her school of origin, that is, the District school the student had been attending prior to becoming homeless unless the student's parents or guardians want the student placed in another school.

Transportation of Homeless Students

The District will provide homeless students appropriately enrolled in the District with transportation services comparable to those of other students. If a homeless student moves out of the District but continues to attend a District school, the District will coordinate services with the new District to meet the student's transportation needs. The Building Principal, the Liaison, and the Director of Facilities and Transportation will be responsible to coordinate the student's transportation needs and consider individual accommodations as appropriate.

LEGAL REF.: 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq, McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.
105 ILCS 45/, Ill. Education for Homeless Children Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:110 (Transportation), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:30 (Student Assignment), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:60 (Residence), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students)

ADOPTED: April 5, 2011, May 7, 2011, October 20, 2015, June 14, 2022