

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

The Board believes that all school-aged students, including homeless students, have a basic right to admission in the District schools and equal educational opportunities. Accordingly, the District must enroll each homeless student in the District in the school determined to be in a student's best interest. A homeless student or individual is defined as an individual who lacks fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and who has a primary nighttime residence including:

1. a "doubling up" or sharing the housing with another family due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
2. living in a motel, hotel, trailer park or campground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. abandonment in hospitals;
5. awaiting foster care placement;
6. 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;
7. living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings, and
8. migratory students.

In compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the District must make school placement determinations on the basis of the best interest of the student. To the extent feasible, homeless students are kept in the school of origin unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the student's parent or guardian.

The Board ensures that:

1. it reviews and revises Board policies and regulations to eliminate barriers to the enrollment, retention and success in school of homeless students;
2. it appoints a District liaison who ensures that homeless students enroll and succeed in school; and
3. homeless students are provided with education, nutrition, and transportation services that are at least compatible to the service provided to non-homeless students; and

The liaison ensures compliance with the subgrant and coordinates services for homeless students with local social service agencies and programs, including those funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

A student who ceases to be homeless may continue to receive services until the end of the period of time for which the service was originally intended to be provided, which may be the end of the school year or the end of a program cycle.

Dispute Resolution

In case of a disagreement with school officials about enrollment, transportation and/or fair treatment of a homeless child or youth, the parent/guardian and/or child/youth may file a complaint with the District. The District will respond to the complaint and attempt to resolve it in a timely manner. The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to school, pending resolution of the dispute. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the district liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

1. The District shall provide the parent or guardian with a written explanation of its decision regarding school selection or enrollment.
2. The District shall inform the parent or guardian in writing of their right to appeal their decision.
3. Should the dispute continue, the District shall refer the parent or guardian to the district liaison, who shall review the complaint and issue a prompt opinion in writing to the parent or guardian.
4. Should the dispute continue, the district liaison shall assist the parties involved in presenting the situation to the Ohio Department of Education homeless education coordinator.
5. The state homeless education coordinator shall recommend a decision for distribution to the parent, superintendent and district liaison.
6. Should the dispute continue, the final appeal is to be made to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for review and disposition.

The District complies with the Ohio Department of Education's Plan Ohio and Federal law for the education of homeless children and youth students.

Adoption date: December 20, 2007

LEGAL REF.: 42 USC Sections 11431 et seq.
The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
ORC 9.60 through 9.62
3313.64(F)(13)
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities
JECB, Admission of Nonresident Students