



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Homeless Students
Code	251
Status	Active

Legal

1. 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq
2. 24 P.S. 1306
3. 22 PA Code 11.18
4. 34 CFR 299.19
5. 42 U.S.C. 11434a
6. 42 U.S.C. 11432
7. 42 U.S.C. 11431
8. Pol. 201
9. Pol. 203
10. Pol. 204
11. Pol. 209
12. Pol. 216
13. Pol. 206
14. Pol. 113
15. Pol. 114
16. Pol. 115
17. Pol. 138
18. Pol. 808
19. Pol. 810
20. Pol. 918
- 20 U.S.C. 1232g
- 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq
- 22 PA Code 403.1
- 34 CFR Part 99
- 67 Fed. Reg. 10698
- PA Education for Homeless Children and Youth State Plan
- Pol. 103.1

Adopted

November 16, 2005

Last Revised

September 19, 2018

Authority

The Board recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other district students. The Board shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the district, facilitate their enrollment, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state law and regulations.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to waive policies, procedures and administrative regulations that create barriers for enrollment, attendance, transportation and success in school of homeless children and youth.[\[1\]](#)

Definitions

Homeless children and youths are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular and nighttime residence, which include the following conditions:[\[5\]](#)

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
3. Living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters.
4. Being abandoned in hospitals.
5. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings.
7. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
8. Living as run-away children.
9. Being abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
10. Living as school aged parent(s) in houses for school aged parent(s) if they have no other living accommodations.

School of origin is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board designates the Superintendent or designee to serve as the district's liaison for homeless students and families.[\[6\]](#)

The district's liaison shall ensure outreach and coordinate with:[\[6\]](#)

1. Local service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youth and families.
2. Other school districts on issues of records transfer and transportation and any other inter-district issue or activity.
3. State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies.

The district's liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth in locations frequented by parents/guardians of homeless children and youths including schools, family shelters, public libraries and soup kitchens. The notice shall be provided in a manner and form understandable to the parents/guardians of homeless children and youths and/or the homeless child or youth, as the case may be.[\[6\]](#)

The district's liaison shall also provide reliable, valid and comprehensive data to the Coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.[\[6\]](#)

Guidelines

Students shall not be discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless.[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

Enrollment/Placement

To the extent feasible, and in accordance with the child's or youth's best interest, a homeless student shall continue to be enrolled in his/her school of origin while s/he remains homeless or until the end of the academic year in which s/he obtains permanent housing. Parents/Guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area where the student is actually living or other schools. If a student is unaccompanied by a parent/guardian, the district liaison will consider the views of the student in determining where s/he will be enrolled.[\[6\]](#)

The selected school shall immediately enroll the student and begin instruction, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment pursuant to district policies. However, the district may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The district liaison may contact the previous school for oral confirmation of immunizations, and the school shall request records from the previous district, pursuant to Board policy.[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)

If the district is unable to determine the student's grade level due to missing or incomplete records, the district shall administer tests or utilize appropriate means to determine the student's placement.[\[6\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute including all available appeals. The district liaison shall explain the dispute resolution process to the family and help them use it, issue a written decision within twenty (20) business days of being notified of the dispute which shall explain the basis for the decision and advise the family of their right to appeal and the procedures to use for the appeal.[\[6\]](#)

The procedures for use by a parent/guardian (or an unaccompanied youth) of an appeal of the disposition may be by the filing of a complaint or an appeal with a McKinney-Vento site regional coordinator or with the state coordinator or, instead, by an appeal to a court of competent jurisdiction.[\[12\]](#)

Education Records

Information about a homeless child or youth's living situation shall be treated as a student education record subject to the protections of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and shall not be deemed to be directory information.[12]

Services

Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other district students including, but not limited to, transportation services; school nutrition programs; vocational programs and technical education; preschool programs; programs for students with limited English proficiency, and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students.[2][6][14][15][16][17][18][19][20]

Transportation

The district shall provide transportation for homeless students to their school of origin or the school they choose to attend within the school district.[2][6][19]

If the school of origin is outside district boundaries or homeless students live in another district but will attend their school of origin in this district, the school districts shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation.[6]

[YCSD Dispute Resolution Process for McKinney-Vento.docx \(25 KB\)](#)