



Board of Director's Policy Students 500 Series

Policy # 500.25

Education of Homeless Children

Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, as provided to other children and youths, including a public pre-school education. A "homeless child" is defined as provided in the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and State Law.

For example, the term "homeless children and youth" mean individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and Includes:

- Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youths who have 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.
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above.

The Executive Director shall act as or appoint a *Liaison for Homeless Children* to coordinate this policy's implementation.

A homeless child may attend the District school that the child attended when permanently housed or in which the child was last enrolled. A homeless child living in any District school's attendance area may attend that school pursuant to the same restrictions placed upon in-district children; a homeless child living in Woodland District 50 or Fremont District 79 may be placed in the lottery for entrance into the school and/or placed upon the school's waiting list per established procedures.

The Executive Director or designee shall review and revise rules or procedures that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths. In reviewing and revising such procedures, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records and other documentation, and guardianship.

Transportation shall be provided in accordance with the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and State law. The Executive Director or designee shall give special attention to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths who are not currently attending school. If a child is denied enrollment or transportation under this policy, the Liaison for Homeless Children shall immediately refer the child or his or her parent/guardian to the ombudsperson appointed by the Regional Superintendent and provide the child or his or her parent/guardian with a written explanation for the denial.

Whenever a child and his or her parent/guardian who initially share the housing of another person due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar hardship continue to share the housing, the Liaison for Homeless Children shall, after the passage of 18 months and annually thereafter, conduct a review as to whether such hardship continues to exist in accordance with State law.

LEGAL REF: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act

Adoption Dates:

Adopted: February 25, 2014