
HOMELESS STUDENTS – ENROLLMENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES

To the extent practical and as required by law, the District will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided District services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, special education, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs, and school nutrition programs. Homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

- 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 the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- 3) Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- 4) Abandoned in hospitals;
- 5) Awaiting foster care placement;
- 6) Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
- 7) Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings; and,
- 8) Migratory children living in conditions described in the previous examples.

The Superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the District's liaison for homeless students and their families.

According to the child's or youth's best interest homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. Instead of remaining in the school of origin, parents or guardians of homeless students may request enrollment in the school in which attendance area the student is actually living, or other schools. Attendance rights by living in attendance areas, other student assignment policies, or intra- and inter-district choice options are available to homeless families on the same terms as families resident in the district.

If there is an enrollment dispute, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent or guardian shall be informed of the District's decision, and their appeal rights, in writing. The District's liaison will carry out dispute resolution as provided by state rule. Unaccompanied youth will also be enrolled pending resolution of the dispute.

Once the enrollment decision is made, the school shall immediately enroll the student, pursuant to District policies. However, enrollment may not be denied or delayed due to the lack of any document normally required for enrollment, including academic records, medical records, proof of residency, mailing address or other documentation. If the student does not have immediate access to immunization records, the student shall be admitted under a personal exception. Students and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible, and the District liaison is directed to assist. Records from the student's previous school shall be requested from the previous school pursuant to District

