

509 Students in Homeless Situations

I. Purpose

The North Shore Community School, ISD 4084, recognizes that maintaining school of origin enrollment and a regular, mainstream environment has a positive impact on the academic achievement of students in homeless situations. Therefore, every effort will be made to eliminate, to the extent possible, any barriers that limit equal access to education programs and services, or limit the opportunity for students in homeless situations to reach high standards.

II. General Statement of Policy

A. Services

Children and youth in homeless situations will be provided services comparable to those received by other students including transportation to and from their school of origin to the extent possible. The district will designate a liaison for students in homeless situations who will ensure that the rights of homeless students are protected and they have the opportunity to reach the same high academic standards expected of all students.

B. Enrollment

Immunizations, guardianship, residential status or other documentation will not be barriers to immediate enrollment of students in homeless situations. Where appropriate, the enrolling school or office will refer the parent or guardian to the district homeless liaison for assistance in obtaining appropriate documentation. The district homeless liaison will also assist unaccompanied youth with placement/enrollment choices.

C. Placement

To the extent feasible, students in homeless situations will remain in their school of origin and transportation will be provided. They have the right to stay in their school of origin for the entire time they are homeless, or until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing, unless a parent or guardian chooses otherwise.

D. Transportation

The North Shore Community School will provide students experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth, with transportation to and from the school if requested by the parent, guardian, or homeless education liaison. The school will assure that transportation is provided to a student even when s/he is living at a location outside the school's bussing area, regardless of whether the student is living in a shelter or non-shelter location.

E. Dispute Resolution

Disputes regarding the educational placement of a student in a homeless situation will be expeditiously addressed through a dispute resolution process. Parents or guardians and unaccompanied youth must be informed of the process and in the event of a dispute, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school of choice while the dispute is being resolved.

III. Definitions

Homeless Children and Youth: According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Subtitle B - Education for Homeless Children and Youth), the term “homeless children and youth” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence including

1. children and youth 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 lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
2. children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
3. children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. migratory children.

B. School of Origin: is defined as the school the student attended before s/he lost their housing.