

## Homeless Students\*\*

### Definitions

1. “Registered” means having been formally accepted to attend a District school.
2. “Enrollment” means attending classes and participating fully in school activities, if eligible.
3. “School of origin” means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school where last enrolled.
4. “District of origin” means the school district the student attended prior to becoming homeless. The Principal or registrar will attempt to establish where the “resident” was last established and notify the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee if the student's "district of origin" is not the FRSD.
5. “Homeless student” usually means an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and may include:
  - a. Students sharing the housing of another 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 adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster placement;
  - b. Students 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;
  - c. Students who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings; and
  - d. Migratory students who qualify as homeless because the students are living in circumstances described in a.-c.
6. “Unaccompanied student” includes a student not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. The principal will attempt to determine if there is an adult who has custody, temporary custody or temporary guardianship.

### Assignment to School

The district shall, according to the student’s best interest, continue the student’s education in the school of origin for in District Students, for the duration of homelessness, or enroll the student in a district school in the attendance area in which the homeless student is actually living on the same basis as other resident district students.

In determining the best interest of the student, the district shall:

1. To the extent practicable, keep a District resident homeless student in the school of origin, unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the student's parent or guardian or the Superintendent determines that doing so is not practicable;
2. To the extent practicable, transport a non-resident student now residing within the District boundary to the student's school of origin prior to becoming homeless.
3. Provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, if the district sends a homeless student to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian;
4. In the case of an unaccompanied student, ensure that the district's liaison Superintendent or designee helps in placement or enrollment decisions, considers the views of the student and provides notice of the right to appeal placement and enrollment decisions.

### **Enrollment**

The district shall immediately register a child and enroll as soon as practicable (within two work days or sooner), in the school selected even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as academic records, medical records, proof of residency or other documentation.

The district shall contact (as soon as practicable but not less than two school days) the school last attended to obtain relevant academic and other records and contact any other appropriate child service agency.

If the student needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the district shall immediately refer the parent or guardian to the district's liaison. The District Liaison or the Liaison's designee will recommend appropriate area social service agencies who help in addressing immunizations, or immunization or medical records.

### **Records**

Any records ordinarily maintained by the district, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records and evaluations for special services or programs, shall be maintained so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a homeless student enters a new school or school district, consistent with state and federal law.

### **Enrollment Disputes**

If a dispute arises over district school selection or enrollment, the student shall be immediately admitted to the district school site designated by the Superintendent.

The parent or guardian of the student shall be provided with a written explanation of the district's decision regarding school selection, including the rights of the parent, guardian or student to appeal the decision through the district's discrimination complaint policy.

The student, parent or guardian shall be referred to the district's liaison, who shall ensure the resolution process is carried out as expeditiously as possible. In the case of an unaccompanied student, the district's Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall ensure the student is immediately enrolled in school pending the resolution of the dispute.

### **Services**

Each District homeless student shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other District students, including the following:

1. Transportation services;
2. Education services for which the student is eligible, such as:
  - a. Title I<sup>1</sup>;
  - b. Special education;
  - c. Programs for students with limited English proficiency;
  - d. Professional technical programs;
  - e. Talented and gifted programs.
3. School nutrition programs.

### **Coordination**

The district shall recommend any may coordinate the provision of services to homeless students with local social service agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to homeless students and their families. Services may also be provided in cooperation with other districts on interdistrict issues, such as transportation or transfer of school records, to ensure that homeless students have access to available education and related services as practicable.

### **District Liaison**

District Liaison is the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee:

The district's liaison shall establish pre-approved protocols which assure that:

---

<sup>1</sup>All homeless students are automatically eligible for Title I services, regardless of their current academic performance.

1. Homeless students are identified when they register or subsequently qualified for homeless status;
2. Homeless students are enrolled in and have a full and equal opportunity as other District students to succeed in district schools;
3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible, and assisted with referrals to area social services, health-care services, dental services, mental health service and other appropriate services;
4. Parents of homeless students are provided information of the educational and related opportunities available to the students and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their child(ren);
5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is distributed where such students receive services (e.g., schools, family shelters and soup kitchens);
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated;
7. The parent of a homeless student, or any unaccompanied student, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation in-District school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school the Superintendent selects. Students from outside the District's attendance boundary may receive transportation services to their school of origin as practicable;
8. School personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless students and their families are informed of the liaison's duties.

The district's Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall coordinate and collaborate with the state coordinator, area ESD and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless students.

Note: A student is not to use "homeless" parameters to circumvent residency laws and rules. When a Principal doubts residency status they will contact the Superintendent and the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall investigate and determine legitimacy of the homeless assertion. The Superintendent will make final determination as to a student being deemed homeless or in violation of residency laws.