



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Homeless Students
Code	251
Status	Active
Adopted	September 21, 2006
Last Revised	March 16, 2018

Authority

The Board recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless students 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, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state law and regulations.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

The Board may waive policies, procedures and administrative regulations that create barriers for enrollment, attendance, transportation and success in school of homeless students, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Definitions

Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, adequate, regular and nighttime residence, which include children and youth who are:[\[4\]](#)

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship or a similar reason.
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. 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. Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
10. Living as school age unwed mothers in houses for unwed mothers 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. When the child completes the final grade level served by school of origin, the school of origin shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board designates the Superintendent to serve as the district's liaison for homeless students and families.

The district's liaison shall coordinate with:^[5]

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.
3. State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies.
4. District staff responsible for the provision of services under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

The district's liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens.

The District's liaison shall 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.

Guidelines

Students shall not be discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless.^[6]

Enrollment/Placement

To the extent feasible, and in accordance with the student'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.^[5]

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.^{[7][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.

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. The parents/guardians shall be provided with a written explanation of the district's decision, their right to appeal and the procedures to use for the appeal.

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, English as a second language, and gifted and talented students.[5][2]

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.[5][2]

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.

Training

The District's liaison shall participate in professional development programs and other technical assistance activities offered by the Coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program.

The District's liaison shall arrange professional development programs for school staff, including office staff.

School Personnel providing services to homeless children and youths, including school enrollment staff, shall receive professional development and support to:

1. Improve identification of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths;
2. Understand the rights of such children, including requirements for immediate enrollment and transportation;and
3. Heighten the awareness of, and capacity to respond to, the educational needs of such children.

Legal

1. 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq
2. 24 P.S. 1306
3. 22 PA Code 11.18
4. 42 U.S.C. 11434a
5. 42 U.S.C. 11432
6. 42 U.S.C. 11431
7. Pol. 200
8. Pol. 201
9. Pol. 203
10. Pol. 204
11. Pol. 209
12. Pol. 216

Laurel Highlands School District

Student Residency Questionnaire

Please use one form per student. Return to school registration office within 14 days of receipt. If you require additional copies, please contact your school.

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

FIRST MIDDLE LAST

NAME OF SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____

NAME OF PREVIOUS SCHOOL ATTENDED: _____

BIRTH DATE: _____ AGE: _____

SEX: MALE FEMALE

The answers to the following questions can help determine the services this student may be eligible to receive under the McKinney-Vento Act 42 U.S.C. 11435.

1. Are you staying with friends or family because they lost housing? ___ Yes ___ No
2. Are you living in a shelter, including transitional programs? ___ Yes ___ No
3. Are you staying in motels because you cannot get your own home? ___ Yes ___ No
4. Are you living on the streets, in a vehicle, tent, or other non-permanent structure? ___ Yes ___ No

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, please complete the remainder of this form. If you answered NO to all of the above questions, you may stop here.

Where is this student currently living?

- _____ In a motel or campground due to lack of an alternative adequate accommodation.
- _____ In a shelter
- _____ Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- _____ Moving from place to place
- _____ In a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station
- _____ Transitional Housing

If applicable, would you like your child to continue their education at their previous school district? Yes or No

Please list the names and ages of any other children that you are caring for that may qualify for services.

Precipitating event that led to homelessness:

Abandonment

Eviction

Parent divorce/separation

Death of a parent/guardian

Act of Nature

Hospitalization of parent/guardian

Domestic violence

Incarceration of parent/guardian

Left home

unknown

ADDRESS OF CURRENT RESIDENCE: _____

(OR)

NAME OF MOTEL/SHELTER OF CURRENT RESIDENCE: _____

(OR)

NAME OF "GENERAL AREA" OF CURRENT RESIDENCE:

PHONE NUMBER OR CONTACT NUMBER:

NAME OF CONTACT: _____

Print name of parent(s)/legal guardians(s): _____

(Or unaccompanied youth) _____

Signature of parent/legal guardian: _____

((Or unaccompanied youth) _____

For School Staff Only: Forward questionnaire to Homeless Coordinator, homeless@lhsd.org

Information for School-Age Youth

You may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

If you live in any of the following situations:

- A shelter.
- A motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation.
- A car park, abandoned building, bus or train station.
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship.

As an eligible student you have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school or continue attending your school of origin (the school you attended when permanently housed or the school in which you were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.

If the school district believes that the school selected is not in your best interest, the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.

- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your needs as a student.



If you believe you may be eligible, contact one of the individuals below to find out what services and supports may be available.



Local Contact

homeless@lhsd.org

State Coordinator
Sheldon Winnick
(717) 783-6466

The Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program exists to help students who experience homelessness by offering a wide variety of services to help during this time of change and stress.



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