

10100 STUDENT ATTENDANCE AREAS**10140 Homeless Students****Definitions**

“Homeless Student” is defined as a child or youth who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including the following conditions:

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 lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
3. Living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence 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.
8. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
9. Living as run-away children.
10. Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
11. 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.

Liaison

The Superintendent or his or her designee shall serve as the District Liaison for homeless children and families. The District Liaison shall perform his or her duties and responsibilities in accordance with applicable law and shall coordinate with:

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.

The District Liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in such places as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens **and in a manner and form that is understandable to homeless students and their parents/guardians.** The District Liaison shall also implement procedures for the purpose of ensuring that that homeless students have equal access to the same educational programs and services provided to other District students; ensuring that the District makes reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the District; encouraging the enrollment of homeless students; eliminating existing barriers to their attendance and education; and ensuring that homeless students are not discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless.

Enrollment of Homeless Students

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 he or she remains homeless or until the end of the academic year in which he or she obtains permanent housing. Parents/Guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in a **public school that nonhomeless students who live in the same attendance area where in which the homeless student is actually living are eligible to attend.** ~~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 he or she will be enrolled.

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 Policy, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residence, or other documentation. However, the District may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The District Liaison may also contact the previous school for oral confirmation of immunizations and to request records.

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. Immunizations may be confirmed via oral

confirmation between professionals with written confirmation to follow within thirty (30) days.

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, and gifted and talented students. The District shall provide transportation for homeless students to their school of origin or the school they choose to attend within the District. 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.

Dispute Resolution

Any dispute concerning school selection or enrollment shall be filed in writing with the Superintendent. 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 in accordance with state and federal law. 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 such appeal.

Adoption Date	-	October 11, 2010
Revision Date	-	December 5, 2016
Review Date	-	
Legal Reference	-	22 Pa. Code §11.18
	-	42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq
	-	24 P.S. §1306
	-	22 Pa. Code §403.1
	-	20 U.S.C. §6301; 34 C.F.R. Part 99
	-	67 Fed. Reg. 10698
Cross Reference	-	Policy 10102, Policy 10106, Policy 10107