

**10100 STUDENT ATTENDANCE AREAS****10140 Homeless ~~Students~~ Children and Youths****Definitions**

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

1. Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.

2. Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.

3. Are living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters.

4. Are abandoned in hospitals.

~~5. Awaiting foster care placement.~~

~~5. Living in public or private places~~ **Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place** not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.

6. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, ~~transportation~~ **bus or train** stations or similar settings.

7. ~~Are living as migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in conditions described in previous examples.~~ in circumstances described above.

~~9. Living as run-away children.~~

~~10. Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.~~

8. Are ~~Living as school-aged unwed mothers~~ **parents living** in houses for ~~unwed mothers~~ **school-aged parents** if they have no other **available** living accommodations.

“School of Origin” is defined as the school the ~~student~~ **child or youth** attended when permanently housed or the school in which the ~~student~~ **child or youth** was last enrolled,

1 including preschool. When the child or youth completes the final grade level served  
2 by the school of origin, the school of origin shall include the designated receiving  
3 school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.  
4

5 “Enroll” or “enrollment” is defined as attending classes and participating fully in  
6 school activities.  
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8 “Unaccompanied youth” is defined as a homeless child or youth not in the physical  
9 custody of a parent or guardian. This includes youth who have run away from  
10 home; been abandoned or forced out of home by a parent, guardian or other  
11 caretaker; or separated from a parent or guardian for any other reason.  
12

### 13 Liaison 14

15 The Superintendent or his or her designee shall serve as the District Liaison for homeless  
16 children and ~~families~~ **youths**. The District Liaison shall perform his or her duties and  
17 responsibilities in accordance with applicable law and shall **outreach and** coordinate  
18 with:  
19

20 1. Local service agencies **and other entities** that provide services to homeless  
21 children and youths and families.  
22

23 2. Other school districts on issues of **prompt identification**, records transfers, ~~and~~  
24 transportation, **and other inter-district activities**.  
25

26 3. State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing  
27 affordability strategies.  
28

29 **4. District staff responsible for the provision of services under Section 504 of**  
30 **the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.**  
31

32 The District Liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless  
33 ~~students~~ **children and youths** in **locations frequented by parents/guardians of**  
34 **homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including** ~~such places as~~  
35 schools, family shelters, **public libraries**, and soup kitchens. **Such public notice is to**  
36 **be provided in a manner and form that is understandable to the parents/guardians**  
37 **of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths.**  
38

39 The District Liaison shall also implement procedures for the purpose of ensuring that  
40 homeless ~~students~~ **children and youths** have equal access to the same educational  
41 programs and services provided to other District students; ensuring that the District  
42 makes reasonable efforts to identify homeless children **and youths** within the District;  
43 encouraging the enrollment of homeless ~~students~~ **children and youths**; eliminating  
44 existing barriers to their attendance and education; and ensuring that homeless ~~students~~  
45 **children and youths** are not discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on  
46 their status as homeless.

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.

#### Enrollment of Homeless Students and 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 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 school in the attendance in which 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 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.~~

#### **Best Interest Determination:**

**In determining the best interest of a child or youth, the District shall:**

1. Presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth. Parents/Guardians of homeless children and youths may request enrollment in a public school that nonhomeless children and youths who live in the same attendance area in which the homeless child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

2. Consider student-centered factors related to impact of mobility on achievement, education, health and safety, giving priority to the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth. As a part of this process, the factors to be considered include, but are not limited to, the student's attachment to a school (including relationships with staff and peers); placement of the student's siblings; the ability to meet the student's educational needs; the history of, and effect of, past transfers; the impact that the duration of the commute (not to exceed 1 hour) will have on the student's education and health; a school's ability to provide the necessary services for a student with a disability under the IDEA, a student with disability under Section 504, a student identified as gifted, a student receiving language services, or a student eligible for Title I services.

**Placement:**

When the selected school by the District is the school of origin, the District shall continue to enroll a homeless child or youth in his/her school of origin while he/she remains homeless and through the end of the academic year in which he/she obtains permanent housing.

**Enrollment:**

The selected school shall immediately enroll the student and begin instruction, even if:

1. The student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.
2. The application or enrollment deadline has passed during any period of homelessness.

The District may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The District's liaison shall contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic, immunization, or other 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 **assignment within the school.** ~~Immunizations may be confirmed via oral confirmation between professionals with written confirmation to follow within thirty (30) days.~~

Services

Homeless **children and youths** shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other District students including, but not limited to, transportation services; school nutrition programs; ~~vocational programs~~ **career** 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.~~ **and educational programs for which the student meets the eligibility criteria, such as:**

1. Services provided under Title I or similar state or local programs.
2. Programs for English Language Learners.
3. Programs for students with disabilities.
4. Programs for gifted and talented students.

The District shall provide transportation for homeless ~~students~~ **children and youths** 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~~ **children and youths** 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.

#### **School Selection Decision and 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.~~

**Relative to any eligibility, enrollment, or school selection decision, the District shall provide the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth with its written decision and explanation of the reasons for its decision. The decision and explanation of the reasons for the decision shall be in a manner and form understandable to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth and shall include information regarding the right to appeal.**

**If a dispute arises over an eligibility, enrollment or school selection decision:**

**1. The parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be referred to the District's liaison, who shall assist in the dispute resolution process.**

**2. The student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals.**

**3. The District's liaison shall issue a written decision of the dispute within twenty (20) business days of being notified of the dispute. The decision shall contain an explanation of the reasons for the decision, shall be in a manner and form understandable to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth, and shall include information regarding the right to appeal.**

**In addition to appealing the District's written decision, a parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth may also file a complaint with the Coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program.**

#### **Education records**

**Information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a student education records subject to the protections of the Family Educational**

Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and shall not be deemed to be directory information.

**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.

Adoption Date	-	October 11, 2010
Revision Date	-	_____, 2017
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
	-	<b>20 U.S.C. §1232g</b>
	-	34 C.F.R. Part 99
	-	<b>34 C.F.R. §299.19</b>
	-	<b>34 C.F.R. §200.30</b>
	-	67 Fed. Reg. 10698
Cross Reference	-	<b>Policy 5402, Policy 10102, Policy 10106, Policy 10107, Policy 10110, Policy 10615, Policy 10920,</b>