

HOMELESS STUDENTS POLICY

Adopted 4/28/2016

Each child of a homeless individual shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education. Homeless children are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and include those who meet any of the following criteria:

- A. share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
- B. live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- C. live in emergency or transitional shelters;
- D. are abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care placement;
- E. 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;
- F. live in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting; or
- G. migratory children (as such term is defined in 20 U.S.C. 6399), who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances as described above.

Homeless students shall not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. The District shall establish safeguards to protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.

The District shall remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless students. Homeless students shall be enrolled immediately, even if they do not have the necessary enrollment documentation such as immunization and health records, proof of residency or guardianship, birth certificate, school records, and other documentation.

The District's Homeless Liaison shall assist, to the extent feasible, the homeless students and their parent(s) or unaccompanied homeless students in their efforts to provide documentation to meet State and local requirements for entry into school. No School Board policy, administrative procedure, or practice will be interpreted or applied in such a way as to inhibit the enrollment, attendance, or school success of homeless children.

Homeless students will be provided services comparable to other students in the District including:

- A. transportation services;
- B. educational services for which the homeless student meets eligibility criteria including services provided under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or similar State and local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities and gifted students, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency;
- C. school nutrition programs; and
- D. before- and after-school programs.