

## HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The board will make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children and youth of school age within the district, encourage their enrollment and eliminate existing barriers to their receiving an education which may exist in district policies or practices. The designated liaison for identification of homeless children and for tracking and monitoring programs and activities for these children is the superintendent.

Homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

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 the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Are abandoned in hospitals;
5. Awaiting foster care placement;
6. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
7. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings;
8. Are migratory children living in conditions described in the previous examples.

District Residency: To the extent feasible, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. Instead of remaining in the school of origin, parents or guardians of homeless students may request enrollment in the school in which attendance area the student is actually living, or other schools. Attendance rights by living in attendance areas, other student assignment policies, or intra and inter-district choice options are available to homeless families on the same terms as families resident in the district.

### Enrollment disputes

If an enrollment dispute arises between the student's custodial parent/guardian (or the student not in custody of a parent/guardian) and the district, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school selected by the parent/guardian or student until the dispute is resolved.

The parent/guardian (or student, if applicable) may appeal an enrollment determination made by this district to the district's homeless student liaison within 10 days after receiving the written determination and notice of right-to-appeal.

The liaison shall issue a written decision on the dispute within 10 days of the receipt of the appeal and hand deliver a written decision and notice of right-to-appeal to the Board

of Education to the parent/guardian (or student, if applicable). This written decision will include a notice of the right to appeal using the appeal process provided for in NDE Rule 19.

Within 10 days of delivery of the liaison's decision and right-to-appeal notice, the parent/guardian (or student, if applicable) may appeal the decision to the Board of Education.

The Board shall issue a written decision on the dispute within 40 days of the receipt of the appeal and hand deliver the written decision to the parents/guardian (or student, if applicable).

**Placement:** If the school district is unable to determine the grade level of the student because of missing or incomplete records, the school district will administer tests or utilize other reasonable means according to district policy to determine the appropriate grade level for the child.

**School Records:** For students transferring out of the district, records may be provided directly to the student or the student's parents. In addition, students transferring into the school district may provide cumulative records directly to the district. The school district will not require that such records be forwarded from another school district before that student may enroll. The school will then request the official records from the previous school.

**Immunization Requirements:** Homeless students will not be denied enrollment for lack of immunization records. The school district will make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from the information provided or will arrange for the student to receive immunizations. Permanent exemptions for homeless students from the immunization requirement in this policy will be allowed only for medical, military or religious reasons recognized under the law.

Students defined in state law as homeless children shall be admitted without payment of tuition.

Transportation for homeless students who enroll in the district shall be furnished by the district under the same guidelines applying to other students or if such transportation is necessary for compliance with federal law.

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school selected regardless of residency.

Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child.

Legal Reference:               Neb. Statute 79-215  
                                      NDE Rule 19  
                                      42 U.S.C. §11431 and §11432 (McKinney-Vento Homeless  
                                                          Assistance Act)  
                                      NCLB, Title X, Sec. 722, P.L. 107-110 (2002)

Cross Reference:               503.01 Compulsory Attendance

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