

# Career Success School District Homeless Policy

The Career Success School District recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless children have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other children within the district. The district shall remove barriers to enrollment and provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for these students to meet the same challenging performance standards as other students. Students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless, nor shall homeless students be stigmatized in any way.

The designated homeless liaison shall ensure that placement decisions for homeless students are based on the student's best interest as defined in law and administrative regulation.

## **Definition of Homeless Children and Youth**

The term "homeless children and youths" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship.

It includes children and youths who:

- are temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- are living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- are living in emergency shelters
- are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement
- have a nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- runaway children or children who are abandoned

Migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition.

## **Where can homeless children and youth attend school?**

The school in which the child or youth was last enrolled (school of origin) or the school in the attendance area where the child or youth is temporarily living.

**Can students experiencing homelessness be denied enrollment if the parent/guardian does not have proof of residency?**

NO. The parent/guardian may sign an affidavit stating that the family is staying in temporary accommodations.

**What if the parent/guardian does not have the school records for a child experiencing homelessness?**

The homeless child or youth is enrolled in school until the records arrive.  
Request that a student's immunization records be transferred over the phone from the sending school to the receiving school.  
Contact your school district, principal, counselor, or local homeless education liaison with any concerns.

## **Procedure**

### **Enrollment**

The school selected shall immediately enroll the child/youth, even if the child or youth lacks records normally required for enrollment. Records will immediately be requested from the previous school.

The terms "enroll" and "enrollment" is defined to mean attending school and participating fully in school activities.

### **Residency**

A homeless child or youth is a resident if the child is personally present somewhere within the district with a purpose to remain but not necessarily to remain permanently.

The child or youth shall be considered a resident when living with a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis not solely for school purposes or for participation in extra curricular activities.

Homeless students who do not live with their parents or guardians may enroll themselves in school.

The address listed on the enrollment forms becomes proof of residency.

### **Guardianship**

For purposes of school placement, any parent, guardian or person in loco parentis who has legal or physical custody of a homeless child or youth shall enroll that child or youth directly in a Career Success School.

### **Comparable Services**

Each homeless child or youth shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected, such as

- Preschool programs
- Transportation services
- Educational services for which the child or youth meets eligibility criteria such as ESL or special education programs
- Programs for "At Risk" students
- Programs for gifted and talented students
- School nutrition programs
- Title I services
- After School programs

## **Local Educational Agency Liaison**

The Local Educational Agency Liaison or designee shall ensure that:

- homeless children and youths are voluntarily identified by school personnel and through coordination with other entities and agencies
- homeless children and youth enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in schools in the district.
- homeless families, children, and youths receive educational services for which they are eligible and referrals to other appropriate services.
- the parents or guardians of homeless a child and any unaccompanied homeless youth is informed of the educational and related opportunities available to them and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of the child/youth.
- public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in such public places as schools, meal sites, shelters and other locations frequented by low income families.
- compliance with all policies and procedures and mediate enrollment disputes
- the parents or guardians of a homeless child or youth, and unaccompanied youth, are informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin or to the school that is selected
- coordination of services between Career Success School and other homeless family service providers.
- assistance is provided to children and youth who do not have immunizations, or immunization or medical records, to obtain necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.
- students are not segregated on the basis of their status as homeless
- programs for homeless students are coordinated with other federal and local programs

## **Disputes**

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.

The Local Educational Liaison shall carry out the dispute process as expeditiously as possible after receiving the notice of the dispute.

Appeals will go to the appropriate Site Administrator. The parent or guardian of the child or youth, or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the appealed decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision to the Arizona Department of Education.

