

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

Category: Priority/Required by Law

The district will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, special education, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs and school nutrition programs.

Per the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, homeless students are defined as those students 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 lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional 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. Migratory children living in conditions described in previous examples.

The Superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the district's liaison for homeless students and their families.

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.

If there is an enrollment dispute between the child's parent/guardian and the school district, the student shall immediately be enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent/guardian shall be informed in writing of the district's final decision and the parent/guardian's appeal rights. Unaccompanied youth will also be enrolled pending resolution of a dispute.

Once the enrollment decision is made, the school shall immediately enroll the student, pursuant to district policies. If the student does not have immediate access to immunization records, the student shall be admitted under a personal exception. Students

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and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible, and the district liaison is directed to assist. Records from the student's previous school shall be requested from the previous school pursuant to district policies. Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment, consistent with district policies.

Homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school of origin, both districts will make reasonable efforts to coordinate the transportation services necessary for the student.

The district's liaison for homeless students and their families shall coordinate with: local social service agencies that provide services to homeless children and their families; other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers; and state and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. The district's liaison will also review and recommend to the district policies that may eliminate barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.

Legal References:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(19), Homeless Students
RSA 193:12, Legal Residence Required
No Child Left Behind Act, 2002
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431, et seq.

Revised: May 2014

Revised: February 2005, May 2008

NHSBA Note, May 2014: Only changes are to Legal References. Content of the policy is unchanged.

SAU #7 Policy Committee: Recommended for Adoption – September 27, 2018

Colebrook School Board: Adopted – October 16, 2018

Pittsburg School Board: Adopted – October 22, 2018

Stewartstown School Board: Adopted – October 8, 2018