

**HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM POLICY  
Procedure**

**School Selection**

Placement in a school shall be in the student's best interest.

- The student's education may continue in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness and/or in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year, or for the duration of the academic year, if the student becomes permanently housed during an academic year.
- The student may enroll in a school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is actually living are eligible to attend.

The school of origin means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including a preschool and including the designated receiving school at the next grade level for feeder schools.

In determining the best interests of the student to the extent feasible, the student will be kept in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the student's parent/ guardian, for the duration of the homelessness. Student-centered factors will be considered, including the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety.

In the case of unaccompanied youth, the local educational agency liaison or designee will assist in placement or enrollment decisions considering the requests of such unaccompanied youth.

If the District determines that it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent/guardian or youth, the District shall provide a written explanation of the reason(s) for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent/guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal.

**Enrollment**

The school shall immediately enroll the student/youth, even if the student lacks required documents, has missed application or enrollment deadlines, has outstanding fees, fines, or absences, or applies without a parent/guardian.

The term "enroll" and "enrollment" are defined to mean attending school and participating fully in school activities.

**Residency**

A homeless student is a resident if the student is personally present somewhere within the district with a purpose to remain but not necessarily to remain permanently. The student 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 extracurricular activities. Homeless students who do not live with their parent/guardian may enroll themselves in school.

The address listed on the enrollment forms becomes proof of residency. If residency is questioned by the District, immediate enrollment will occur with follow up to confirm residency.

**Comparable Services**

Each homeless student 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 student meets eligibility criteria such as ELL or special education programs
- School nutrition programs
- Title I services
- Summer school programs
- Online learning
- Extracurricular activities

### **Transportation and School Meals**

At the request of the parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth, transportation will be provided by the District for the homeless student(s) to and from the school of origin until the end of the school year when the student obtains permanent housing. Permanent housing is defined as any signed lease or long-term approved living situation.

Once permanent housing is found, the family has a choice to stay in the school of origin or attend the school in the attendance area where they found housing. If a family chooses to stay in the school of origin, transportation will be provided until the end of that given school year.

In the case where the school of origin and current residence are located in different Local Educational Agencies, the two school districts will agree on a method for transportation and share costs. Homeless students are automatically eligible for free school meals for the remainder of that given school year.

### **Homeless Liaison or Designee**

The District will designate a McKinney-Vento liaison. The homeless liaison or designee shall ensure that:

- Homeless students are voluntarily identified by school personnel and through coordination with other entities and agencies.
- Homeless students enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in schools in the district.
- Homeless families/students receive educational services for which they are eligible and referrals to other appropriate services.
- The parent/guardian of homeless students and any unaccompanied homeless youth are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to them and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of the student/youth.
- Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated in such public places as families.
- There is compliance with all policies and procedures and mediates enrollment disputes.
- The parent/guardian of homeless students or youth and unaccompanied youth are informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin.
- Ensures the coordination of services between the District and other homeless family service providers.
- Assistance is provided to students who do not have immunizations or immunization medical records to obtain them.
- Students are not segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.
- Programs for homeless students are coordinated with other federal and local programs.
- There is support for academic success, including credit accrual and transition to higher education.

### **Disputes**

If the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth disputes the school assignment determined by the District, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute (including all available appeals). Disputes shall be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Appeals will go to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. The parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the appealed decision regarding school selection/enrollment, including the rights of the parent/guardian, or youth to appeal the decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

**Legal References:** Wisconsin State Statute 118.13  
PI9, Wisconsin Administrative Code  
Title IX, Education Amendment of 1972  
Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964  
Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
American with Disabilities Act of 1990  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
Civil Rights Act of 1991  
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

**Cross Reference:** Equal Educational Opportunities, 411 and Board Rule 411  
School Admissions, 420

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