

BALDWIN- WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: HOMELESS CHILDREN

ADOPTED: MARCH 8, 2006

EFFECTIVE: JULY 1, 2006

REVISED:

<p>1. Authority 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq SC 1306 Title 22 Sec. 11.18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">251. HOMELESS CHILDREN</p> <p>The Board is committed to educating homeless children and youth. Homeless children and youth shall not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.</p> <p>The district will serve each homeless student according to the student's best interest and shall, to the extent feasible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue the student's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness if the student becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or for the remainder of the academic year, if the student becomes permanently housed during an academic year. 2. Enroll the student in the public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is actually living are eligible to attend. <p>In determining the best interest of a homeless student, the district shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep the student in the school of origin, to the extent feasible, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the student's parent/guardian. 2. Provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, to the homeless student's parent/guardian, if the district decides not to continue the student's education in the school of origin or not to enroll the student in a school requested by the parent/guardian. 3. Ensure that the district homeless coordinator assists an unaccompanied youth in placement or enrollment decisions regarding the student, considers the views of the unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to the youth of the right to appeal.
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<p>2. Definitions</p>	<p>The term homeless student means an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement; • children and youths who 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; • children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and • migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this policy because the children are living in circumstances described above. <p>The term migratory child means a child who is, or whose parent or spouse is, a migratory agricultural worker, including a migratory dairy worker, or a migratory fisher, and who, in the preceding thirty-six (36) months, has moved from one school district to another in order to obtain, or accompany such parent or spouse in order to obtain, temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural or fishing.</p> <p>The term school of origin means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.</p> <p>The term unaccompanied youth includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian.</p>
<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<p>The Superintendent will designate at least one (1) district staff member to serve as the district homeless coordinator for homeless children and youth. The district homeless coordinator will ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies. 2. Homeless children and youth enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools in the district. 3. Homeless children and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including preschool programs administered by the district and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and other appropriate services.

<p>4. Guidelines</p> <p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432 Pol. 200, 201, 203, 204, 209, 216</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The parents/guardians of homeless children and youth are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children. 5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is disseminated where such children and youth receive services, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens. 6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law. 7. The parent/guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected. 8. Unaccompanied youth will be assisted in placement or enrollment decisions, their views will be considered and they will be provided notice of the right to appeal. 9. Children or youth who need to obtain immunization or medical records will receive assistance. <p><u>Enrollment</u></p> <p>The school selected in accordance with this policy will immediately enroll the homeless student, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation. The district may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The enrolling school will immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain relevant academic and other records. If the student needs to obtain immunizations or medical records, the enrolling school will refer the parent/guardian of the student to the district homeless coordinator, who will assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.</p> <p>The decision regarding placement will be made regardless of whether the student lives with the homeless parents/guardians or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.</p> <p><u>Enrollment Disputes</u></p> <p>If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The homeless student will be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. 2. The student's parent/guardian will be provided with a written explanation of the
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<p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432 SC 1306</p>	<p>district's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the right of the parent/guardian or student to appeal the decision.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The student or parent/guardian will be referred to the district homeless coordinator, who will carry out the appeal process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. 4. The district homeless coordinator will ensure that an unaccompanied youth is immediately enrolled in school, pending resolution of the dispute. <p><u>Comparable Services</u></p> <p>Each homeless student will be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school attended by the homeless student, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educational services for which the student meets the eligibility criteria, such as services provided under Title I, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency. 2. Programs in vocational and technical education. 3. Programs for gifted and talented students. 4. School nutrition programs.
<p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432 SC 1306</p>	<p><u>Transportation</u></p> <p>If the homeless student continues his/her education in the district school of origin but begins living in an area served by another school district, appropriate transportation service will be provided, pending resolution of responsibility and apportionment of expenses between districts.</p> <p><u>Appeal Process</u></p> <p>In the event that an unaccompanied student or the student's parent/guardian (hereinafter referred to as the complainant) disagrees with a decision regarding the student's eligibility to attend a district school, the complainant may present his/her position to the district homeless coordinator in writing. Within five (5) school days after receiving the written complaint, the district homeless coordinator will reach a decision regarding the contested enrollment and shall provide a written statement of that decision, including the reasons, to the complainant. The district homeless coordinator will inform the Superintendent of the complaint and its resolution.</p>

	<p>If the complainant is not satisfied with the written decision of the district homeless coordinator, the complainant may appeal that decision to the Superintendent by filing a written appeal. The district homeless coordinator shall ensure that the Superintendent receives copies of the written complaint and the district homeless coordinator's response. The Superintendent or designee will schedule a conference with the complainant to discuss the complaint. Within five (5) school days of receiving the written appeal, the Superintendent or designee will provide a written decision to the complainant including a statement of the reasons.</p>
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