



Education for Homeless Youth

The Board of Education recognized its obligations to ensure that students experiencing homelessness have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other district students and will make reasonable efforts to identify children experiencing homelessness within the district. The Board will also waive policies, procedures, and administrative regulations that create barriers for enrollment, attendance, transportation, and the success in school of students experiencing homelessness, based on the recommendation of the superintendent and the Homeless Liaison.

Federal guidelines, as set forth in the McKinney – Vento Homeless Assistance Act, requires school districts identify children who are homeless (temporarily displaced.) The federal mandate, and the intention of the South Side Area School District, is to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to free and appropriate public education on an equal basis with other children.

Students experiencing homelessness are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular, and nighttime residence, which include one of the following situations:

- Public or private shelters;
- Public or private places not designated for/or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations such as vehicles, parks, motels, campgrounds, etc;
- Living with a parent in a domestic violence shelter;
- Individuals and/or families living with relatives or friends due to a lack of housing;
- Living in transitional housing programs;
- Runaway children (under age 18) and children who have been abandoned or forced out of the home by parents or other caretakers. They may be in temporary shelters awaiting assistance from social service agencies, or may live alone on the street or move from place to place among family members, friends or acquaintances. This also includes such youth from 18 to 21 years of age who may still be eligible for educational services in regular or special education;
- Children of migrant families who lack adequate housing;
- Children abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care; or school-age, unwed mothers or expectant mothers living in houses for unwed mothers when they have no other available living accommodations.

Enrollment and placement of a homeless student shall continue to be in accordance with the student's best interests. Children who are homeless, including those living with others, may qualify for assistance with school nutrition programs, school supplies/materials, tutoring, transportation so that they can remain in their school of origin, programs for students with limited English proficiency, and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria (disadvantaged, gifted and talented, or a student with disabilities).

If you believe your child(ren) may qualify for this service, please contact Ms. Jennifer Shroads, Homeless Liaison at 724-573-9581 ext. 2612