

Homeless Students Board Policy

Board Policy 1002.0 – Attendance

1002.1.1 - Homeless Students

The Idaho Falls School District 91 recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless students have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other district students. The District shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the district, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state law and regulations. Refer to [Administrative Procedures 1002.1.1](#)

McKinney- Vento Homeless Procedures

Homeless students are defined as unaccompanied youth and/or any school age individual lacking a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence, which include the following conditions:

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, transitional or domestic violence 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. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
9. Living as run-away children.
10. Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
11. Living as school age unwed mothers in houses for unwed mothers if they have no other living accommodations.

Identification

The District shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens. The Director of Student Achievement & School Improvement (SASI) appoints and oversees the district's homeless liaison. In order to identify homeless children and unaccompanied homeless youth both in and out of school, the District Liaison coordinates with school personnel, community service agencies, local shelters, the state coordinator and others to help provide services to homeless children and homeless unaccompanied youth. In addition, the liaison provides annual awareness trainings to all school personnel. The Liaison coordinates with other districts on issues of records transfer and transportation.

Students may be identified by:

- a) Self-reporting. A family or student may notify school counselor or teacher

and report their living situation; or upon enrollment they will report their situation to the school registrar.

b) Referrals from other school districts.

c) Local agencies that provide services to homeless children and youth and families.

d) Identified by the school counselor or other school staff.

Data will be collected on the number of children and youth experiencing homelessness in the district; where they are living; their academic achievement (including state and local assessments); and school transfers.

School Determination

When determining the school enrollment of a student experiencing homelessness, the decision will be based on the best interest of the student and the request of the student's parent or guardian or the student if an unaccompanied youth. To the extent feasible, the student will be enrolled or continue enrollment in the school of origin while she/he remains homeless or until the end of the academic year in which she/he obtains permanent housing. The school of origin defined as the last school in which the student was enrolled or the school last attended by the student when permanently housed.

Eligibility and placement decisions are made collaboratively with input from the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth, principal, school counselor, homeless liaison and any other person(s) familiar with the student and the homeless situation.

Enrollment/Placement

The selected school shall immediately enroll the student and begin instruction, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. However, the District may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The District Homeless Director or Liaison may contact the previous school for oral confirmation of immunizations, and the school shall request records from the previous District.

Students shall not be discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless.

Transportation

Homeless students will be provided transportation services comparable those offered to housed students. The District shall provide transportation for homeless students to their school of origin or the school they choose to attend within the school district. If the school of origin is outside district boundaries or homeless students live in another district but will attend their school of origin in this district, the school districts shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation.

Services

Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other District students including, but not limited to, transportation services; school nutrition programs; vocational programs and technical education; programs for students with limited English proficiency; and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students. Homeless students are automatically eligible for Title I services, regardless of what school they attend. Barriers will be removed that prevent homeless secondary students "from

receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school, in accordance with State, local, and school policies.” Title X Sec. 9102 Sec. 722 Unaccompanied youth are informed of their status as independent students for the FAFSA and receive verification of that status along with college/career counseling.

Disputes

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth shall be given opportunity to participate in the resolution. They will be provided with a written explanation of the District's decision, their right to appeal and the procedures to use for the appeal.

Free Meals

The Child Nutrition office will be provided the name of the homeless student immediately upon enrollment.

Records

Any record ordinarily kept by the school regarding each homeless child shall be maintained, so they are available, in a timely fashion when the student enters a new school or district, and in a manner consistent with FERPA applicable Idaho Law and district policy.

Adopted: 06/28/2011

Revised: 10/29/2014

Revised: 02/04/2021