

	<b>ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	<b>NEPN Code: JLG</b>
	<b>POLICIES AND REGULATIONS</b>	

### **INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS**

The School Board shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the School District, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate barriers to their education, which may exist in District policies or practices, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws.

Homeless students, as defined by federal and state statutes, is any individual age 21 and under, eligible for public education, who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing housing with others due to the loss of housing or economic hardship;
- Living in motels, hotels, or campgrounds;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in a hospital;
- Having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for regular sleeping accommodations such as cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because of any of the circumstances listed above.

### **School of Origin**

It is the School District's responsibility to provide continued education services for homeless students. Such services for the child may be:

- continuation in the school of origin that the student attended when permanently housed or the school of last enrollment; or
- provided in the school that is attended by other students living in the same attendance area where the homeless child lives.

The District considers the best interest of the homeless student, with parental involvement, in determining placement.

### **Enrollment**

The school shall immediately enroll the homeless student even if he or she is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, including academic records, immunization records, proof of residency or other documentation. The District shall make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from information available. The District shall arrange for students to receive immunizations through health agencies and at District expense if no other recourse is available. Immunizations may, however, be waived for homeless youth only in accordance with provision of the School Board's policy on immunizations. The District may require a parent or guardian of a homeless student to submit contact information.

### **Transportation**

Transportation services will be comparable to those provided other students in the selected schools. Transportation shall be provided to the student's school of origin in compliance with federal and state regulations.

**Elimination of Segregated Services**

Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the District including, but not limited to, transportation services; educational services for which the student meets the eligibility criteria, such as education programs for disadvantaged students, including Title 1 services, students with disabilities; vocational programs and technical education; school nutrition programs; preschool programs; before and after school care programs; and programs for students with limited English proficiency. Homeless students will not be segregated in a separate school or in a separate program within a school based on the students' status as homeless.

**Elimination of Identified Barriers**

The District administration shall attempt to remove existing barriers to school attendance. Enrollment requirements or fees and charges that may constitute a barrier to the enrollment or education of a homeless child or youth may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Barriers will be removed that prevent students from receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework completed while attending a prior school, in accordance with state, local, and school policies. Unaccompanied homeless youth will be informed of their status as independent students for college financial aid.

**Resolution of Enrollment Disputes**

Disputes regarding enrollment of homeless students shall be referred to the Homeless Liaison. Parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth can provide written or oral documentation to support their position. Students shall be provided with all services for which they are eligible while disputes are being resolved.

If a dispute is not resolved at the Director level, the individual may file an appeal with the Superintendent in accordance with Policy KED. Policy KED includes student's rights, timeline for investigation, and how the parent/guardian will be notified of the District's decision. If a dispute is not resolved at the District level, it may be forwarded by the individual to the South Dakota Department of Education for review.

The District will provide a written explanation of the decision to the parent or unaccompanied child. The explanation will also include the parent's or unaccompanied child's right to appeal the decision.

When inter-district disputes arise, the individual, all involved districts and the South Dakota Department of Education shall be present to resolve the dispute.

**Legal Reference:**

McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Act, ESSA Reauthorization, October 1, 2016

**Policy Reference:**

Policy KED Public Complaints About Federal Programs

**ADOPTED:** June 23, 2008

**REVISED:** July 8, 2013

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