

SURRY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

Policy JFABD: Homeless Students

It is the Board's intent to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention in schools of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths (collectively, "homeless students"). Staff shall take reasonable steps to ensure that homeless students and children are not segregated or stigmatized based on their status as homeless, and that educational decisions are made in the best interests of those students. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent or designee to adopt procedures to implement this policy, as needed.

Under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and guidance provided by the New Hampshire Department of Education, the term "homeless children and youths" means "individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence." This term includes children and youths who are:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
4. Abandoned in hospitals.
5. 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.
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
7. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Each homeless student shall have access to and shall be provided education services for which the student is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school, including (to the extent applicable) career and technical education programs, gifted education programs, and school nutrition programs. Transportation services for homeless students shall be provided in accordance with applicable law and as generally described below.

Homeless students are eligible to attend their school of origin or any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is actually living are eligible to attend. Enrollment determinations shall be based upon the best interests of the homeless student, with the presumption that keeping the homeless student in the school of origin is in the homeless student's best interests, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent/guardian, or if applicable, unaccompanied youth. These determinations shall consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.

Enrollment of a homeless student shall be immediate even if the homeless student lacks records routinely required prior to enrollment or has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any

period of homelessness. The District may, however, require emergency contact information for the homeless student.

Under no circumstances shall homeless students be required to attend a separate school, or a separate program within a school, based on their homeless status.

Under McKinney-Vento, homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If the homeless student is located outside of district boundaries but a determination has been made that the student shall remain in the school of origin within the district, or, if a homeless student is located within this district, but a determination had been made that the student shall remain in the school of origin outside of the district, then the two Districts shall make reasonable efforts to agree on a method to apportion cost and responsibility for the student's transportation; if no agreement is reached, federal law states that the Districts shall share the cost and responsibility equally.

If a homeless student becomes permanently housed during the school year, the student shall no longer be considered homeless and may only continue enrollment in the district for the remainder of that school year.

The Surry School Board does not operate any schools and is recognized as a sending district. As such, the Surry School District shall work collaboratively with the receiving district's homeless liaison, and the receiving district's homeless liaison is hereby designated as the Surry School District's homeless liaison for Surry School District students attending the receiving district's schools. The Surry School District acknowledges the duties and responsibilities of a local education agency for homeless students residing within the District under 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g), and it has contracted with the receiving school district for the receiving school district to provide any and services, supports, guidance, and required notices, to its students in accordance with state and federal law and this policy. This will include any and all duties and responsibilities of homeless liaisons under 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A). Finally, the Surry School District acknowledges and complies with the dispute resolution process of the receiving school district as consistent with applicable law. Surry residents have the option to contact the Superintendent of the Surry School District with policy concerns.

Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record, and shall not be deemed to be directory information, under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"). The District will maintain records pertaining to its homeless students consistent with the requirements of FERPA and 42 U.S.C. § 11432.

Legal references: 20 U.S.C. 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
 42 U.S.C. §11431, et seq. (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act)
 20 U.S.C. § 6301, et seq. (Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015)
 NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(19), Homeless
 Students

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