

Cornerstone Education Group Bylaws & Policies

5111.01 - HOMELESS STUDENTS

Students who meet the Federal definition of "homeless" will be provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the same manner as non-homeless students of the District. To that end, homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and will be enrolled just as non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the homeless student is actually living are eligible to attend. The District shall establish safeguards that protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.

Homeless students are defined as students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and include those who meet any of the following criteria:

- A. share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
- B. live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- C. live in emergency or transitional shelters;
- D. are abandoned in hospitals;
- E. are awaiting foster care placement;
- F. 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 being; or
- G. live in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.

Additionally, pursuant to Federal and State law, migratory children who are living in circumstances described in A-G above are also considered homeless.

Homeless students and their families shall be provided equal access to the educational services for which they are eligible.

The District shall remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless students in District programs. Homeless students shall be enrolled immediately, even if they do not have the necessary enrollment documentation such as immunization and medical records, proof of residency or guardianship, birth certificate, school records, and other documentation.

Homeless students will be provided services comparable to non-homeless students in the District including:

- A. transportation services;
- B. educational services for which the homeless student meets eligibility criteria including services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or similar State or local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency;
- C. programs in career and technical education;
- D. programs for gifted and talented students;
- E. school nutrition programs; and
- F. before- and after-school programs.

Homeless students have the right to remain in their school of origin or attend the local attendance area school, according to the homeless student's best interest. The school of origin is the school that the homeless student attended when permanently housed or last enrolled. The local attendance area school is any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the homeless student is actually living are eligible to attend.

Homeless students have the right to dispute their school assignment, if their assignment is other than their school of origin. In determining the homeless student's best interest, the District shall, to the extent feasible, keep the homeless student in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the homeless student's parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth. If the homeless student is sent to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent/guardian, a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, will be provided to the homeless student's parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth.

The Board of Education requires that these rights and the dispute process be communicated to the parents/guardians of homeless students or unaccompanied youths.

In addition to notifying the parents/guardians of homeless students or unaccompanied youths of the rights described above, the District shall post a public notice of the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness in each school.

At the request of the parent/guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the local Homeless Liaison, transportation shall be provided for a homeless student to and from the school of origin as follows:

- A. If the homeless student continues to live in the school district in which the school of origin is located, transportation will be provided in accordance with that district's policy/administrative guidelines; or
- B. If the homeless student moves to an area served by another school district, though continuing his/her education at the school of origin, the district of origin and the district in which the homeless student is actually living must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin. If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally by both districts.

The Superintendent will appoint a Homeless Liaison who will perform the duties as assigned by the Superintendent. Additionally, the Homeless Liaison will

coordinate and collaborate with the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, as well as with community and district personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths.

42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq. (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act)

Adopted 5/4/11