

HOMELESS STUDENTS

The Ledyard Board of shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the District, to encourage their enrollment, to eliminate existing barriers to their education, which may exist in District policies or practices, in compliance with applicable state and federal laws, and to protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness. Homeless students within the District, who are not living in temporary shelters, remain the District's responsibility to provide continued educational services. Such services for the child may be: (1) continuing to attend the school that they went to when permanently housed or attend the school of last enrollment; or (2) attend the school attended by other students living in the same attendance area where the homeless child lives.

The Superintendent shall appoint an existing staff member as the designated homeless liaison for students in homeless situations.

The Superintendent shall refer identified homeless students under the age of eighteen (18), unless said student is an emancipated minor, to the Department of Children and Families.

Homeless students shall be provided educational services that are comparable to those provided to other students enrolled in the District, including but not limited to transportation, compensatory educational programs, gifted and talented, special education, English as a Second Language (ESL), health services and food and nutrition program.

Definition of a Homeless Student

A homeless student is defined by 42 U.S.C. 11434a and Connecticut General Statute (CGS) 10-253 and can include a child or youth who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including students that:

- Are temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Are living in emergency or transitional shelters (as defined in 42 U.S.C. 11434a) or temporary shelters (as defined in CGS 10-253);
- Are abandoned in hospitals;
- 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;
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- Are migratory children (as defined in 20 U.S.C. 6399) and may be considered homeless if the children are living in circumstances described above.

Remove Barriers

The District Administration shall attempt to remove and eliminate existing barriers for school attendance in order for homeless students residing with the District, or those that the District is otherwise responsible for, to be able to attend school within the District.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

These barriers shall include but not limited to: (1) enrollment requirements; (2) immunization requirements; (3) fees and charges; (4) student records; (5) transportation; and (6) other applicable school attendance barriers.

The Superintendent is authorized to waive policies and procedures that constitute a barrier to school attendance for a homeless student to the extent necessary to allow that student to attend school in compliance with all state and federal laws.

Homeless Children Placed in a Temporary Shelter in Ledyard

“Temporary shelter” means a facility which provides emergency shelter for a specified, limited period of time.

The homeless child is entitled to free school privileges from the school district where the homeless child would otherwise reside (school district of origin) if not for the need for temporary shelter. The Superintendent, or the Homeless Liaison if so directed, shall locate and notify the

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes (last amended by Public Act (PA)):

- 10-253. School privileges for children in certain placements, nonresident children, children in temporary shelters, homeless children and children in juvenile detention Facilities. (PA 17-194)
- 17a-101. Protection of children from abuse. Mandated reporters. Educational and training programs. Model mandated reporting policy. (PA 16-163)
- 17a-103. Reports by others. False reports. Notification to law enforcement agency. (PA 16-28)
- 17a-106. Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and investigation of child abuse and neglect. (PA 96-194)
- 46b-120. Definitions. (PA 16-147)

“McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act” (Public Law (PL) 107-110, Sec. 1032) 42 U.S.C 11431-11435 (as amended by the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA), PL 114-95.

Federal Register: McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program, Volume 81, No. 52, dated 17 March 2016.

20 U.S.C. 1232g – “Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act” (FERPA) of 1974 (Section 438 of the “General Education Provisions Act” as amended by Section 513 of PL 93-568).

34 C.F.R. Part 99 – Department of Education regulations implementing FERPA parent and student privacy and other rights with respect to educational records (initially dated 9 May 1980, and amended 21 November 1996, 9 December 2008, and 2 December 2011).

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