

STUDENTS

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children, including a public preschool education. For purposes of this policy, the terms "homeless child" and "homeless children" are defined as provided in Section 11434a(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ("McKinney-Vento Act"), 42 U.S.C. §11434a(2) and the Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act (105 ILCS 45/1-5).

Homeless children will be provided equal access to the District's educational programs, in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act and State law. A homeless child may attend the District school that the child attended when permanently housed or in which the child was last enrolled. A homeless child may attend the school nearest the child's shelter or temporary home,

The Superintendent or designee will implement procedures to remove barriers to enrollment of homeless children. The procedures will include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The Superintendent or designee will make school placement determinations on the basis of the best interests of the homeless child, in accordance with the standards set forth in the McKinney-Vento Act and State law;
2. The Superintendent or designee will immediately enroll homeless children and will provide assistance with obtaining records including immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records and other documentation, and guardianship pursuant to the requirements contained in the McKinney-Vento Act and State law;
3. Homeless children will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their homeless status;
4. The Superintendent or designee will address enrollment disputes as provided in the McKinney-Vento Act and State law;
5. The Superintendent or designee will provide transportation to homeless children as required by the McKinney-Vento Act and State law; and
6. The Superintendent or designee will give special attention to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children who are not currently attending school.

In addition, the Superintendent will designate an appropriate staff member as the District's Liaison for Homeless Children. If a child is denied enrollment or transportation under this policy, the Liaison for Homeless Children will immediately refer the child or his or her parent/guardian to the ombudsperson appointed by the Regional Superintendent and provide the child or his or her parent/guardian with a written explanation for the denial.

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The liaison will coordinate services to facilitate the enrollment of homeless children and the provision of opportunities for academic success. The liaison will perform the specific duties set forth in the McKinney-Vento Act. The contact information for the Homeless Children Liaison will be shared with parents via the Parent Handbook at the beginning of each school year.

LEGAL REF.: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431, *et seq.*
Ill. Education for Homeless Children Act, 105 ILCS 45/1-1, *et seq.*

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