

Students

Homeless Students

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

Further, it is the policy of the Board of Education that no child or youth shall be discriminated against or stigmatized in this school district because of homelessness. Homeless students, as defined by federal and state statutes, residing within the district or residing in temporary shelters in the district are entitled to free school privileges.

Homeless students within the district not placed in a shelter remain the district's responsibility to provide continued educational services. Such services for the child may be:

1. continued in the school ("school of origin") that the student attended when permanently housed or the school of last enrollment; or
2. provided in the school that is attended by other students living in the same attendance area where the homeless child lives.

To the extent feasible, a homeless child will be kept in the school of origin, unless it is against the wishes of the parent/guardian.

Homeless children shall be provided educational services that are comparable to those provided to other students enrolled in the district, including but not limited to, Title I, transportation services, compensatory educational programs, gifted and talented, special education, ESL, health services and food and nutrition programs.

The Superintendent of Schools shall refer identified homeless children under the age of eighteen who may reside within the school district, unless such children are emancipated minors, to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families.

The district administration shall attempt to remove existing barriers to school attendance by homeless emancipated minors and youth eighteen years of age:

1. The selected school for the homeless child shall enroll the child, even in the absence of records normally required for enrollment. The last school enrolled shall be contacted to obtain records.
2. Other enrollment requirements that may constitute a barrier to the education of the homeless child or youth may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent. If the district is unable to determine the student's grade level due to missing or incomplete records, the district shall administer tests or utilize other reasonable means to determine the appropriate grade level for the child.
3. Fees and charges, which may present a barrier to the enrollment or transfer of a homeless child or youth, may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Students

Homeless Students (continued)

4. Transportation services must be comparable to those provided other students in the selected school. Transportation shall be provided to the student's school of origin in compliance with federal and state regulations.
5. Official school records policies and regulations shall be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent, in compliance with federal statutes.
6. The district shall make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from information available. The District's liaison shall assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations and records. 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 provisions of Board of Education policy on immunizations.
7. The district will provide any homeless student, who is not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian (an "unaccompanied youth") full access to his/her educational records, including medical records, in the district's possession.
7. Other barriers to school attendance by homeless children or youth may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools.

The District's educational liaison for homeless children is Dina Gotowala.

Students residing in a temporary shelter are entitled to free school privileges from the district in which the shelter is located or from the school district where they would otherwise reside if not for the placement in the temporary shelter. The district in which the temporary shelter is located shall notify the district where the student would otherwise be attending. The district so notified may choose to either:

1. continue to provide educational services, including transportation between the temporary shelter and the school in the home district; or
2. pay tuition to the district in which the temporary shelter is located.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations, to ensure compliance with applicable statutes in the implementation of this policy.

(cf. 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations)

(cf. 5141.4 Child Abuse and Neglect)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-253(e) School privileges for children in certain placements, non resident children and children in temporary shelters.
17a-101 Protection of children from abuse. Reports required of certain professional persons. When child may be removed from surrounding without court order.
17a-106 Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect.
46b-120 Definitions.
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, (PL 107-110-Sec 1032) 42 U.S.C. §11431-11435
42 USC §11434a Unaccompanied Youth

Policy adopted: April 20, 2017

DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Derby, Connecticut

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Homeless Students Questionnaire

The following questions are intended to address the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431, *et seq.* Your answers to the following questions will aid school district staff to determine whether your child may be eligible for services under this Act.

1. Is your child's current address a temporary living arrangement? Yes No

2. Is this temporary living arrangement due to loss of housing or economic hardship?
Yes No

If you answered yes to the above questions, please complete the remainder of this form.

3. Where is the student presently living? (Please check one)
 - In a hotel/motel
 - In a shelter
 - With more than one family in a house or apartment
 - Moving from place to place
 - In a place not designed for ordinary sleeping accommodations, such as a car, park or campsite
 - Other: (please specify) _____

4. When do you anticipate that your child's temporary living arrangement will change?

In signing this document, I understand and acknowledge that I am representing that my child is entitled to free school accommodations from the City of Derby by virtue of their having a legal residence at the above-named address. I understand that if the information provided in connection with this questionnaire is determined to be false or misleading, resulting in the child/children named above to not be legally entitled to attendance in the Derby Public Schools, the school district may take legal action to recoup valid tuition charges and legal fees. I understand that if it is determined that I have defrauded the Derby Public Schools, I may also be subjected to the pains and penalties of perjury and false statement and such other remedies as may be available under law.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Witness