

## **EDUCATION OF THE HOMELESS**

No child or youth shall be discriminated against or stigmatized in Apple Creek School District in the provision of educational services because of homelessness. Students who become homeless have a right to continued enrollment in their school of origin while they are homeless. It is the responsibility of this district to seek to eliminate barriers to school attendance. This includes facilitating enrollment and providing equal access to all educational programs and services for which they are eligible.

A homeless student is defined as one who is:

- Sharing in housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.
- Awaiting foster care placement.
- Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations, or similar settings.
- A migratory child living in conditions described in the previous examples.

The School Board designates the Principal to be the district's liaison for homeless students and their families. The duties of the liaison shall include but not be limited to:

- Assisting parents and students in enrolling in and attending school.
- Helping unaccompanied youth enroll in and attend school.
- Administering the enrollment appeal process when families don't agree with their student's assignment to a school.
- Coordinating with local social service agencies that provide services to homeless families.
- Collaborating with state and local housing agencies.
- Providing notice of the rights of homeless students to attend school and access services in schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens.
- Evaluating district policies and recommending changes to reduce barriers for homeless children enrolling in and attending school.

It shall be the responsibility of the School Board, in consultation with the parents, to decide whether to continue the enrollment of a child of homeless parents or a homeless youth or to enroll the child or youth in the school or district where the child or youth is actually living, including any transportation arrangements necessary. The decision shall be made based on the best interest of the child or youth. If the student is not enrolled in the school of origin or the school requested by a parent/guardian, the School Board shall provide written explanation of the decision to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth along with a notice of their right to appeal. The notice shall

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include contact information for the district liaison; a step-by-step description of how to dispute the school's decision; information concerning the right of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to be represented by advocates or attorneys; and the right to enroll immediately in the school of choice pending resolution of the dispute. A form for initiating a dispute shall be included. The form may be filed with the principal of the school in which the child is enrolled, with the district liaison, or at the office of the Business Manager.

If the, guardian, or unaccompanied youth disputes the placement, the student shall be enrolled in the school or district of the parents', guardians' or youths' choosing while the dispute is resolved. The Principal shall ask the state coordinator for homeless children and youth for assistance in resolving the dispute using the process developed by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

Cross Ref:

Policy FBEB/GCAE Placement Adjustment of Transfer Students

Policy FDCAB/GAD/KBB Parental Involvement

Legal Ref: 42 U.S.C. §11431 *et seq.* McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act

PL 107-110 Title III No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

NDCC 15.1-19-08 Homeless child - Education

NDCC Ch. 15.1-29 Nonresident Tuition and Reciprocity

NDCC Ch. 15.1-31 Open Enrollment

**POLICY ADOPTED: 28 Apr 03**  
**POLICY AMENDED: 11 Aug 09**