

# River Ridge Policy

411.1

## HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

It is the policy of the board to ensure that homeless children and youth are provided with equal access to its educational programs as provided to other children and youths who reside in the district. They shall be provided services comparable to services offered other children attending District schools, including transportation services, educational services for which the children/youths meet eligibility criteria (e.g., special education, Title I programming, gifted and talented programming), vocational and technical education programs and school nutrition programs. No homeless child or youth shall be required to attend a separate school or program for homeless children and shall not be stigmatized by school personnel.

The term “homeless children and youths” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. It includes children and youths who:

- a. Are temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- b. Are living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative, adequate accommodation
- c. Are living in emergency shelters
- d. Are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement
- e. Have a nighttime residence that is public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- f. Runaway children or children who are abandoned
- g. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, or similar settings

Migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in physical custody of a parent or guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the definition listed above.

The Local Educational Agency Liaison for homeless children and youths will ensure that:

- a. Homeless children and youths residing in the District are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
- b. Homeless children and youths enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school in the District.
- c. Homeless families, children and youths receive educational services for which they are eligible and referrals to other appropriate services.

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- d. The parent/guardian of a homeless child and any unaccompanied homeless youth is informed of the educational and related opportunities available to them and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of the child/youth.
- e. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated where such children and youths receive services such as the schools and family shelters.
- f. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with legal requirements.
- g. The parent/guardian of a homeless child and any unaccompanied homeless youth is fully informed of transportation services that may be available to them under the law and assist them in accessing such transportation services.

Legal References:     McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act  
                              (Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act)  
                              Wisconsin State Statute 118.75

Approved:             November 11, 2009