

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

To the extent practical and as required by law, the district will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, special education, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs, and school nutrition programs.

Homeless students are defined as (per NCLB definitions) lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

1. sharing the housing with other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship,
2. living in motels, hotels, mobile trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations,
3. living in emergency or transitional shelters,
4. abandoned in hospitals,
5. awaiting foster care placement,
6. living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings,
7. living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings,
8. migratory children.

To the extent feasible, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. Instead of remaining in the school of origin, parents or guardians of homeless students may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area where the students are actually living, or another school.

Reference

Conway Policy JEC – Residence of Students and Right to Attend School

Adopted by the Conway School Board – January 12, 2004

Reviewed with no change – May 6, 2004

Revision Adopted – April 14, 2008

PROCEDURES

The Superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the district's liaison for homeless students and their families.

If there is an enrollment dispute, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent or guardian shall be informed of the district's decision and their appeal rights in writing. Unaccompanied youth will also be enrolled pending resolution of the dispute.

Once a favorable enrollment decision is made, the school shall immediately enroll the student, pursuant to district policies. If the student does not have immediate access to the immunization records, the student shall be admitted under a personal exception. Students and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible, and the district liaison is directed to assist. Records from the student's previous school shall be requested from the previous school pursuant to district policies. Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment consistent with district policies.

Homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If the school of origin is in a different district, or a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school of origin in this district, the districts will make reasonable efforts to coordinate the transportation services necessary for the student.

The district's liaison for homeless students and their families shall coordinate with local social services agencies that provide services to homeless children and youths and their families, other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers, and state and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. The district's liaison will also review and recommend to the district policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.

Questions and Answers for Supporting the Academic Success
Of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

(original is in the Policy Book)