

HOMELESS POLICY

In accordance with the Federal McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, homeless children shall have access to the same free and appropriate public education as provided to other children. The board shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the district, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate existing barriers to their education that may exist in district policies or practices. No child or youth shall be discriminated against in this school district because of homelessness.

Children are deemed to be homeless under the following conditions:

1. A child who is lacking a fixed regular and adequate nighttime residence and who has a primary nighttime residence that is a publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, a temporary residence prior to institutionalization, or a place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
2. A child who is placed in a transitional or emergency shelter before placement in a foster home or home for neglected children.
3. A child who is temporarily living in a trailer park or camping area due to lack of adequate living accommodations.
4. A child who is living in doubled-up accommodations due to loss of housing or other similar situation.
5. A migratory child who is staying in accommodations not fit for habitation.
6. A child who has run away from home and lives in a runaway shelter, abandoned building, the street, or other inadequate accommodations.
7. A child who is placed in a state institution because s/he has no other place to live.
8. A child who has been abandoned by his/her family and who is staying in a hospital.
9. A child whose parents or guardian will not permit him/her to live at home and who lives on the street, in a shelter, or in other transitional or inadequate accommodation.
10. School-age unwed mothers or expectant mothers who are living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other available living accommodations.

The district administration shall attempt to remove existing barriers to school attendance by homeless children and children in foster care:

1. Enrollment requirements that may constitute a barrier to the education of a child in foster care or the homeless child or youth shall be waived. 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.
2. Fees and charges that may present a barrier to the enrollment or transfer of a child in foster care or a homeless child or youth shall be waived.
3. Customary transportation policies and regulations shall be waived.

4. Official school records policies and regulations shall be waived.
5. The district shall make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from information available or 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 policy on immunizations.
6. Other barriers to school attendance by a homeless youth or child in foster care shall be waived.
7. Information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a student education record and shall not be deemed to be directory information under state or federal law.

The district will provide to each homeless child such school services that are comparable to services offered to other students in the district and that are determined to be in the child's best interest. Such services will include:

1. Public preschool programs;
2. Special education, Title I, and limited English proficiency programs for which they are eligible;
3. Vocational education programs;
4. Gifted and talented programs;
5. Before and after school programs;
6. School meal programs; and
7. Transportation services

Federal law provides that homeless children and youth, individually or through a parent or guardian, may choose to attend the school in the area in which they are currently living. The Homeless Liaison will determine whether a student is a homeless child or youth for purposes of establishing residency and promptly advise the parent, guardian or person having legal custody of the child of the decision, both orally and in writing, if possible. The District will enroll each homeless student and permit his or her full participation in all school programs, whether or not the student is accompanied by a parent, guardian or person having custody of the child, and without proof of residence, current immunizations and traditional enrollment documentation, such as school records and medical/immunization records. The District's Homeless Liaison may assist the student and school in obtaining those items. A parent, guardian or person having legal custody of the child who disagrees with the Homeless Liaison's determination may appeal the decision to a district level committee designated by the superintendent for a final decision. If there is no parent, guardian or person having legal custody of the child available, the student may appeal the decision.

ADOPTED: APRIL 8, 2019
DEER CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL