

Student Policy #251 Homeless Students

Purpose:

The Board of Trustees recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless students have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other district students.

The Board shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the SusQ-Cyber Charter School, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state law and regulations.

Definitions:

Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular and nighttime residence, which includes the following conditions:

- Sharing the 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, transitional or domestic violence 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.
- Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
- Living as run-away children.
- Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents or caretakers.
- Living as school age unwed mothers in houses for unwed mothers if they have no other living accommodations.
- School of origin is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.

Guidelines:

- The Board may waive policies, procedures and administrative regulations that create barriers for enrollment, attendance and success in school of homeless students, based on the recommendation of the CEO.
- The Board designates the CEO or designee to serve as the SusQ-Cyber Charter School's (Charter School) liaison for homeless students and families.
- The Charter School's liaison shall coordinate with:
 1. Local service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youth and families.
 2. Other school districts on issues of records transfer and transportation.
 3. State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies.
- The Charter School's liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens.

- Students shall not be discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless.

Enrollment/Placement:

- To the extent feasible, and in accordance with the student's best interest, a homeless student shall continue to be enrolled in his/her school or origin while s/he remains homeless or until the end of the academic year in which s/he obtains permanent housing. Parents/Guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area where the student is actually living or other schools. If a student is unaccompanied by a parent/guardian, the district liaison will consider the views of the student in determining where s/he will be enrolled.
- The selected school shall immediately enroll the student and begin instruction, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment pursuant to district policies. However, the district may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The cyber school liaison may contact the previous school for oral confirmation of immunizations, and the school shall request records from the previous district, pursuant to Board policy.
- If the Charter School is unable to determine the student's grade level due to missing or incomplete records, the Charter School shall administer tests or utilize appropriate means to determine the student's placement.
- If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parents/guardians shall be provided with a written explanation of the Charter School's decision, their right to appeal and the procedures to use for the appeal.

Services:

Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to other Cyber School students including, but not limited to programs for students with limited English proficiency; and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as programs for disadvantaged students and students with disabilities.

Transportation

- The Charter School does not provide transportation for any students because it is a cyber school. Because the Charter School is a cyber school it does not provide transportation services, nutrition programs, vocational programs, technical education and preschool programs.
- If the school of origin is outside district boundaries or homeless students live in another district but will attend their school of origin in this district, the school district and the Charter School shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation.

Delegation of Responsibility:

The CEO is responsible to be the liaison for the homeless students and to ensure that the homeless student policy is followed.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS CONTROL. THIS POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO CONFLICT WITH CHARTER REQUIREMENT.