

## 5014 Homeless Students

### 1. General Policy

The school district will provide tuition free education for homeless children and youth who are in the district and accord them the educational rights and legal protections provided by state and federal law. Homeless children and youth shall not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and shall have access to the same services offered to other students. It is the intent of this policy to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth in the school district.

### 2. Homeless Liaison

The district's homeless liaison is **Randy Page**. Students in homeless situations who require assistance should contact the liaison at **402-988-2525 ext. 103** or in person at **415 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Adams, NE 68301**.

### 3. Definitions

- a. "Homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and include
  - i. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals or are awaiting foster care placement; and
  - ii. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
  - iii. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
  - iv. Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

- b. The term "homeless" or "homeless individual" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained by the act of Congress or by state law.
  - c. "Child" and "youth" refers to persons who, if they were children of residents of the District, would be entitled to a free education.
  - d. The term "unaccompanied youth" includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
  - e. "School of origin" means the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
4. **Strategies to Address Enrollment Delays.** In order to address enrollment delays resulting from homelessness, the school district shall immediately enroll homeless students even if they are unable to produce records normally required for enrollment such as immunization and medical records, residency documents, birth certificates, school records, or other documentation, or guardianship documents. The school district shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain academic and other records. The school district's homeless liaison shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.
5. **Transportation.** Transportation shall be provided to homeless students to the extent required by law and comparable to that provided to students who are not homeless. At the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), transportation shall be provided to and from the school of origin as follows:
- a. If the homeless child or youth continues to live in the area served by the school district, the child's or youth's transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided or arranged by the school district.
  - b. If the homeless child's or youth's living arrangements in the area served by the school district terminate and the child or youth, though continuing his or her education in the school district, begins living in an area served by another school district, the school district and the new school district in which the homeless child or youth is living shall negotiate to agree upon a method to

apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school district. If the districts are unable to agree, the responsibility and cost for transportation shall be shared equally.

**6. Dispute Process.** If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school:

- a. The child or youth shall be admitted immediately to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;
- b. The child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the district's homeless liaison who shall carry out the dispute resolution process within (30) thirty calendar days after receiving notice of the dispute;
- c. The parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision within (30) thirty calendar days of the time such complaint or dispute is brought.
- d. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute.

**7. Appeal Process**

**a. Nebraska Department of Education.** If the Complainant is not satisfied with the written decision of the District after the dispute resolution process, the Complainant may appeal the decision of the District to the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education within (30) thirty calendar days of receipt of the decision from the District, pursuant to Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19.

**b. State Board of Education.** If the Complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Commissioner, the Complainant may file a Petition with the State Board of Education within (30) thirty calendar days of the receipt of the decision of the Commissioner pursuant to Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_