



ADMISSION/TRANSFER POLICY FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The McKinney–Vento Homeless Act, now a part of the Improving America’s Schools Act, (Public Law 103-382), and the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, guarantees a free and appropriate public education for all children and youth experiencing homelessness. BEC 42 U.S.C. &11431 outlines procedures for deciding school placement, enrolling students, and determining fiscal responsibility. Federal and state laws make our responsibility clear. With over 10,000 estimated homeless children currently attending Philadelphia public schools, we must provide appropriate academic support and services. Please familiarize yourself and your staff, including counselors, teachers, secretaries, nurses, NTAs and others with the following school admission and transfer procedures.

- A child whose family experiences homelessness may remain in the school they were attending prior to becoming homeless for the duration of the school year.
- If it is feasible, a student may transfer to a school if it is closer to where they are temporarily living.
- The receiving school may not prevent or delay the enrollment of a child experiencing homelessness by requiring proof of residency or lack of documentation such as immunization records. The school may seek written confirmation of shelter residency from the shelter director, but may not refuse a child admission pending such confirmation.
- Children experiencing homelessness who are living more than one mile from the school should be given free SEPTA student passes (see Transportation Procedure for Students Experiencing Homelessness).
- The school can contact the Department of Health (215) 686-5000 to obtain oral confirmation of immunizations. This confirmation can be accepted as verification for enrolling a student *(BEC 42 USC & 11431). Written confirmation should be requested and received within 30 days.

Contact Al Quarles, Philadelphia’s Regional Coordinator, or Colleen Landy, Assistant Director, with any questions or concerns you may have at 215-400-6045 or e-mail ECYEH@philasd.org.