

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: HOMELESS STUDENTS

ADOPTED: August 24, 2011

REVISED:

<p>1. Authority SC 1306 Title 22 Sec. 11.18 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq</p> <p>2. Definitions 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11434a</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">251. HOMELESS STUDENTS</p> <p>The School Reform Commission recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless children and youths have access to the same free appropriate public education (FAPE) provided to other district students. The SRC shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children and youths within the district, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state law and regulations.</p> <p>The SRC may waive policies and administrative procedures that create barriers for enrollment, attendance, transportation and success in school of homeless students, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent or designee.</p> <p>Homeless students shall mean children and youths who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youths:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason. 2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations. 3. Living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters. 4. Abandoned in hospitals. 5. Awaiting foster care placement. 6. Who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings. 7. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.
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<p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<p>8. Who are migratory children living in circumstances described above.</p> <p>9. Living as run-away children.</p> <p>10. Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.</p> <p>11. Living as school age parents in houses for school age parents if they have no other available living accommodations.</p> <p>School of origin is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.</p>
<p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432a</p> <p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<p>Unaccompanied youth includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian.</p> <p>The SRC shall designate a district liaison for homeless students and families who shall have the duties and responsibilities imposed by law and SRC policy.</p> <p>The district's liaison shall coordinate with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p> <p>4. Guidelines</p> <p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<p>The district's liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens.</p> <p>Students shall not be discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless.</p> <p><u>Enrollment/Placement</u></p>
<p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<p>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 of origin while s/he remains homeless or until the end of the academic year in which s/he obtains permanent housing except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the student's parents/guardians.</p>

<p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432 Pol. 200, 201, 203, 204, 209, 216</p>	<p>Parents/Guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is actually living are eligible to attend.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 district liaison may contact the previous school for oral confirmation of immunizations, and the school shall request records from the previous district, pursuant to SRC policy.</p> <p>The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain relevant academic and other records.</p> <p>If the student needs to obtain immunizations, or medical or immunization records, the enrolling school shall immediately refer the parent/guardian to the district liaison, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.</p> <p>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 appropriate means to determine the student's placement.</p> <p><u>Enrollment Disputes</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The parents/guardians shall be provided with a written explanation of the district's decision, notice of their right to appeal and the procedures to use for the appeal.</p> <p>The student or parent/guardian shall be referred to the district liaison who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute.</p>
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<p>SC 1306 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<p><u>Services</u></p> <p>Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other district students including, but not limited to, transportation services; school nutrition programs; vocational programs and technical education; preschool programs; programs for students with limited English proficiency; and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students.</p>
<p>SC 1306 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<p><u>Transportation</u></p> <p>The district shall provide transportation for homeless students to their school of origin or the school they choose to attend within the school district.</p>
<p>42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<p>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 districts shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation.</p>
	<p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1306</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.18, 403.1</p> <p>No Child Left Behind Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.</p> <p>Education For Homeless Children – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq.</p> <p>Family Educational Rights and Privacy, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR Part 99</p> <p>Guidelines for Enrollment of Homeless Children – Federal Register, 67 Fed. Reg. 10698</p> <p>PA Education for Homeless Children and Youth State Plan</p> <p>School Reform Commission Policy – 200, 201, 203, 204, 209, 216, 810</p>