

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS POLICY:

Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act) defines “homeless children and youth” as follows:

- (A) -individual who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103 (a) (1);
- (B)
 - (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 adequate accommodations; and are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
 - (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103 (a) (2) (C);
 - (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 (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless from the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

Enrollment:

The School District shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the boundaries of the school district and immediately enroll the homeless student even if he or she is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, including academic records, immunization records, proof of residency or other documentation.

Educational Barriers:

The School District Administration shall attempt to remove or eliminate existing barriers to school attendance or educational programs which may exist in district policies or practices, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws. Enrollment requirements, fees and charges may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Transportation Services:

Transportation services will be comparable to those provided other students with the school district.

Immunizations:

The District shall make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from information available. The District 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 the school district policy on immunizations. The district may require a parent or guardian of a homeless student to submit contact information.

Nutrition Services:

All students considered to be homeless shall be entitled to FREE status for all meals served within the school district’s academic school day.

Comparable Services:

Students identified as homeless shall be provided services comparable to other students of the district which includes, but not limited to, Special Education services for which the student meets eligibility criteria, such as education programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, gifted students, vocational and technical programs, preschool programs, and programs for students with limited English proficiency.

Resolution of Enrollment Disputes:

Disputes regarding the enrollment of homeless students shall be referred to the Superintendent. Parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth can provide either written or oral documentation to support their position. However, the student shall be provided with all services for which they are eligible while the dispute is being resolved.

If a dispute is not resolved at the District level; the parent/guardian or individual student may forward the dispute to the South Dakota Department of Education for review.