

## **Regulation Homeless Students**

**Descriptor Code: JBC(1)-R**

### HOMELESS STUDENTS

Section 103 (a) of the McKinney Act defines homeless students as those who are lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including the following:

1. sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
2. living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. having been abandoned in hospitals;
5. awaiting foster care placement;
6. living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
7. living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation station, or similar settings; or
8. having been living in conditions described in the previous examples as migratory children.

The superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the district's liaison for homeless students and their families.

Section 103 (c) excludes from the definition of homeless "any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a "State Law."

### ENROLLMENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

1. School personnel shall make an initial assessment of the student's residential status, enroll the student, complete the homeless student survey, and send it to the homeless liaison. If the student is identified as homeless by definition, transportation needs will be assessed and addressed.
2. If a homeless student arrives at the school without a parent or legal guardian, the student should be enrolled and the school social worker notified. Efforts will be made by the school social worker to contact the parent/guardian to complete the enrollment process.
  - a. Children must meet age eligibility criteria for school enrollment as established by the local school system.

b. Homeless students categorically qualify for free lunch.

3. When students enroll without a transcript/grade record, birth certificate, and/or immunization and health records, school personnel shall

a. contact the former school by telephone to request the student's records and discuss immunization information and tentative placement,

b. create a cumulative record folder in accordance with established guidelines if it is determined that records are not available, and

c. refer the student to the local health department and provide follow-up to ensure that the student has been immunized, if there are no records of the student's immunization status.

4. Homeless students will be permitted to attend the school district in the zone where they are actually living or temporarily being sheltered or continue in their school of origin prior to becoming homeless, whichever is in the students' best interest, as determined by the school system.

5. Homeless students will be provided transportation to their school of origin if it is determined to be the best placement for the student.

6. The school system recognizes that homeless students may need more educational instruction than the amount normally provided during a typical school day, as many students are behind because of frequent moves. Tutorial assistance may be needed to help homeless children with their education.

Homeless students may also be eligible for the following: Outreach services, basic needs such as clothing, school supplies and health-related needs, counseling services, parental involvement programs.

Children enrolled will be subject to the compulsory attendance rules. Children enrolled for 20 school days or more prior to their sixth birthday shall be subject to compulsory school attendance requirements even though they have not attained six years of age.

Homeless children often leave school without officially withdrawing. In this event, follow policy JDB established by the board of education. If the school is contacted by a school district, requested information may be provided by telephone and school records shall be forwarded within 10 days of the request.

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Any dispute in regard to providing a public education to a child designated as homeless shall be presented to the Superintendent or designee to be resolved. If the matter is

not resolved at that level, the dispute shall be brought to the superintendent who shall resolve the matter.

Information regarding the student's status shall be handled in a confidential manner.

US Code: 42 USC 11431, 42 USC 2000e

O.C.G.A. 20-2-0131, 20-2-0150, 20-2-0151, 20-2-0240, 20-2-0293, 20-2-0690.1, 20-2-0694

Camden County Schools

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