

**JBCA**    **Homeless Students** (See EDAA and JBC)

**JBCA**

The district, in accordance with state and federal law and the Kansas state plan, will ensure that homeless children in the school district have access to a free and appropriate public education. Homeless students are individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. For the purposes of this policy, a student awaiting foster care placement shall not be considered homeless.

**Liaison**

The board shall designate a homeless liaison for the district.

Approved: 5/05; Revised 4/17

## **JBCA Homeless Students**

### **Homeless Student Regulations Required by Federal and State Law**

#### **Homeless students shall, by definition, include the following:**

1. Children and youth 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; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youth 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.
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
4. Migratory children who meet one of the above-described circumstances.

#### Enrollment/Placement (See JBC)

The district, according to the child's or youth's best interest, shall either continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness in any case in which: 1) a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; and 2) for the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or enroll the child or youth in any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

#### **School Stability**

In determining the best interest of the child or youth, the district homeless student liaison shall:

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- 1) presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth;
- 2) consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth;
- 3) if, after conducting the best interest determination based on consideration of the presumption in clause (1) and the student-centered factors in clause (2), it is determined that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth, provide the child's or youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal such determination; and
- 4) in the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the district homeless student liaison assists in placement or enrollment decisions under this subparagraph, gives priority to the views of

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such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal.

### **Immediate Enrollment**

The school selected shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth:

- 1) is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, records of immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, or other documentation; or
- 2) has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

### **Relevant Academic Records**

The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic and other records.

### **Relevant Health Records**

If the child or youth needs to obtain immunizations or other required health records, the enrolling school shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the child or youth, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth, to the district homeless student liaison, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or screenings, or immunization or other required health records.

### **Records**

Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or other required health records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship

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records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained so that the records involved are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district and in a manner consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. See policies JR through JRD.

### **Enrollment Disputes**

If a dispute arises over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment in a school:

- 1) the child or youth shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought (whether sought by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth), pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals;
- 2) the parent or guardian of the child or youth or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth shall be provided with a written explanation of any decisions related to school selection or enrollment made by the school, the local educational agency, or the State educational agency involved, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to appeal such decisions; and
- 3) the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth shall be referred to the district homeless student liaison, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute.

### **Placement Choice**

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The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.

### **Privacy**

Information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a student education record, and shall not be deemed to be directory information, under policy JRB.

### **Contact Information**

Nothing shall prohibit the district from requiring a parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth to submit contact information.

### **Definition**

The term "school of origin" means the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool.

When the child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the term "school of origin" shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

### **Comparable Services**

Each homeless child or youth shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected, including:

- 1) Transportation services;
- 2) Educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria, such as services provided under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or similar State or

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local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for English learners;

- 3) Programs in career and technical education;
- 4) Programs for gifted and talented students; and
- 5) School nutrition programs.

### **Coordination**

The district shall coordinate the provision of services under these regulations with the Department for Children and Families and other agencies or entities providing services to homeless children and youths and their families, including services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.), and transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities, with other local educational agencies.

### **Housing Assistance**

If applicable, the district shall coordinate with state and local housing agencies responsible for developing the comprehensive housing affordability strategy to minimize educational disruption for children and youths who become homeless.

The coordination required shall be designed to:

- 1) Ensure that all homeless children and youths are promptly identified;
- 2) Ensure that all homeless children and youths have access to, and are in reasonable proximity to, available education and related support services; and

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- 3) Raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness.

### **Homeless Children and Youths With Disabilities**

For children and youths who are both homeless and eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the district shall coordinate the provision of services under these regulations with the provision of programs for children with disabilities served by the district and other involved local educational agencies.

A complaint regarding the placement or education of a homeless child or youth shall first be presented orally and informally to the district's homeless liaison. If the complaint is not promptly resolved, the complainant may present a formal written complaint (grievance) to the homeless liaison. The written complaint must include the following information: date of filing, description of concerns, the name of the person or persons involved and a recapitulation of the action taken during the informal charge stage. Within five (5) working days after receiving the complaint, the liaison shall state a decision in writing to the complainant, with supporting evidence and reasons. In addition, the liaison will inform the superintendent of the formal complaint and the disposition.

### **Services**

Each homeless child or youth shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the district including, but not limited to, transportation services; educational services for which the child meets the

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eligibility criteria, such as educational programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities and gifted and talented students; vocational programs and technical education; school meals programs; preschool programs; before- and after-school care programs; and programs for students with limited English proficiency. Homeless students will not be segregated in a separate school or in a separate program within a school based on the students' status as homeless.

### Transportation (See EDAA, JBC and JGG)

If it is in the best interest of the homeless child or youth to attend the school of origin, transportation to and from that school will be provided at the request of the parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison. If the student's temporary housing is outside the attendance area of the school of origin, then the district will work with the school of origin to agree on a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for transporting the child. If an agreement cannot be reached, the costs will be shared equally.

### Records (See JR and JGCB)

Any records ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records and evaluations for special services or programs of each homeless child or youth shall be maintained so that appropriate services may be given the student, so that necessary referrals can be made and so that records may be transferred in a timely fashion when a homeless child or youth enters a new school district. Copies of records shall be made available upon request to students or parents in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

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### **District Homeless Student Liaison**

The Board designates the following individual to act as the district's homeless liaison: Executive Director of Special Education/Special Services, Robinson Education Center, 2031 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502, Phone (785) 587-2000 and Fax (785) 587-2006. The district shall inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the district homeless liaison. The homeless liaison will ensure that:

1. Homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
2. Homeless children and youths enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools in the district.
3. Homeless families, children and youths receive educational services for which such families, children and youths are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start and preschool programs administered by the district and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and other appropriate services.
4. The parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated where such children and youths receive services, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens.
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law.
7. The parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected.

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8. Unaccompanied youths will be assisted in placement or enrollment decisions, their views will be considered and they will be provided notice of the right to appeal.
9. Children or youths who need to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, will receive assistance.

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