

**STUDENTS****Education of Homeless Children and Youth**

Every child experiencing homelessness is entitled to equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other students. A “homeless individual” is defined as provided in the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. Homeless students shall have access to services comparable to those offered to other students. These services include but are not limited to: educational services for which a child meets eligibility criteria (e.g. Title I); educational programs for children with disabilities and limited English proficiency; programs in vocation and technical education; programs for gifted and talented students; school nutrition programs and transportation. The District must admit and assign to a District school a child who is homeless without delay regardless of legal residence and whether the child experiencing homelessness is able to produce documents normally required for enrollment such as school records or immunization records. The District may not require an out-of-District attendance agreement and tuition for a child experiencing homelessness. The District shall work to eliminate barriers to enrollment and retention, including but not limited to the acceptance and awarding of credit.

The Superintendent will appoint a liaison for homeless youth and shall ensure that special attention is provided to ensure the enrollment and attendance of youth experiencing homelessness.

Complaints or concerns regarding placement or education of youth experiencing homelessness will first be presented orally and informally to the District Homeless Liaison. Thereafter a written complaint may be filed in accordance with the District Uniform Complaint Procedure. Complaints not resolved at the District level may be filed with the Office of Public Instruction.

**Legal References:**

42 U.S.C. § 11431, et seq. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

MCA 20-5-101 Admittance of child to school

10.55.701, ARM Board of Trustees

**Policy History:**

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