

HOMELESS STUDENTS

For purposes of this policy, pursuant to Federal and State Law, homeless children and youth are defined as those who meet any of the following criteria:

- A. Lack of a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;**
- B. Share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons;**
- C. Live in motels, hotels, travel trailer parks, or campsites due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations;**
- D. Live in a FEMA trailer, or emergency or transitional shelter;**
- E. Are abandoned in hospitals;**
- F. Are awaiting for foster care placement;**
- G. Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or**
- H. Live in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.**

Additionally, pursuant to Federal and State law, children or youth who are experiencing homelessness also include migratory children who are living in circumstances described in A-H above.

~~Children and youth who meet the Federal definition of "homeless" and "unaccompanied youth"~~ **Homeless children and youth** will be provided access to a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as all other students of the District, and will have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic standards to which all students are held. The District assures that **To that end,** homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated or isolated on the basis of their status as homeless. **The District will keep homeless students in the school of origin, that is, the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or last enrolled, or will be assigned to the school serving the grade in which the student will be placed in the attendance zone where the child or youth currently resides.**

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
PASCO COUNTY**

STUDENTS
5111.01/page 2 of 4

No Board policy, administrative procedure, or practice will be interpreted or applied in such a way as to inhibit the enrollment, attendance, or school success of homeless children. No homeless student will be denied enrollment based on a lack of proof of residency. Further, the District will assist, to the extent feasible, the parents of homeless students, unaccompanied homeless students, or homeless eligible students in their efforts to provide documentation to meet State and local requirements for entry into school.

~~A homeless child or youth is defined as:~~

- ~~A. one who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;~~
- ~~B. are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;~~
- ~~C. are living in emergency or transitional shelters; abandoned in hospitals; or awaiting foster care placement;~~
- ~~D. have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;~~
- ~~E. are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and~~
- ~~F. are migratory children who qualify for homeless because the children are living in circumstances described in 1) through 6). The term "unaccompanied youth" means a student who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.~~

~~Students experiencing homelessness have the right to enroll and attend either their school of origin, which is the last school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school where the child or youth was last enrolled, or the zoned school for where the student is currently residing. Homeless students will be enrolled immediately.~~

~~No homeless student will be denied enrollment based on residency requirements or lack of documents. No Board policy, administrative procedure, or practice will be interpreted or applied in such a way as to inhibit the enrollment, attendance, or school success of homeless children and youth. Homeless students and their families have the right to dispute school selection, if other than the school of origin, if they so wish.~~

~~Students experiencing homelessness will be provided services that help to identify and eliminate barriers to their enrollment, attendance, and success in school.~~ Homeless students will be provided services comparable to other students in the District including, but not limited to:

A. transportation services;

The District shall provide transportation for homeless students, at the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, to and from the school of origin, including inter-district transportation.

~~B. the ability to participate in programs for gifts and talented students, other Exceptional Student Education (ESE) programs, vocational or technical programs, and all school activities;~~

~~C. participation in free meal programs at school regardless of income;~~

~~D.~~ **B.** educational services for which the homeless student meets eligibility criteria including services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or similar State and local programs, educational programs for children **students with** disabilities, and educational programs for **students with limited** English **proficiency** language learners;

C. programs in vocational and technical education;

D. programs for gifted and talented students; and

E. school nutrition programs.

~~E. before and after school programs.~~

~~Homeless preschool aged children and their families will have access to educational services for which they are eligible, including preschool programs administered by the District.~~

1 **Each school shall post public notice of educational rights of children and youth**
2 **experiencing homelessness.**
3

4 The Superintendent will appoint a Liaison for Homeless Children who will perform
5 the duties as **required by law, as well as additional duties that may be** assigned
6 by the Superintendent. Additionally, the Liaison will coordinate and collaborate
7 with the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth as
8 well as with community and school personnel responsible for the provision of
9 education and related services to homeless children and youth.

10 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.

11 PL 107-110

12 Title X, Part C, Subtitle B, Sections 721-726