

District: DeSoto County School District
Section: J - Students
Policy Code: JQN - Education for Homeless Children and Youth

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

Any child, (ages 5-21), who resides within the boundaries of DeSoto County is eligible to attend school in DeSoto County.

Any child of a homeless individual and each qualifying homeless youth (age 5-21) who resides within the boundaries of DeSoto County will be eligible to attend school in DeSoto County.

A homeless child or a homeless youth is defined as an individual who:

- (1) Lacks a fixed, regular and adequate residence or has a primary night time residence in a supervised publicly or privately-operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- (2) Is temporarily staying with relatives or friends due to caretakers' recent loss of jobs, housing or financing as opposed to living together for cultural or traditional reasons.
- (3) Is an agricultural migrant child who typically does not remain in one location more than two (2) weeks.
- (4) Is a runaway who resides in a special shelter.
- (5) Resides in a domestic abuse shelter.
- (6) Resides on the street or in a tent or vehicle.

Any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained by an Act of Congress or State Law is not homeless or a homeless individual.

The "school of origin" is the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

The "place of abode" includes any of the places indicated in the text above.

(7) Pursuant to and in compliance with the requirements of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1990, 42USC11431, it shall be the policy of this school district, to the extent practicable under requirements relating to education established by state law, that each eligible child of a homeless individual and each eligible homeless youth will have access to a free appropriate education comparable to the education provided the children of district residents who are non-homeless, without isolation or stigma.

(8) The placement of an eligible homeless child or youth will be made according to the Assignment of **Pupils** Policy (JBCCA) and will take into consideration the best interests of the homeless child or youth and placement requests made by a parent.

(9) The choice of placement in either the "school of origin" or the school serving the "place of abode" will take place regardless of whether the child or youth is living with the homeless parent(s) or has been temporarily placed elsewhere by the parent(s).

Provided the homeless child or youth meets eligibility criteria, he/she will be provided transportation services, compensatory education programs for the disadvantaged; educational programs for the handicapped and for students with limited English proficiency; programs in vocational education; programs for the gifted and talented; and school meals programs.

Any and all records ordinarily kept by the school district, including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, evaluations for special services and programs shall be kept on homeless children and youth and shall be forwarded in a timely fashion should a child or youth enter a new school or school district; and in a manner consistent with Section 1232g of Title 20.

Should this school district receive assistance under Section 11432 of the Act, it shall coordinate with local social service agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to such children or youth and their families.

Should this school district receive assistance under Section 11432 of the Act, it shall designate a homeless liaison to ensure that homeless children and youth enroll in and succeed in the schools of their district; and, homeless families, children and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services.

The homeless liaison shall inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the liaison.

This school district has and will continue to review and revise, to the extent practicable under the requirements relating to education established by state law, any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youth in schools selected in accordance with paragraphs with asterisks (*) of this policy.

In reviewing and revising such policies, to the extent practicable under the requirements relating to education established by state law, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, requirements of immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records, or other documentation and guardianship.

(y)

Disputes which may arise regarding the assignment of a homeless child or youth, or regarding any other issues concerning compliance with the Stewart B. McKinney Act or any other matters dealing with the education of homeless children and youth, will be directed to the attention of the Superintendent or his designee for prompt resolution. A review will be made which addresses the issues in the dispute within ten (10) days from the receipt of a written request for resolution from the parent. If the dispute cannot be resolved by the Superintendent or designee, the parent may file a written appeal to the DeSoto County School Board. In the event the dispute cannot be resolved locally, any aggrieved party may make written request for a review of the matter to the Coordinator of the Homeless Program, State Department of Education, P.O. Box 771, Jackson, MS 39205.

Legal Ref: As cited above

Last Review Date: _____
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Adopted Date: 7/1/2008

Approved/Revised Date:

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