**File:  JECAA**

**ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS**

The Board believes that all school-aged students, including homeless students, have a basic right to equal educational opportunities.  Accordingly, the District must enroll each homeless student in the District in the school determined to be in the student’s best interest.  A homeless student is defined as an individual who lacks fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence including:

1.  a "doubling up" or sharing the housing with another family due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;

2.  living in a motel, hotel, trailer park or campground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;

3.  living in emergency or transitional shelters;

4.  abandonment in hospitals;

5.  awaiting foster care placement;

6.  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;

7.  living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings and

8.  migratory students.

In compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the District must make school placement determinations on the basis of the best interest of the student.  To the extent feasible, homeless students are kept in the school of origin unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the student's parent or guardian.

To the extent feasible, the District complies with a request made by a parent(s) regarding school placement regardless of whether the student lives with the homeless parent(s) or is temporarily residing elsewhere.

The Board ensures that:

1.  it reviews and revises Board policies and regulations to eliminate barriers to the enrollment, retention and success in school of homeless students;

2.  the District does not segregate homeless students into separate schools or separate programs within a school, based on the student's status as homeless;

3.  it appoints a District liaison who ensures that homeless students enroll and succeed in school and

4.  homeless students are provided with education, nutrition and transportation services that are at least comparable to the services provided to nonhomeless students.

The liaison ensures compliance with the subgrant and coordinates services for homeless students with local social service agencies and programs, including those funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

ENROLLMENT DISPUTES- If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school-

1. the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;
2. the parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision;
3. the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the District Homeless Liaison who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as described in paragraph as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
4. in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

RESOLUTION PROCESS

1. Should a dispute arise over school selection or enrollment in a school the following procedure is to be followed:
2. The District shall provide the parent or guardian with a written explanation of the school’s decision regarding school selection or enrollment. This will include written notice of their right to appeal the decision.
3. Should the dispute continue the District shall refer the parent or guardian to the District Homeless Liaison who shall review the complaint and issue an opinion in writing to the parent or guardian.
4. Should the dispute continue the District Homeless Liaison shall assist the parties involved in presenting the situation to the Ohio Department of Education homeless education coordinator.
5. The state homeless education coordinator shall recommend a decision for distribution to the parent, local superintendent, and local homeless liaison.
6. Should the dispute continue the final appeal is made to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for review and disposition.

The District complies with the Ohio Department of Education’s plan and State and Federal laws for the education of homeless students.

[Adoption date:  February 28, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.:  The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.

42 USC Sections 11431 et seq.

ORC  [9.60](http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/9.60" \t "_blank) through 9.62

[3313.64](http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3313.64)(F)(13)

OAC [3301-35-02](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3301-35-02); [3301-35-04](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3301-35-04); [3301-35-06](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3301-35-06)

CROSS REFS.:  [AC](http://z2.ctspublish.com/osba/DocViewer.jsp?docid=6&z2collection=libertycenter#JD_AC), Nondiscrimination

[JB](http://z2.ctspublish.com/osba/DocViewer.jsp?docid=316&z2collection=libertycenter#JD_JB), Equal Educational Opportunities