

## **Students**

### **Children Who Are Homeless**

The Orange Board of Education shall make reasonable efforts to identify children who are homeless within the district, and encourage their enrollment in the appropriate district, and eliminate existing barriers to their education which may exist in district policies or practices, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws.

Further, it is the policy of the Orange Board of Education that no child shall be discriminated against or stigmatized in this school district because of homelessness. Students who are homeless, as defined by federal and state statutes, residing within the district or residing in temporary shelters in the district are entitled to the same school privileges offered to students residing in the district.

Students residing in a temporary shelter (for example a shelter for abused women and children) are entitled to free school privileges from the district in which the shelter is located or from the school district where they would otherwise reside if not for their placement in the temporary shelter. The district in which the temporary shelter is located shall notify the district where the student would otherwise be attending. The district so notified may choose to either:

1. continue to provide educational services, including transportation between the temporary shelter and the school in the home district; or
2. pay tuition to the district in which the temporary shelter is located.

Students who are homeless within the district who are not placed in a shelter remain the district's responsibility to provide continued educational services. Such services for the child may be:

1. continued in the school of origin that the student attended when permanently housed or the school of last enrollment; or
2. provided in the school that is attended by other students living in the same attendance area where the child who is homeless lives.

To the extent feasible, a child who is homeless will be kept in the school of origin. Children who are homeless shall be provided educational services that are comparable to those provided to other students enrolled in the District, including but not limited to, Title I, transportation services, compensatory educational programs, gifted and talented, special education, ESL, health services and food and nutrition programs, and preschools operated by the District, if they meet the established criteria for these services.

The Superintendent of Schools shall refer identified children who are homeless under the age of eighteen who may reside within the school district to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families.

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The district administration shall encourage school attendance of children who are homeless:

1. The selected school for the child who is homeless may enroll the child and the last school enrolled shall be contacted to obtain records.
2. Other requirements for enrollment that may constitute an inhibition to the education of the child who is homeless may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent. If the district is unable to determine the student's grade level due to missing or incomplete records, the district shall administer tests or utilize other reasonable means to determine the appropriate grade level for the child.
3. Fees and charges, which may present a challenge to the enrollment or transfer of a child who is homeless, may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent.
4. Transportation services must be comparable to those provided other students in the selected school. Transportation shall be provided to the student's school of origin in compliance with federal and state regulations. If the school of origin is in a different school district from where the child who is homeless is currently living, both school districts shall agree on a method for sharing the responsibility and costs, or share the costs equally.
5. Official school records policies and regulations may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent, in compliance with federal statutes.
6. The district will make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from information available. The District's liaison may assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations and records. The District may arrange for students to receive immunizations through health agencies and at District expense if no other recourse is available. Immunizations may, however, be waived for children who are homeless only in accordance with provisions of Board of Education policy on immunizations.
7. The Board may provide any student who is homeless, who is not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian, full access to his/her educational records, including medical records, that are in the Board's possession.
8. Other challenges to school attendance by children who are homeless may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools.
9. The District will treat information about the living situation of a child who is homeless as a student education record subject to the protections of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The District's educational liaison for children who are homeless is the Director of Special Services. The liaison will assist children who are homeless, as described within the administrative regulations, in the placement/enrollment decisions, strike this and provide notice of appeal under the Act's enrollment disputes provisions. The liaison may also participate in State provided professional development programs for local liaisons.

(cf. 5143 Student Health Assessments and Immunizations)

(cf. 5146 Child Abuse and Neglect)

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-253\(e\)](#) School privileges for children in certain placements, non-resident children and children in temporary shelters.

[17a-101](#) Protection of children from abuse. Reports required of certain professional persons. When child may be removed from surrounding without court order.

[17a-102](#) Report of danger of abuse.

[17a-103](#) Reports by others.

[17a-106](#) Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

[46b-120](#) Definitions.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, (PL 107-110-Sec 1032)

Policy adopted: 2002

Revisions adopted: September 17, 2018, May 12, 2014