

The School District of Neillsville will ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness are provided with equal access to educational programs, have an opportunity to meet the challenging state academic standards, and are not segregated on the basis of their homeless status. They shall be provided services comparable to services offered other students in the district including transportation services, educational services for which the student meets the same eligibility criteria (e.g., special education, Title I, High Potential), career and technical education programs, and school nutrition programs.

No student experiencing homelessness shall be required to attend a separate school or program because of their housing status, with the exception of programs that offer academic support. Furthermore, it is the intent of the district to establish safeguards that protect students experiencing homelessness from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.

The district shall:

- Designate a homeless liaison.
- Identify and immediately enroll any child or youth (preschool to grade 12) experiencing homelessness, even without academic or medical records.
- Continue children or youth in their "school of origin" for the duration of their homelessness.
- Inform parents/guardians of the educational rights of their children.
- Provide transportation, at the request of the parent(s)/guardian(s), to the school of origin.
- Ensure no barriers exist (for example, residency requirements, lack of transportation, or school fees) for full educational participation.
- Develop partnerships with community agencies to identify and assist with basic services for homeless families, children, and youth.
- Ensure homeless students are not segregated or stigmatized.

Initial Adoption: 6/20/22

Final Adoption: 7/11/22

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth (twenty-one years of age and younger) as:

- Children and youth who lack 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 (sometimes referred to as double-up);
 - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative, adequate accommodations;
 - living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - abandoned in hospitals; or
 - awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

When a homeless student enrolls, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be informed of their choice of schools. The student shall be allowed to continue his/her education in the school of origin for the duration of the homelessness, or placed in the school that other children living in the same attendance area attend.
2. The student shall be enrolled immediately, even if records normally required for enrollment are not available.
3. The student shall be placed in an appropriate grade level using the same procedures that are used to place other children. Educational programming and services shall be provided for the student consistent with legal requirements and established district policies and procedures.
4. Once enrolled, homeless students shall have the same rights and privileges as non-homeless students and shall be subject to the same school rules and regulations.

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The parent(s)/guardian(s) or unaccompanied student shall be referred to the district's homeless liaison who will assist the complainant through the local district's dispute resolution process outlined by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). If the dispute cannot be resolved at the district level, the complainant can appeal the district decision to the DPI.
2. The student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.

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HOMELESS STUDENTS

IGBCB

The School District of Neillsville is committed to providing the best education possible for every student in the district.

LEGAL REF: Sections 118.13 Wisconsin Statutes
 118.15
 118.153
 Wisconsin Administrative Code PI-9 and PI-41
 Clark County Ordinances
 Federal Title IX - Education Amendments (1972)
 Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 Federal Civil Rights Act of 1991
 Section 504, Rehabilitation Act (1973)
 Federal NCLB Act of 2001
 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001

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