

MENOMINEE INDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

425 Rule

HOMELESS STUDENTS

1. The term "homeless children and youth" (twenty-one years of age and younger) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship and includes children and youths who are:
 - a. Living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
 - b. Living in emergency or transitional shelters
 - c. Abandoned in hospitals
 - d. Awaiting foster care placement
 - e. Have a nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
 - f. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or similar settings
 - g. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
2. School Placement
 - a. Any parent or guardian who has legal or physical custody of a homeless child or youth shall enroll that child or youth directly in a District school. Once a child or youth is enrolled in and attending a District school, a School Registration form must be completed within a reasonable period of time.
 - b. Parents/guardians may request that their child attend any school in the District and, to the extent feasible, the District will try to comply with these requests. The school selected shall immediately enroll the child or youth, even if the child or youth lacks records normally required for enrollment. Records will immediately be requested from the previous school. If the child/youth needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the enrolling school shall immediately refer the parent/guardian or unaccompanied homeless youth to the Homeless Coordinator, as the local

educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, who is expected to assist in obtaining the necessary immunization or medical records.

- c. Placement of homeless children or youth in a school shall be according to the child's/youth's best interest. In determining the best interests of the child/youth, the District shall:
- Continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years, during an academic year, or for the duration of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year.
 - Enroll the child or youth in any school that non-homeless students, who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living, are eligible to attend.

Once permanent housing is found, the family has a choice to stay in the school of origin or attend the school where they have found housing.

- d. If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The Homeless Coordinator, as the local educational liaison for homeless children and youths, shall carry out the dispute process as expeditiously as possible after receiving the notice of dispute. The parent or guardian of the homeless child or youth, unaccompanied homeless youth, shall be provided with a written explanation of the appealed decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision to the office of Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

3. Programs and Services

Each homeless child or youth shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected. These comparable

services include public Head Start programs and educational programs or services for which a homeless student meets the eligibility criteria, such as programs for students with disabilities, programs for students with limited English proficiency, vocational education, programs for gifted and talented students, before and after school programs, school nutrition programs and transportation. In addition each homeless child or youth should receive free lunch by automatically being enrolled in the federal lunch program.

4. Transportation

- a. The District will provide transportation for homeless children or youth, at the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth, to the school or origin, school attendance area school or school requested for the duration of homelessness.

In the case where the school of origin and current residence are in different school districts, the two districts will agree on a method for transportation and share costs.

If a family chooses to stay in the school or origin after permanent housing has been found, transportation when possible) will be provided for the duration of that school year.

5. Student Discipline

Homeless students are subject to the same school rules as all other students including the District's suspension and expulsion guidelines, except that no homeless student may be suspended or expelled for conduct that occurred as a result of being homeless. The Homeless Coordinator shall consult with building and district administration in cases of proposed disciplinary action to determine whether the conduct is a result of homelessness. The Homeless Coordinator will assist administration and the student's parents or guardians in correcting conduct subject to disciplinary action that is caused by homelessness.

APPROVED: October 15, 2007