

## INSTRUCTION/PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

### **School of Origin**

It is the School District's responsibility to provide continued education services for homeless students. Such services for the child may be:

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

The District considers the best interest of the homeless student, with parental involvement, in determining placement.

### **Enrollment**

The school shall immediately enroll the homeless student even if he or she is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, including academic records, immunization records, proof of residency or other documentation. The District shall make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from information available.

The District shall 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 homeless youth only in accordance with provision of the School Board's policy on immunizations. The District may require a parent or guardian of a homeless student to submit contact information.

### **Transportation**

Transportation services will be comparable to those provided other students in the selected schools. Transportation shall be provided to the student's school of origin in compliance with federal and state regulations.

### **Elimination of Segregated Services**

Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the District including, but not limited to, transportation services; educational services for which the student meets the eligibility criteria, such as education programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities and gifted student; vocational programs and technical education; school nutrition programs; preschool programs; before and after school care programs; and programs for students with limited English proficiency. Homeless students will not be segregated in a separate school or in a separate program within a school based on the students' status as homeless.

### **Elimination of Identified Barriers**

The District administration shall attempt to remove existing barriers to school attendance. Enrollment requirements or fees and charges that may constitute a barrier to the enrollment or education of a homeless child or youth may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent.

**Resolution of Enrollment Disputes**

Disputes regarding enrollment of homeless students shall be referred to the Director of Special Services. Parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth can provide written or oral documentation to support their position. Students shall be provided with all services for which they are eligible while disputes are being resolved.

If a dispute is not resolved at the Director level, the individual may file an appeal with the Superintendent in accordance with Policy KL – Public Complaints. If a dispute is not resolved at the District level, it may be forwarded by the individual to the South Dakota Department of Education for review.

When inter-district disputes arise, the individual, all involved districts, and the South Dakota Department of Education shall be present to resolve the dispute.

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