

CHESTER COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT 24

SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: HOMELESS STUDENTS
ADOPTED: June 15, 2011
REVISED: March 20, 2019

<p>1. Authority SC 1306 Title 22 Sec. 11.18 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq</p> <p>2. Definitions 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11434a</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">251. HOMELESS STUDENTS</p> <p>The Board recognizes the need to promptly identify homeless children and youths, facilitate their immediate admission to Intermediate Unit programs, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state law and regulations and in coordination with participating school districts.[1][2][3]</p> <p>The Board shall ensure that homeless children and youths have equal access to the same Intermediate Unit programs and services provided to other students in participating school districts.[1][2][3][4]</p> <p>The Board authorizes the Executive Director, to waive policies, procedures and administrative regulations that create barriers to the identification, admission, attendance, transportation, school stability and success in school of homeless children and youths.</p> <p>It is the policy of the Board that no student shall be discriminated against, segregated or stigmatized based on his/her homeless status.[5][6]</p> <p>Homeless children and youths are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular and nighttime residence, which include the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship, or a similar reason. 2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations. 3. Living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters. 4. Abandoned in hospitals. 5. Awaiting foster care placement. 6. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
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<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings. 8. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples. 9. Living as run-away children. 10. Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents or caretakers. 11. School-aged parents living in houses for school-aged parents if they have no other available living accommodations. <p>School of origin is defined as the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled , including preschool. When the child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school or origin, the school of origin shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.[6]</p> <p>Unaccompanied youth means a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This includes youth who have run away from home; been abandoned or forced out of home by a parent, guardian or other caretaker; or separated from a parent or guardian for any other reason.[7]</p> <p>The Board designates the Executive Director or designee to serve as the Intermediate Unit's liaison for homeless students and families.</p> <p>The Intermediate Unit's liaison shall coordinate with the participating district's liaison to ensure outreach and coordination with:[6]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local social service agencies and other entities that provide services to homeless children and youths and families. 2. Other school districts on issues of prompt identification, transfer of records, transportation and other inter-district activities. 3. Staff responsible for the provision of services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.[9][10] 4. State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. <p>The Intermediate Unit's liaison shall coordinate with the participating district's liaison to ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents/guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public</p>
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<p>4. Guidelines 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p> <p>SC 1306 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<p>libraries, and soup kitchens. Such notice shall be provided in a manner and form understandable to the parents/guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths.[6]</p> <p>The Intermediate Unit's liaison shall provide reliable, valid and comprehensive data to the Coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.[6]</p> <p>Students shall not be discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless.</p> <p><u>Best Interest Determination</u></p> <p>In determining the best interest of a child or youth, the Intermediate Unit in coordination with the participating school district, shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth.[6] 2. Consider student-centered factors related to impact of mobility on achievement, education, health and safety, giving priority to the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth.[6] 3. If, after such consideration, the Intermediate Unit and participating school district determine that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth, the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination. The explanation shall be in a manner and form understandable to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth and shall include information regarding the right to appeal.[6] <p><u>Placement</u></p> <p>In accordance with the child's or youth's best interest, the participating district shall continue to enroll and the Intermediate Unit shall continue to serve, a homeless student in his/her school of origin while s/he remains homeless and through the end of the academic year in which s/he obtains permanent housing.[6]</p> <p>Parents/Guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in the school or Intermediate Unit program in the attendance area where the student is actually living or other schools.[6]</p> <p>The Intermediate Unit's liaison, in coordination with the participating district's liaison, shall assist an unaccompanied youth in placement or enrollment decisions,</p>
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giving priority to the views of the student in determining where s/he will be enrolled.[6]

The parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of any decision related to school selection or placement, including the right to appeal.[6]

Admission

The Intermediate Unit shall immediately admit the student and begin programs and services, even if:

1. The student is unable to produce records normally required for admission.[3][11][12][13][14][15][16]
2. The application or admission deadline has passed during any period of homelessness.[6]

The Intermediate Unit's liaison, in coordination with the participating district's liaison, shall immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academics or other records.[6][11][12][13][14][15][16]

The Intermediate Unit may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information.[6]

Assignment

If the Intermediate Unit is unable to determine the student's academic level due to missing or incomplete records, the Intermediate Unit shall administer tests or utilize appropriate means to determine the student's assignment to programs and services within the Intermediate Unit.[6]

Dispute Resolution

If a dispute arises:[6]

1. The parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be referred to the Intermediate Unit's liaison, who shall assist in the dispute resolution process.
2. The student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals.
3. The Intermediate Unit's liaison, in coordination with the participating district's liaison, shall issue a written decision of the dispute within twenty (20) business days of being notified of the dispute.

A parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth may appeal the written decision or file a complaint with the Coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program.

<p>SC 1306 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>	<p><u>Services</u></p> <p>Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other students in member school districts, including, but not limited to, transportation services; school nutrition programs; vocational programs and technical education; preschool programs; programs for students with limited English proficiency; and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students.</p> <p><u>Training</u></p> <p>The Intermediate Unit's liaison shall participate in professional development programs and other technical assistance activities offered by the Coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program.[6]</p> <p>The Intermediate Unit's liaison shall arrange professional development programs for Intermediate Unit staff, including office staff.[6]</p> <p>Intermediate Unit personnel providing services to homeless children and youths, including school enrollment staff, shall receive professional development and support to:[6]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve identification of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths; 2. Understand the rights of such children, including requirements for immediate enrollment and transportation; and 3. Heighten the awareness of, and capacity to respond to, the educational needs of such children. <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1306</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.18, 403.1</p> <p>McKinney-Vento Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.</p> <p>Education For Homeless Children – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq.</p> <p>Family Educational Rights and Privacy, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR Part 99</p> <p>Guidelines for Enrollment of Homeless Children – Federal Register, 67 Fed. Reg. 10698</p>
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PA Education for Homeless Children and Youth State Plan

Board Policy – 000, 201, 203, 204, 209, 216, 810

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 1306](#)

[2. 22 PA Code 11.18](#)

[3. 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq](#)

[4. 34 CFR 299.19](#)

[5. 42 U.S.C. 11431](#)

[6. 42 U.S.C. 11432](#)

[7. 42 U.S.C. 11434a](#)

[8. 34 CFR 200.30](#)

9. Pol. 113

10. Pol. 103.1

11. Pol. 113.4

12. Pol. 216

13. Pol. 201

14. Pol. 203

15. Pol. 209

16. Pol. 204

17. Pol. 146

18. Pol. 810

19. Pol. 808

20. Pol. 115

21. Pol. 138

22. Pol. 114

[22 PA Code 403.1](#)

[20 U.S.C. 1232g](#)

[20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq](#)

[34 CFR Part 99](#)

[67 Fed. Reg. 10698](#)

PA Education for Homeless Children and Youth State Plan

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July 20, 2016

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