

HOMELESS CHILDREN

If a student who meets the definition of homeless, the school principal or counselor should complete the referral form and send it to the District At-Risk Coordinator who serves as the Homeless Education Liaison.

The Homeless Education Liaison will respond to the referring school/agency to assist in developing an action plan to provide the student with a free appropriate public education. The liaison will assist children to obtain necessary immunizations or obtain medical records. Referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services will be handled by the liaison. Transportation concerns will be addressed by the school liaison.

In determining whether a child or youth is homeless, the relative permanence of the living arrangements should be considered. Determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis. In general, children or youth living in welfare hotels, transitional housing shelters, the streets, cars, abandoned buildings, and other inadequate accommodations will be considered homeless. The following situations will be considered when providing services:

Children and Youth in Transitional or Emergency Shelters

If children or youth are placed in a transitional or emergency shelter because there is nowhere else to send them, and they are awaiting placement in a foster home or a home for neglected children, they will be considered homeless while in the emergency or transition shelter. Once placed in a foster home, or a home for neglected children or youth, they will no longer be considered homeless.

Children and Youth Living in Trailer Parks and Camping Grounds

Children and youth staying temporarily in trailer parks or campgrounds because they lack adequate living accommodations will be considered homeless. Those living in trailer parks or camp areas on a long-term basis in adequate accommodations will be considered for homelessness.

Doubled-Up Children and Youth

Children and youth who are living in "doubled-up" accommodations, that is, are sharing housing with other families or individuals, will be considered homeless if they are doubled-up because of a loss of housing or other similar situation. Families living in doubled-up accommodations voluntarily to save money will be considered for homelessness.

Foster Children and Youth

In general, children and youth in foster homes will not be considered homeless. Many foster children are in the care of a public agency, awaiting placement in more permanent situations. The foster home, although temporary, serves as a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. Children placed in foster homes for lack of shelter space, however, will be considered homeless.

Incarcerated Children and Youth

Children and youth that are incarcerated for violation or alleged violation of a law will not be considered homeless even if prior to their incarceration they would have been considered homeless because they were living in inadequate accommodations. Children and youth that are under care of the state and are being held in an institution because they have no other place to live will be considered homeless. Once these children are placed in more permanent facilities, they will no longer be considered homeless.

Migratory Children and Youth

Migratory children will not be considered homeless simply because they are children of migratory families. To the extent that migratory children are staying in accommodations not fit for habitation, they will be considered homeless.

HOMELESS CHILDREN**Unaccompanied Youth**

Children or youth who are unaccompanied and/or live in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, the street or other inadequate accommodations will be considered homeless.

Sick or Abandoned Children and Youth

There are instances where children and youth remain in a hospital beyond the time that they would normally stay for health reasons because their families have abandoned them. These children and youth will be considered homeless because they have no other place to live. Children and youth that were homeless prior to hospitalization will be considered to be homeless while they are in the hospital, unless regular and adequate living accommodations will be made available to them upon release from the hospital.

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