

**ENROLLMENT OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND
CHILDREN OF RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT PARENTS**

A. General Policy:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and approval of the Board of Education, and when space and other facilities are available, a non-resident pupil may attend the District's schools by paying the current state-established tuition rate and providing his/her own transportation. Permission for enrollment on a tuition basis will be granted only after parental conference with the Superintendent or designee and establishment of need. This privilege may be revoked if the student fails to follow the established rules and regulations.

B. Determination of Status:

It shall be the responsibility of each school principal to refer all students with non-resident parents, or where there is any question of residency, to the Superintendent of Schools for a decision as to his/her status as soon as it is known. The Board of Education reserves the right to review requests for admission of tuition students on a case-by-case basis. Any nonresident student who is under suspension or expulsion from another school system must appear for a hearing in accordance with O.R.C. §3313.66 before a decision will be made regarding his/her admission for the duration of the suspension or expulsion.

C. Eligibility for Enrollment:

Students shall be eligible for enrollment in accordance with O.R.C. §3313.64 and O.R.C. §3301.60 if the student is a child in a military family as defined in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

D. Homeless Students

The Board will comply with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 (the "McKinney-Vento Act") providing for a free, appropriate education, including public preschool, to each homeless child or youth.

1. The McKinney-Vento Act defines "homeless children and youth" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes -
 - a. Children and youth who are:
 - (1) Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as *doubled-up*);
 - (2) Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;

- (3) Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - (4) Abandoned in hospitals; or
 - (5) Awaiting foster care placement.
- b. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
 - c. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - d. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

2. Specific Duties of the Board:

The Board shall ensure that homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the Board is responsible for fulfilling the following duties to homeless children and youths:

- a. According to the child's best interest, continuing the child's education in the school of origin unless contrary to the wishes of the child or child's parent or guardian;
- b. Providing for the immediate enrollment of a homeless child and the maintenance of student records for the child;
- c. Providing services comparable to what other students receive in the areas of transportation, Title I programs, children with disabilities, limited English proficiency, vocational and technical education, gifted and talented education, and school nutrition;
- d. Coordinating services to homeless children with other school districts, local social service agencies, and programs that assist homeless children and youth and their families;
- e. Establishing a local liaison for homeless children and youth; and
- f. Reviewing and revising policies to ensure that no policies act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths.

3. District Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth:

The liaison for homeless children and youth is the Coordinator of Related Student Services. The liaison is responsible for ensuring that:

- a. Homeless children are identified by District personnel and other agencies;
- b. Homeless children are enrolled in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in District schools;
- c. Homeless children and their families receive educational services for which they are eligible and referrals for other appropriate services including health care, dental, and mental health;
- d. Parents or guardians of homeless children are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and a meaningful opportunity to participate in educational opportunities;
- e. The liaison provides assistance to an unaccompanied youth with placement or enrollment decisions, considers their views, and notifies the unaccompanied youth of the right to appeal such decisions;
- f. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is provided to areas where such children receive services, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;
- g. Parents or guardians of homeless children are fully informed of and assisted with accessing transportation services available to the child, including transportation to the child's school of origin; and
- h. Disputes over enrollment decisions are resolved as quickly as possible after receiving notice of the dispute.

4. Procedure for Enrollment Decisions and Dispute Resolution:

If the Superintendent or designee determines that the best interest of the child requires the child to be enrolled in a school other than the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall provide a written explanation to the child's parent or guardian, including the right to appeal such determination to the liaison.

The liaison shall inform the parent or guardian that they can provide written or oral documentation to support their position. The liaison shall review the issue and documentation and issue a decision in writing to the parent or guardian.

If the dispute is not resolved, the liaison shall refer the dispute to the Ohio Department of Education Homeless Consultant for the purpose of utilizing the resolution process on the state level.

E. Foreign Exchange Students

A non-immigrant student may be admitted into the United States in non-immigrant status under Section 101(a)(15)(F) of the Act, if

1. The student presents a SEVIS Form I-20 issued in his or her own name by a school approved by the Service for attendance by F-1 foreign students;
2. The student has documentary evidence of financial support in the amount indicated on the SEVIS Form I-20;
3. For students seeking initial admission only, the student intends to attend the school specified in the student's visa (or, where the student is exempt from the requirement for a visa, the school indicated on the SEVIS Form I-20 (or the Form I-20A-B/I-20ID); and
4. In the case of a student who intends to study at a public secondary school, the student has demonstrated that he or she has reimbursed the local educational agency that administers the school for the full, unsubsidized per capita cost of providing education at the school for the period of the student's attendance.
5. The number of students can be reasonably accommodated within class size perimeters.
6. The student, while attending the district, must reside with a host family whose residence is within the district. The host families and students must be identified prior to acceptance in the program. Preference will be given to students applying through the AFS program due to their adherence to these guidelines.
7. The sponsoring organization, endorsed by the United States Information Agency, will be expected to adhere to guidelines which enable the student to acquire the necessary visa.
8. The sponsoring organization shall be responsible for the selection of the host family(s) and shall document, prior to enrollment, that a host family has been established.
9. The request for student acceptance, and the transcript of the applicant's records, must be received prior to August 1st preceding the school year for which admission is being sought. Attendance for the full academic year will be considered as an optimum arrangement.

10. The applicant will be required to have reading, writing, and speaking proficiency in the English language. The district will determine by an evaluation of the student's qualification whether the student has sufficient scholastic preparation to enable the student to undertake a full course of study.
11. Arrangement between the sponsoring organization, the student's parents, and the student must clearly delineate the sponsoring organization's rules as well as costs and refund policies and must be submitted at the time of enrollment. The district shall provide copies of the student handbook which shall be a part of such agreements.
12. The Coordinator of Related Student Services shall send written acceptance of the student to the sponsoring organization and the student by the date agreed upon by the sponsor and the district.
13. The principal shall designate a member of the faculty or school administration as the student's advisor during his/her stay at the school. The advisor shall serve as the liaison between the school and host family, school and sponsor, student and student body, and the school and community.

A request for considering the acceptance of a student as part of the foreign exchange program is to be directed to the Coordinator of Related Student Services.

LEGAL REFS: O.R.C. §§3301.60, 3313.64
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11421 *et seq.*

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