

CLASS 2 LEGAL NOTICE
FOND DU LAC SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

HOMELESS STUDENTS - EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Children of homeless individuals and unaccompanied homeless youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian) who are actually living in the District, or who were enrolled in the District when they became homeless, shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including comparable services, as provided to other children and youth who reside in the District. The Superintendent shall designate an employee to be the District's liaison for homeless children and youth, who will be responsible for administration of this policy.

The District will consider a child or youth to be homeless under the following circumstances, or similar circumstances:

1. Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or other similar reason; or are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations; or are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals; or are waiting for foster care placement;
2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or
4. Migratory children.

Such children or youth shall be allowed to attend any appropriate public school within the District which non-homeless students attend who live in the area of attendance in which the child or youth actually lives. Alternatively, the child or youth may remain enrolled in the school within the District, where the student was enrolled prior to becoming homeless (the child's "school of origin"). Homeless children and youth shall not be required to attend a separate school or program for homeless children and shall not be stigmatized by school personnel. In accordance with the child's best interest, the District will enroll the child either in his or her school of origin or in the school in the attendance area where the child or youth is actually living. When making this decision, the District will document this decision in writing and notify the parents of their right to appeal this decision to the Department of Public Instruction.

In addition, the liaison for homeless children and youth shall be responsible for creating a coordinated system for ensuring that all homeless children and youth are:

- (1) advised of the choice of schools where they may enroll;
- (2) are immediately enrolled in a school in accordance with this policy; and
- (3) are promptly given all additional services which they may need. In addition, the liaison for homeless children and youth must document that each homeless child or youth, and his or her guardian, receives written notice of their rights in accordance with state and federal law.

This notice must be given at the time a homeless child or youth seeks to enroll in the District, and at least twice annually while the child is enrolled in a District school pursuant to this policy.

In addition, the liaison is responsible for publicly disseminating a notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth in such places where homeless children and youth receive services, such as family shelters, soup kitchens, and schools.

Legal References: 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et. seq.