
AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Adopted September 2007
Revised December 2015
Reviewed February 2016
Revised April 2018

APS Code: JFABD

HOMELESS STUDENTS

It is the intent of the Board to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth in school in accordance with state and federal law. Aurora Public Schools shall take reasonable steps to ensure that homeless students are not segregated or stigmatized and that decisions are made in the best interests of the student.

Terms used in this policy and its accompanying regulation, such as “homeless children and youth” “unaccompanied youth,” “school of origin,” “enrollment,” and “attendance area school” shall be as defined by McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and its implementing regulations. For purposes of this policy and its accompanying regulation, “homeless students” shall refer to “homeless children and youth.”

Each homeless student shall have access to and shall be provided education service for which the student is eligible, comparable to services provided to other students in the school, regardless of residence, including summer school, vocational and technical education programs, gifted education programs, and school nutrition programs. Transportation services for homeless students shall be provided in accordance with applicable law.

Homeless students shall be provided access to education and other services they need to ensure they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held. All educational decisions shall be made in the best interests of the student.

Aurora Public Schools shall coordinate with other districts and with local social service agencies and other agencies and programs to provide services to homeless students as needed.

At least one staff member shall be designated to serve as the local liaison and shall fulfill the duties required of the position as set forth in state and federal law. The district shall provide training and other technical assistance to the local liaison(s) and other appropriate district staff regarding the district’s obligations to homeless students.

Duties of the local liaison and procedures for identification, enrollment, transportation and dispute resolution for homeless students shall be made in accordance with the accompanying regulation and applicable law.

AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Adopted September 2007
Revised December 2015
Reviewed February 2016
Revised April 2018

APS Code: JFABD

HOMELESS STUDENTS

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
20 U.S.C. 6313(C)(3) (reservation of Title I funding for homeless children and youths)
42 U.S.C. §11431 *et seq.* (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act – Education for Homeless Children and Youth)
C.R.S. 22-1-102.5 (definition of homeless child)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(dd) (duty to adopt/revise policies to remove barriers to access and success in schools for homeless children)
C.R.S. 22-33-103.5 (attendance of homeless children)
C.R.S. 26-5.7-101 *et seq.* (Homeless Youth Act)

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Page 1 of 3

Local Liaison

The local liaison(s) shall work to identify homeless children and youth and facilitate each homeless student's access to and success in school.

The primary functions of the local liaison shall be to mediate disputes concerning school enrollment, assist in making transportation arrangements, assist in requesting the student's records from previous schools, provide information and give referrals on services and opportunities, and assist any unaccompanied with enrollment, credit accrual and college readiness decisions.

Unaccompanied youth are defined as students or youth on their own who lack a fixed, adequate and regular primary nighttime residence.

Enrollment and school stability

Enrollment shall be immediate even if the homeless student lacks records routinely required prior to enrollment or has missed application or enrollment deadlines. The district shall make arrangements to obtain any necessary records and to have the student receive any necessary immunizations. When feasible the District shall seek immunization through no- or low-cost health care providers. If an expense is incurred, the district shall seek reimbursement through Medicaid if possible.

Students identified as being homeless are immediately eligible for free lunch status. Preschool aged students are identified as being homeless during the preschool screening process on a risk-factor intake form and are given immediate eligibility in the District's preschool program. Each homeless student shall be provided services for which the student is eligible, comparable to services provided to other students in the school, regardless of residence, including, but NOT HERE not limited to:

- Tutoring or afterschool enrichment services
- Title I Part A services of ESEA
- Student support services
- Accrued credits counseling services

If a homeless student becomes permanently housed outside Aurora Public Schools during the school year, the student shall no longer be considered homeless and may only continue enrollment in the District for the remainder of the school year.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Page 2 of 3

Tuition

A student defined in state and federal law as a homeless child or youth shall be admitted into Aurora Public Schools without payment of tuition.

Enrollment Determination

In making enrollment determinations, the local liaison shall consider relevant factors, including but not limited to:

- the best interest of the homeless student;
- to the extent feasible, keeping the homeless student in the school of origin;
- the wishes of the student and the student's parent or guardian;
- which school can best meet the student's educational and other needs; and
- the student's transportation needs related to the school options.

Dispute resolution

When a dispute arises over eligibility, school selection or enrollment, the district shall provide a written explanation of the district's decision and of the right to appeal, in a manner and form understandable to the student's parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth. The homeless student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth seeks to enroll, pending resolution of the dispute.

The local liaison shall attempt to resolve the dispute as expeditiously as possible. If the local liaison is unable to resolve it, the district shall follow the Colorado Department of Education's McKinney-Vento homeless education dispute resolution procedure.

Transportation

Subsequent to a determination that the student shall attend a school in Aurora Public Schools, a request for transportation may be made by the unaccompanied youth or the student's parent/guardian.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Page 3 of 3

If the student is located within the Aurora District attendance area, the district shall provide or arrange for the student's transportation to and from school in accordance with District transportation policies.

If the student is located outside of the Aurora Public Schools attendance area, but a determination has been made that the student shall remain in the school of origin within Aurora Public Schools, Aurora Public Schools and the District where the student is located shall agree on a method to apportion the cost and take responsibility for the student's transportation or share the cost and responsibility equally.