JLG INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

The Board of Education shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the School District, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate barriers to their education which may exist in District policies or practices, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws.

Homeless students, as defined by federal and state statutes, residing within the District or residing in temporary shelters in the District, are entitled to free school privileges. No child or youth in the public schools shall be discriminated against or stigmatized because of homelessness.

School of Origin

It is the School District's responsibility to provide continued education services for homeless students. Such services for the child may be:

- continuation in the school of origin that the student attended when permanently housed or the school of last enrollment; or
- provided in the school that is attended by other students living in the same attendance area where the homeless child lives.

The District considers the best interest of the homeless student, with parental involvement, in determining placement.

Enrollment

The school shall immediately enroll the homeless student even if he or she is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, including academic records, immunization records, proof of residency or other documentation. The District shall make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from information available. The District shall arrange for students to receive immunizations through health agencies and at District expense if no other recourse is available. Immunizations may, however, be waived for homeless youth only in accordance with provision of the School Board's policy on immunization. The District may require a parent or guardian of a homeless student to submit contact information.

Transportation

Transportation services will be comparable to those provided other students in the selected schools. Transportation shall be provided to the student's school of origin in compliance with federal and state regulations.

Elimination of Segregated Services

Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the District including, but not limited to, transportation services; educational services for which the student meets the eligible criteria, such as education programs for disadvantaged students; students with disabilities and gifted students; vocational programs and technical education; school nutrition programs; preschool programs; before and after school care programs; and programs for students with limited English proficiency. Homeless students will not be

segregated in a separate school or in a separate program within a school based on the student's status as homeless.

Elimination of Identified Barriers

The District administration shall attempt to remove existing barriers to school attendance. Enrollment requirements or fees and charges that may constitute a barrier to the enrollment or education of a homeless child or youth may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Resolution of Enrollment Disputes

Disputes regarding enrollment of homeless students shall be referred to the Special Education Director. Parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth can provide written or oral documentation to support their position. Students shall be provided with all services for which they are eligible while disputes are being resolved.

If a dispute is not resolved at the Director level, the individual may file an appeal with the Superintendent in accordance with Policy KE. If a dispute is not resolved at the District level, it may be forwarded by the individual to the South Dakota Department of Education for review.

When inter-district disputes arise, the individual, all involved districts and the South Dakota Department of Education shall be present to resolve the dispute.

LEGAL REFS.:

ADOPTED: 11-2008
AMENDED:
REVIEWED: