

School District of Black River Falls

School Board Policy 411.1

Families in Transition

Students experiencing homelessness residing in the School District of Black River Falls, shall have equal access to the public school educational programs and services that allow them to meet the same challenging state academic standards to which all students are held, including transportation services, educational services for which the student meets eligibility criteria (e.g., special education, Title I programming, programs and services for English Learners), gifted and talented programming, career and technical education programs, and school nutrition programs. Homeless students and youth shall not be required to attend a separate school or program for homeless students and shall not be stigmatized by school personnel.

Under McKinney-Vento, the definition of “homeless” includes individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes, but is not limited to, youth and unaccompanied youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Living in motels/hotels or campgrounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Unsheltered, living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus stations, or similar settings not designed for humans to live.

Migratory students and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above criteria.

The Director of Pupil Services has primary administrative-level oversight of the District’s services for homeless youth. They shall be responsible for (1) providing any required assurances to applicable state and federal agencies that the District is complying with applicable state and federal requirements related to the education of homeless youth; and (2) reasonably monitoring compliance with such assurances.

The School Social Worker shall serve as Black River Falls School District’s Homeless Liaison. They will work with administrators and other District personnel to periodically review existing policies, procedures, practices, and data to identify and develop proposals to remedy and remove barriers that homeless children and youths may face in the school enrollment and admission processes, in regularly attending school, in accessing applicable support services, in accessing academic programs, academic activities, or extracurricular activities, or in receiving appropriate credit for prior academic work.

The Homeless Liaison shall ensure that:

- Students experiencing homelessness are identified by school personnel and through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies. Special attention will be given to the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths who are not currently attending school.
- Students experiencing homelessness are enrolled in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in schools in the district.
- Students experiencing homelessness receive educational services for which they are eligible, including services through Head Start, early intervention services under laws applicable to students with disabilities, and other preschool programs.
- Families experiencing homelessness receive referrals to other appropriate services (e.g., health care services, dental health services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services).
- Families experiencing homelessness are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to them and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their student.
- Public notice of the educational rights of youth experiencing homelessness is disseminated throughout the community in locations frequented by families of such youth and unaccompanied youth. The notice shall be disseminated in a manner and form understandable to the family of youth experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth.
- There is compliance with all policies and procedures and mediates enrollment disputes.
- The family is informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin.
- School personnel providing services to youth experiencing homelessness receive professional development and other support. The Homeless Liaison will also receive and participate in professional development and other support activities as required by the Department of Public Instruction, the District, and federal law.
- Ensures the coordination of services between the district and community resources.
- Assistance is provided to students who do not have immunizations or immunization medical records to obtain them.
- Students are not segregated on the basis of their living situation.
- There is support for academic success, including credit accrual and transition to higher education.
- Policies and procedures are kept up to date with changes to the McKinney-Vento Act.

LEGAL REF.: Section 118.13 Wisconsin Statutes
PI 1, Wisconsin Administrative Code
Title I Part A ESSA
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act

CROSS REF.: 411- Policy & Rule, Student Non Discrimination

112, Nondiscrimination in District and District Programs, Activities, and
Operations

APPROVED: May 16, 2022