

SERIES 300 - INSTRUCTION

Educational Programs - 340

Education of Homeless Children & Youths (343.8)

It is the policy of the Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton Board of Education to ensure that homeless children and youths are provided with equal access to its educational programs as provided to other children who reside in the school district. Homeless children and youths will be provided services comparable to the services offered to other children attending the Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton School District. Examples of school district services are:

- Transportation
- Special Education
- Title Programming
- ESL/Bilingual Programming
- Gifted and Talented Programming
- School Nutrition Programs
- Co-curricular Participation
- School Health Services
- Participation in the CLC Program

The term “homeless children and youths” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. It includes children and youths who:

- A. Are temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- B. Are living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to lack of alternate adequate accommodations.
- C. Are living in emergency shelters.
- D. Are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
- E. Have a nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, substandard housing or similar settings.
- F. Runaway children or children who are abandoned.
- G. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings or similar settings.

Migratory children and youth not in the physical custody of the parent or guardian may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition.

School district administration will be the Local Education Agency Liaison for homeless children and youths and will ensure that:

School Board Policy 343.8 (Continued)

- A. Homeless children and youths residing in the school district are identified by school personnel.
- B. Homeless children and youths enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in school in the district.
- C. Homeless families, children and youths receive educational services for which they are eligible and referrals to other appropriate services.
- D. The parent/guardian of a homeless child or any child not under the physical custody of a parent/guardian is informed of the educational and related opportunities available to them and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of the child/youth.
- E. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with legal requirements.
- F. The parent/guardian of a homeless child or any child not under the physical custody of a parent/guardian is fully aware and informed of transportation services that may be available to them under the law and assist them in accessing such transportation services.

The Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton School District will post this policy annually in accordance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2016.

Legal References: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
 Every Students Succeeds Act of 2016
 Wisconsin Statute 118.75

Adopted: 7/11/2016