

## Laurens County BOE Homeless Policy

### Policy

Descriptor Code: JBC(1)

### Homeless Students



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In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the school district will work with homeless children and youths and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths not currently attending school in a manner that will not stigmatize or segregate them on the basis of their status as homeless. Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, educational programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs and school nutrition programs.

Every child of a homeless individual and every homeless child are entitled to equal access to the same free, appropriate public education and transportation as provided to other students. The district will assign and admit a child who is homeless to a district school regardless of residence or whether the homeless child is able to produce records normally required for enrollment.

The Superintendent will review and revise as necessary rules or procedures that may be barriers to enrollment of homeless children and youths. In reviewing and revising such procedures, the Superintendent will consider issues of transportation, immunization, residence, birth certificates, school records and other documentation.

The Superintendent will appoint a liaison for homeless children.

A "homeless child" is defined as provided in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Anyone having a concern or complaint regarding placement or education of a homeless child or youth may initiate the resolution process directly at the the principal's office of the school in which enrollment is sought or at the district homeless liaison's office, either of which shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. If the dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the child or youth shall be enrolled immediately in the school in which he/she is seeking admission, pending resolution of the dispute. Decisions at the school level may be appealed to the homeless liaison, whose decisions may be appealed to the Board. If the dispute remains unresolved at the district level, the parent may request a review of the dispute and the Board's decision by the Georgia Department of Education, in accordance with Dispute Resolution Guidelines and

Procedures included in the Georgia Department of Education's publication "Implementing Title I in Georgia Schools: A Handbook for Title I Directors", which is available on the Department's web site.

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Laurens County Schools

Date Adopted: 2/14/2008

**Policy Reference Disclaimer:** These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

### **LEA Procedure for Providing Awareness & Contact Information**

The Laurens County School System has identified a homeless liaison who collaborates with DFACS, Laurens County Family Connection, Migrant Education contacts, Laurens County Sheriff's office, other local agencies, and faith-based organizations to monitor mobility/identification and needs of the homeless population.

Contact information and posters are placed in local businesses (grocery store, markets, Laundromat, etc.) and public buildings.