

## **248 HOMELESS CHILDREN**

Within seven (7) working days after receiving the name and location of a child who is homeless, who is not enrolled in school, and who meets the age requirements of NRS 392.040 Oasis Academy shall either enroll the student, if space is available, or notify the local school district of the child's situation so that the district can enroll the student.

If a homeless child is enrolled in Oasis Academy, that school shall provide the homeless child with education and services that are provided to the other pupils within the school. In addition special efforts will be made to see that homeless children are provided opportunities to achieve the same high quality academic standards expected of all children enrolled in Oasis Academy.

### **DEFINITION OF HOMELESS**

The term "homeless" or "homeless individual" includes:

1. An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence;
2. An individual who has primary nighttime residence in a supervised, publicly or privately operated shelter for the accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
3. An individual who sleeps in a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (e.g., cars, parks, motels);
4. Children living with a parent in a domestic violence shelter;
5. An individual who is, out of necessity, living with relatives or friends due to lack of housing; and
6. Runaway children (under 18 years of age) and children and youths who have been abandoned or forced out of the home by parents or other caretakers, or such youth (between 1 and 20 years of age) who may still be eligible for educational services who:
  - a. Temporarily reside in shelters awaiting assistance from social service agencies;
  - b. Lives alone on the street or move from place to place between family members, friends, or acquaintances; and
  - c. Children of migrant families who lack adequate housing.

### **HOMELESS STUDENT ADVOCATE**

The administrator shall be, or shall designate a staff member to be, the school's Homeless Student Advocate. The school's Homeless Student Advocate will work with the sponsor in order to ease barriers to school enrollment and provide school success for homeless children in the school.

## SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

Schools will comply with the following procedures for enrolling children in transition:

1. Birth certificates or other documents suitable as proof of identity, immunization documentation, and previous school records may not be readily available from homeless children new to the area. Only immunization documentation is needed to enroll a child in transition, but if documents suitable as proof of identity have not been provided by the parents and cannot be obtained by the school within 30 days, the school must (NRS 392.165) notify the local law enforcement agency and request a determination as to whether the child has been reported as missing. If immunizations or documents proving identity are not readily available the following steps should be taken.
  - a. Families should be referred to the school's nurse if immunization is not current. The previous school may fax a copy of current immunizations.
  - b. The school can find certified copies of birth certificates at the State Vital Records Department. That department can supply addresses for out-of-state offices of vital records.
2. By definition, homeless individuals lack a permanent address. A permanent address is not required for school enrollment. If no address exists (e.g., living in an automobile), attempt to secure a name, phone number, and address for emergency notification.
3. To the extent feasible, a homeless student who has moved from one school area to another may continue to attend his or her original school for the remainder of the school year, even if the student has moved into permanent housing. Homeless Liaison will work with schools to facilitate transportation if possible.
4. When a homeless child is admitted to a school, the school site advocate, teacher(s), counselor, and nurse will be notified.
5. For homeless children, registration forms should be processed so that the children may begin school immediately.

## SCHOOL WITHDRAWAL AND TRACKING

If a transfer is necessitated and the new school is known at the time of withdrawal, the new school will be contacted to advise that school of the transfer in progress and when to expect the new student.

When a homeless child is absent for unknown reasons the school will contact the family, shelter manager, or call the emergency contact number.

The school nurse at the receiving school will be notified of any homeless child with special health care needs.

## HEALTH SERVICES

Every effort should be made to reduce duplication of health services. Dates for immunization and boosters should be diligently sought and made available to schools in a timely manner.

All homeless students should be tracked so those enrollment barriers due to a lack of medical records and issues related to communicable diseases may be alleviated. This also will help ensure that needed health services are provided, but not duplicated.

## PERSONAL ADJUSTMENT

Issues related to personal adjustments are a responsibility of all who come in regular contact with the homeless student including the student's teacher and school Homeless Student Advocate. To this end, the schools should develop and implement strategies to meet homeless students' adjustment personal adjustment needs. The school should also reach out to parents of homeless children.

## ASSESSMENT AND SPECIAL SERVICES

Depending on previous educational history and documentation, administer (within the first week of school) a quick educational screening.

If special education services appear to be needed expedite the administration of additional assessments.

## COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

All school personnel who interact with homeless children or who have responsibilities for services appropriate to the needs of homeless children will:

1. Coordinate and collaborate with community agencies providing basic nutritional, health, and social services to homeless children and their families; and
2. Work as advocates on behalf of homeless children and youth to make education relevant for all homeless children.

Teachers will communicate school supply needs and other concerns regarding homeless children to their administrator and Homeless Student Advocate.

## Legal References:

Stewart B. McKinney Act, Section 103[a] [1] [2]  
NRS 385.080  
NAC 392.205  
NAC 392.225