



Book	POLICY MANUAL
Section	400 STUDENTS
Title	Education of Children and Youths Who are Homeless
Code	411.2 AR
Status	Active
Adopted	June 11, 2024
Last Reviewed	July 8, 2024

A. Admission and Placement of Child or Youth Who are Homeless

When child or youth who is homeless seeks enrollment in the District, these procedures shall be followed:

1. The homeless child's parent or guardian, or any unaccompanied homeless youth, shall be advised of their choice of schools. The homeless child/youth shall be allowed to either continue their education in the school of origin for the duration of the homelessness and until the end of the school year in which the child or youth becomes permanently housed, or be placed in the school that similarly situated non-homeless children/youths living in the District are eligible to attend. "School of origin" means the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool. When the child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the term "school of origin" shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

School Selection decisions shall be made based on the best interest of the homeless child/ youth. In determining the best interest of the child/youth the District shall:

- a. Presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.
- b. Consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of the homeless child/ youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.

If the District assigns a homeless child to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth, the District shall provide the child's parent or legal guardian for unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reason for its determination, including information regarding the right to appeal the school selection or enrollment decision. School selection or enrollment disputes shall be handled as outlined in Section B below in the Rule.

2. The homeless child/youth shall be immediately enrolled in the assigned school. This must be done even if the child/youth is:
 - a. Unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization or other health records, proof of residency or other documentation, or
 - b. Has missed application or enrollment deadlines during periods of homelessness. The District shall immediately contact the school last attended by the child/youth to obtain relevant academic and other records. If the child/youth needs to obtain immunizations or screening, or immunization or other health records, the District, being the enrolling school, shall immediately refer the parent or guardian or unaccompanied homeless youth to the District's liaison for homeless children or youths, who will assist in obtaining the necessary records.
3. The homeless child/youth shall be placed in an appropriate grade level by the building principal or designee, using the same procedures that are used for placing non-homeless children and youths attending the District. Educational

programming and services shall be provided for the child/youth consistent with legal requirements and established District policies and procedures.

4. Upon a determination of school placement, the District shall evaluate the transportation arrangements for the homeless child/youth in light of applicable legal requirements. If it is determined to be in the best interest of the child or youth to continue to be enrolled in their school of origin and transportation is requested by the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied homeless youth, the liaison for homeless children and youths), transportation will be provided to and from the school of origin until the end of the school year during which the child or youth becomes permanently housed.
5. Once enrolled, homeless children/youths shall have all the rights and privileges of non-homeless children attending school in the District and shall be subject to the same school rules and regulations.

B. Eligibility, School Selection or Enrollment Disputes

1. If a dispute arises over eligibility, or school selection or enrollment in a school, the District liaison for homeless children and youths shall be contacted and shall attempt to resolve the dispute as expeditiously as possible. The parent(s) or guardian or homeless youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the West Bend School District's decision on the dispute and a notice of the right to appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Appeals involving homeless issues shall be filed and processed in accordance with the complaint resolution process outlined in Chapter PI 1 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
2. The homeless child or youth shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which the enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals.