It is the policy of the Board that homeless children and youth have access to the academic resources, services and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils. Homeless students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless, nor shall homeless students be stigmatized in any way.

Homeless students shall have access to educational opportunities and other services, including transportation, necessary to help them meet the academic achievement standards to which all pupils are held. In all instances, educational and placement decisions for homeless children and youth shall be based on the students’ best interests as defined in law.

In support of this policy and in compliance with state and federal law, the Superintendent or designee shall appoint one or more staff members as liaisons for homeless youth. As appropriate, the staff member(s) for homeless youth shall facilitate the proper educational placement, prompt enrollment in school, and checkout from school of homeless students; assist them in ensuring proper transfer of credits, records and grades when they transfer from one school to another; and help them arrange transportation.

The Office shall participate in disseminating public notices on the educational rights of homeless children to county agencies and other local entities that serve homeless families and children, for use by the agencies in assisting homeless families and children in accessing educational services.

Upon receiving notice of a dispute regarding school selection and/or enrollment of a homeless student, the Office shall carry out the dispute resolution process provided by the state.

Legal References:
42 USC 11431-11435 (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act)

Adopted SMCBE 03/19/08