

## HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Belmont-Klemme Community School District believes all students should have access to a free, appropriate public education. The district will ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as other children and youth.

The term “*homeless children and youth*” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes:

- Children and youth who are:
  - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled up”);
  - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - Living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
  - Abandoned in hospitals.
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

To help ensure that homeless children and youth have a full opportunity to enroll, attend, and succeed at school, the board shall:

- Designate the school nurse as the local homeless children and youth liaison;
- Provide training opportunities for staff so staff may help identify and meet the needs of homeless children and youth;
- Remove barriers, including those associated with fees, fines, and absences, to the identification, enrollment, retention, attendance and/or success in school for homeless children and youth;
- Ensure collaboration and coordination with other service providers;
- Ensure transportation is provided in accordance with legal requirements;
- Provide school stability in school assignment according to the child’s best interests;
- Ensure the privacy of student records, as provided by applicable law, including information about a homeless child or youth’s living situation;
- Engage in the dispute resolution process for decisions relating to the educational placement of homeless children and youth as provided by applicable law; and
- Prohibit the segregation of a homeless child or youth from other students enrolled in the district.

The superintendent may develop an administrative process or procedures to implement this policy.

NOTE: This is a mandatory policy.

NOTE: The United States Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Education have additional information about implementation of the policy. For additional information, please visit:

The "Education Department Releases Guidance on Homeless Children and Youth" section of the United States Department of Education's website, located at:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-releases-guidance-homeless-children-and-youth>.

The "Homeless Education" section of the Iowa Department of Education's website, located at:

<https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/title-programs/title-x-part-c-homeless-education>

*Legal Reference:* 20 U.S.C. § 6301.  
42 U.S.C. § 11302.  
42 U.S.C. §§ 11431 et seq.  
281 I.A.C. 33.

*Cross Reference:* 501 Student Attendance  
503.3 Fines - Fees - Charges  
506 Student Records  
507.1 Student Health and Immunization Certificates  
603.3 Special Education  
711.1 Student School Transportation Eligibility

Date of Adoption: 03-11-1996 Reviewed: 01-16-2020 Revised: 02-19-2019