

HOMELESS STUDENTS: ENROLLMENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES

To the extent practical and as required by law, the District will work with homeless students 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 students not currently attending school. 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, special education, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs and school nutrition programs.

Homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

- A. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
- B. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- C. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- D. Are abandoned in hospitals;
- E. Awaiting foster care placement;
- F. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
- G. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings; or
- H. Migratory children living in conditions described in A-G above.

The Superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the district's liaison for homeless students and their families.

~~According to~~ Depending on the child's or youth's best interest, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. Instead of remaining in the school of origin, parents or guardians of homeless students may request enrollment in the school in which attendance area the student is actually living, or other schools. Attendance rights by living in attendance areas, other student assignment policies, or intra and inter-District choice options are available to homeless families on the same terms as families resident in the District.

If there is an enrollment dispute, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent or guardian shall be informed of the District's decision and their appeal rights in writing. The District's liaison will carry out dispute resolution as provided by state policy. Unaccompanied youth will also be enrolled pending resolution of the dispute.

Once the enrollment decision is made, the school shall immediately enroll the student, pursuant to District policies. However, enrollment may not be denied or delayed due to the lack of any document normally required for enrollment, including academic records, medical records, proof of residency, mailing address or other documentation. If the student does not have immediate access to immunization records, the student shall be admitted under a personal exception. Students and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible, and the District liaison is directed to assist. Records from the student's previous school shall be requested from the previous school pursuant to District policies. Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment consistent with District policies, including compliance with the state's address confidentiality program when necessary. However, emergency contact information cannot be demanded in a form or manner that constructs a barrier to enrollment and/or attendance at school.

Homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If the school of origin is in a different district, or a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school of origin in this District, the districts will coordinate the transportation services necessary for the student, or will divide the costs equally.

The District's liaison for homeless students and their families shall coordinate with local social service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youths and their families; other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers; and state and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. This coordination includes providing public notice of the educational rights of homeless students where such children and youth receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens. The District's liaison will also review and recommend amendments to District policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.

Cross References:

Board Policy 3120	Enrollment
Board Policy 3231	Student Records
Board Policy 3413	Student Immunization and Life-Threatening Conditions

Legal References:

RCW 28A.225.215	Enrollment of Children Without Legal Residences
Title I, Part C	No Child Left Behind Act, 2002
42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Management Resources:

Policy News, October 2002 [NCLB Addresses Homeless Students](#)
Policy News, October 2004 [Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services Update](#)

Adopted: (WPR)

DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AREAS

The Board of Directors shall annually review the geographic attendance areas designated for each building in the District. As population and enrollment shifts within the District, changes in attendance areas or transfer of students may become necessary. By mid-May of each school year, the next year's estimated enrollment should be forecast for each attendance area.

Students shall attend the school designated for their respective residential areas unless individual requests for transfers have been approved according to ~~Policy 3131~~ established procedures. If students move to a new residential area during the school year, they may elect to transfer at the time they move or at the end of the semester or grading period. Transfer at the end of the semester is mandatory for a sophomore or junior in high school. A senior may elect to finish the school year.

~~Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the superintendent and/or his designee upon a showing that there is a financial, educational or health problem affecting the student or his/her family which shall be significantly alleviated by attending a school outside the student's residential area.~~

In those cases where estimated enrollments substantially exceed class size guidelines, student transfers shall be made proposed in order to operate an effective and efficient educational program during the following year. The following factors shall be considered when the District develops attendance area boundaries and considers student transfers:

- A. Minimizing disruption of students' established learning programs.
- B. Maintaining established neighborhood groupings.
- C. Keeping siblings in the same elementary or middle school.
- D. Maintaining relationship with a middle school and/or high school attendance area.
- E. Adjusting class loads to available space.
- F. Coordinating transportation routes with attendance areas.

Prior to the implementation of any planned transfer of students, parents of students involved in such planned transfer shall be invited to a meeting at which the planned change shall be explained and discussed. An orientation to the new school shall be arranged for transferred students.

The District reserves the right to base final decisions on the needs of all schools in the District. When fall enrollments in an attendance area substantially exceed class size guidelines, students may be required to attend a school in another attendance area.

Cross References:

Board Policy 2210
Board Policy 3131

Grade Organization
District Attendance Area Transfers

Legal References:

RCW 28A.320.040

Bylaws for Board and School Government

Adopted: (WPR)

~~Foreign Students~~
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The Board recognizes the value of ~~student~~ international exchange ~~student~~ programs and/or the hosting of qualified foreign students. ~~Goals of the foreign student program will include educating Arlington School District students regarding differences in race, religion, language and culture. Appreciation of multicultures will be a major goal of the foreign student program.~~ Such programs may be approved when admission of an exchange student does not adversely impact the instructional program of the District. The Superintendent is authorized to review and approve organizations, which propose to offer a foreign/domestic travel-study program.

The Superintendent is directed to develop procedures, including but not limited to: criteria for program sponsors, responsibilities of sponsors, enrollment standards ~~including traffic safety courses~~, co-curricular participation, and graduation requirements.

Legal Reference:

RCW 28A.300.240
RCW 19.166

International Student Exchange
International Student Exchange

Adopted: (WPR)

CHILD CUSTODY

The Board of Directors Arlington Public Schools presumes that the person who enrolls a student in school is the residential parent of the student. The residential parent is responsible for decisions regarding the day-to-day care and control of student. Parents, guardians or defacto parents have the two-fold right to receive information contained in the school records concerning their child and to forbid or permit the disclosure of such information to others subject to the authority granted to the residential parent.

The Board District, unless informed otherwise, assumes that there are no restrictions regarding the nonresidential parent's right to be kept informed of the student's school progress and activities. If restrictions are made relative to the above rights, the residential parent will be requested to submit a certified copy of the court order, which curtails these right(s). If these rights are questioned by the nonresidential parent, the issue will be referred to police authorities for resolution.

Unless there are court-imposed restrictions, the nonresidential parent, upon request, will be given grade reports, notices of school activities, reports of disciplinary actions, or notices of teacher or Principal conferences or summaries.

A student shall be released to the residential parent or the nonresidential parent, unless the residential parent provides the school with a certified copy of a court order restricting and/or prohibiting the student's contact with the nonresidential parent.

~~The student is not permitted to visit with or be released to anyone, including the nonresidential parent, during school hours without the approval of notification to the residential parent. If there is a court order on file with the District that restricts and/or prohibits any parent or other person from contact with, or from picking up a student from school, then the student is not permitted to visit with or be released to that parent or other person.~~

Cross References:

~~(cf. 2420 Grading and progress reports)~~

~~(cf. 3440 Removal of students during school hours)~~

~~(cf. 3600 Student Records)~~

Board Policy 2420

Board Policy 3124

Board Policy 3231

Grading and Progress Reports

Removal of Students During School Hours

Student Records

Board Policy 4200

Board Policy 4310

Safe and Orderly Learning Environment

Relations with Law Enforcement, Child Protective Agencies

and County Health Department

Legal References:

~~9A U.L.A. 96 5408a~~ Uniform Marriage and divorce act

CFR 45, Part 99

RCW 13.34.200

RCW 26.09.184 (4)(b)

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

Order Terminating Parent and Child Relationship

Permanent Parenting Plan

Management Resources:

Policy News, October 2008 Removal of a Student During the School Day

Policy News, December 2008, Child Custody

Adopted: (WPR/PN Oct 08/PN Dec 08)