

# Dickson County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in April</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Homeless Students</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>6.503</b>	Issued Date: <b>02/28/13</b>
		Rescinds: <b>6.5030</b>	Issued: <b>02/27/03</b>

1 In order to ensure that homeless students have equal access to the same free appropriate public educa-  
2 tion as provided to other students, the following shall apply: (McKinney-Vento Education Assistance  
3 Improvements Act of 2001 Subtitle B §§ 721-725)

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5 Homeless students are individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and in-  
6 clude the following:

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8 1. Students who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hard-  
9 ship or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping rounds due to  
10 the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional  
11 shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
- 12 2. Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not desig-  
13 nated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- 14 3. Students who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard hous-  
15 ing, bus or train stations or similar settings.
- 16 4. Migratory students who meet one of the above described circumstances.

## 17 **ENROLLMENT/PLACEMENT**

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20 The district will consider the best interests of the student, with parental involvement, in determining  
21 whether the student should be enrolled in the school of origin or the school which non-homeless students  
22 who live in the attendance area in which the homeless student is actually living are eligible to attend.  
23 To the extent feasible, and in accordance with the student's best interest, the student should continue  
24 his/her education in the school of origin, except when contrary to the wishes of the parent/guardian. If  
25 the student is unaccompanied by a parent/guardian, the homeless coordinator will consider the views of  
26 the student in deciding where the student shall be educated. The choice regarding placement shall be  
27 made regardless of whether the student lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed  
28 elsewhere.

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30 The school selected shall immediately enroll the homeless student, even if the student is unable to  
31 produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization  
32 records, proof of residency or other documentation. However, the district may require a parent/guardian  
33 of the student to submit contact information.

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35 The district shall provide a written explanation including a statement regarding the right to appeal, to  
36 the homeless student's parent/guardian or to the homeless student, if unaccompanied, if the district sends  
37 the student to a school other than the school of origin ("school of origin" is defined as the school that  
38 the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled) or  
39 other than a school requested by the parent/guardian.

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41 If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the student shall be immediately  
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1 admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The student  
2 or parent/guardian shall be referred to the district homeless coordinator, who will carry out the dispute  
3 resolution process as expeditiously as possible.

#### 4 5 **SERVICES**

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7 Each homeless student shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the  
8 district including, but not limited to, transportation services; educational services for which the student  
9 meets eligibility criteria, such as educational programs for disadvantaged students, students with dis-  
10 abilities and gifted and talented students; vocational programs and technical education; school meals  
11 programs; preschool programs; before-and after-school care programs and programs for students with  
12 limited English proficiency. Homeless students will not be segregated in a separate school or in a sepa-  
13 rate program within a school based on the student' status as homeless.

#### 14 15 **TRANSPORTATION**

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17 In the event that it is in the best interest of the homeless student to attend the school of origin, trans-  
18 portation to and from school shall be provided at the request of the parent/guardian or, in the case of  
19 an unaccompanied student, the homeless coordinator. If the student's temporary housing is outside the  
20 district, the district will work with the school of origin to agree on a method to apportion the responsi-  
21 bility and costs for transportation. If an agreement cannot be reached, the costs will be shared equally.

#### 22 23 **RECORDS**

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25 Any records ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization records, academic records, birth  
26 certificates, guardianship records and evaluations for special service or programs of each homeless child  
27 or youth shall be maintained so that appropriate services may be given the student, so that necessary  
28 referrals can be made and so that records may be transferred in a timely fashion when a homeless stu-  
29 dent enters a new school district. Copies of records shall be made available upon request to students or  
30 parents in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Board Policy.

#### 31 32 **COORDINATOR**

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34 The Director shall designate an individual to act as the district's homeless coordinator to ensure:

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36 1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with  
37 other entities and agencies.
- 38 2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in schools in  
39 the district.
- 40 3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which such families and stu-  
41 dents are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start and preschool programs administered by  
42 the district, referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and  
43 other appropriate services.
- 44 4. The parents/guardians of homeless students are informed of the education and related op-  
45 portunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to  
46 participate in education of their children.
- 47 5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated where such stu-  
48 dents receive services, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens.
- 49 6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law and Board Policy.

- 1           7. The parent/guardian of a homeless student and any unaccompanied youth is fully informed
- 2           of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin and is assisted
- 3           in accessing transportation to the school selected.
- 4           8. Unaccompanied youths will be assisted in placement or enrollment decision, their views will
- 5           be considered and they will be provided notice of the right to appeal.
- 6           9. Students who need to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, will receive
- 7           assistance.
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