5014
Homeless Students

1. **General Policy.** The District will provide tuition free education for homeless children and youth who are in the district and accord them the educational rights and legal protections provided by state and federal law. Homeless children and youth shall not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and shall have access to the same services offered to other students. It is the intent of this policy to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth in the District.

2. **Homeless Liaison.** The District's homeless liaison is the superintendent. Students in homeless situations who require assistance should contact the liaison at Maywood Public Schools (308) 362-4223 or in person at #1 Tiger Drive, Maywood, NE. The liaison's responsibilities include:

   a. Ensuring homeless children and youth are identified through coordination with the Nebraska Department of Education, community groups, and other school personnel;
   b. Receiving training regarding state and federal law governing homeless children and youth;
   c. Ensuring homeless children and youth and their families are referred to appropriate health care, housing, and other relevant service providers and programs available in the community;
   d. Assisting other District personnel to work with homeless children and youth and their families on regular attendance, participation in programs and activities of the District, and completing academic work to meet academic standards of the District;
   e. Assisting homeless children and youth and working with other District employees to prepare for and improve college readiness, including assistance with applications, selection, financial aid, and status verification for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid; and
   f. Carrying out other aspects of this policy.

3. **Definitions**

   a. "Homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

written consent of a student's parent(s) before the student participates in the survey.

iv. School officials and staff members shall not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey (created by any person or entity, including the district) containing any sensitive information.

v. Parents have the right to inspect any survey which requests sensitive information before that survey is distributed to their student.

c. Survey Inspection Requests

i. School officials shall inform parents of their right to inspect surveys requesting sensitive information before the surveys are distributed to any student.

ii. All survey inspection requests must be in writing to the building principal and delivered to the building principal prior to the date on which the survey is scheduled to be administered to the students.

iii. The principal shall respond to survey inspection requests without delay.

2. Invasive Physical Examinations

a. The term "invasive physical examination" means:

i. any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts; or

ii. any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body; and

iii. does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.

b. Parents may refuse to allow their student to participate in any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is:

i. required as a condition of attendance;

ii. administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and

iii. not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.

c. This policy does not apply to any physical examination or screening that:

i. is permitted or required by an applicable state law, including physical examinations or screenings that are permitted without parental notification;

medical records, residency documents, birth certificates, school records, or other documentation, or guardianship documents. The school district shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain academic and other records. The school district's homeless liaison shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.

6. **Transportation.** Transportation shall be provided to homeless students to the extent required by law and comparable to that provided to students who are not homeless. At the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), transportation shall be provided to and from the school of origin as follows:

   a. If the homeless child or youth continues to live in the area served by the school district, the child's or youth's transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided or arranged by the school district.

   b. If the homeless child's or youth's living arrangements in the area served by the school district terminate and the child or youth, though continuing his or her education in the school district, begins living in an area served by another school district, the school district and the new school district in which the homeless child or youth is living shall negotiate to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school district. If the districts are unable to agree, the responsibility and cost for transportation shall be shared equally.

7. **Records**. The District will maintain and respond to requests for enrollment records for homeless children or youth consistent with its record policies and state and federal record laws. Any information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a confidential education record and shall not be deemed directory information.

8. **Dispute Process.** If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school:

   a. The child or youth shall be admitted immediately to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;

a. The superintendent shall notify parents of:
   i. this policy and its availability upon request from the office of the district;
   ii. how to opt their child out of participation in activities as provided for in this policy;
   iii. the approximate dates during the school year when a survey requesting personal information is scheduled or expected to be scheduled; and
   iv. how to request access to any survey or other material described in this policy.

b. This notification shall be given to parents as least annually, at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period after any substantive change in this policy.

Adopted on: March 12, 2012
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Reviewed on: