

**HOMELESS EDUCATION**

It is the policy of the board to ensure that homeless children and youth are provided with equal access to its educational programs, have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State of Wisconsin and School District of New London academic standards, are not segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and to establish safeguards that protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.

Definition of homeless children and youth:

1. The term "homeless children and youths" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. It includes children and youths who:
  - a. Are temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
  - b. Are living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
  - c. Are living in emergency shelters.
  - d. Are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
  - e. Have a nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
  - f. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
  - g. Runaway children or children who are abandoned.

Migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition.

Homeless status is determined in cooperation with parents, or in the case of unaccompanied, youth the local educational agency liaison. Homeless status may be documented through a variety of Department of Public Instruction forms and/or through direct contact with school district staff.

It is the policy of the School District of New London that no person may be denied admission to any public school or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, color, race,

religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

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CROSS-REFERENCE: Administrative Guideline

LEGAL REFERENCE: