

Citizens of the World Kansas City: Homeless Student Policy

Citizens of the World Kansas City will follow the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's definition of a "homeless" student. This definition means:

- Students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1); and,
- Includes:
 - Children/youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
 - Children/youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
 - Children/youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, sub-standard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above.

Once CWC Kansas City has determined that an enrolling student is homeless, the school's homeless coordinator must assist in the student in obtaining his/her education, immunization, medical, and other records. Per McKinney-Vento, the student must be enrolled in the interim. If the homeless coordinator is unable to obtain prior immunization records within thirty (30) days of enrolling and the student is still eligible for services under the homeless education program, the student must begin the immunization series and demonstrate that satisfactory progress has been accomplished within ninety (90) days. If the homeless student maintains that he/she is exempted from receiving immunizations, then after thirty (30) days the student must provide documentation in accordance with the exemption requirements provided for in § 167.181.3, RSMo.

Enrollment/Placement

CWC Kansas City will consider the best interest of the homeless student, with parental involvement, in determining whether he/she should be enrolled in the *school of origin* or the school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the homeless student is actually living are eligible to attend (also known as the *school of residency*). To the extent feasible, and in accordance with the homeless student's best interest, the homeless student should continue his or her education in the *school of origin*, except when contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian. If the homeless student is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, the homeless coordinator will consider the views of the homeless student in deciding where he or she will be educated. The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the homeless student lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere. Note: since CWC Kansas City only has one school location per grade level, the *school of origin* and the *school of residency* are, in this case, the same.

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

Services

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