

# Wilson County Board of Education

Policy Description:  Homeless Students  Page 1 of 3	Policy Number: 6.503	Amended Date: 06/04/07
	Rescinds:	Issued: 06/03/04

1 In order to ensure that homeless students have equal access to the same free appropriate public education as  
2 provided to other students, the following shall apply:<sup>1</sup>

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

## 14 **ENROLLMENT/PLACEMENT**

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 Subtitle B §§ 721-725

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

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

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12 **SERVICES**

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

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22 **TRANSPORTATION**

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24 In the event that is it in the best interest of the homeless student to attend the school of origin, transportation to  
25 and from school shall be provided at the request of the parent/guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied  
26 student, the homeless coordinator. If the student's temporary housing is outside the district of the school of  
27 origin, Wilson County School System will work with the school of origin to agree on a method to apportion the  
28 responsibility and costs for transporting the student. If an agreement cannot be reached, the costs will be  
29 shared equally.

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31 **RECORDS**

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33 Any records ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates,  
34 guardianship records and evaluations for special services or programs of each homeless child or youth shall be  
35 maintained so that appropriate services may be given the student, so that necessary referrals can be made and  
36 so that records may be transferred in a timely fashion when a homeless student enters a new school district.  
37 Copies of records shall be made available upon request to students or parents/guardians in accordance with the  
38 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

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1 **COORDINATOR**

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3 The Board designates the following individual to act as the district's homeless coordinator:

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5 Mr. Phillip Barnes, Wilson County Board of Education, 351 Stumpy Lane, Lebanon, TN 37090 (615) 444-3282

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7 The district shall inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless families of the  
8 duties of the district homeless coordinator. The homeless coordinator shall ensure that:

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10 1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other  
11 entities and agencies.
- 12 2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools in the district.
- 13 3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which such families and students are  
14 eligible, including head start, even start and preschool programs administered by the district and  
15 referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and other appropriate services.
- 16 4. The parents/guardians of homeless students are informed of the educational and related opportunities  
17 available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education  
18 of their children.
- 19 5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated where such students  
20 receive services, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens.
- 21 6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law.
- 22 7. The parent/guardian of a homeless student and any unaccompanied youth is fully informed of all  
23 transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin and is assisted in accessing  
24 transportation to the school selected.
- 25 8. Unaccompanied youths will be assisted in placement or enrollment decisions, their views will be  
26 considered and they will be provided notice of the right to appeal.
- 27 9. Students who need to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, will receive  
28 assistance.
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