

# MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## HOMELESS STUDENTS

**Descriptor  
Code:  
JBCC**

**Issued Date:  
08/04/03**

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

Homeless students are individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.

### ENROLLMENT/PLACEMENT

The district will consider the best interests of the student in determining where the student should be enrolled.

The school selected shall immediately enroll the homeless student, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization records, proof of residency or other documentation. Immunization records will be submitted within two weeks.

The district shall provide information regarding the right to appeal, to the homeless student's parent/guardian, or to the homeless student if unaccompanied, if the district sends the student to a school other than the school of origin or other than a school requested by the parent or guardian.

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the district homeless coordinator will carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible.

### 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 eligibility criteria, such as educational programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities and gifted and talented 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 student's status as homeless.

### TRANSPORTATION

In the event that it is in the best interest of the homeless student to attend the school of origin, transportation to and from school shall be provided. If the student's temporary housing is outside the district of the school of origin, Morgan County Schools will work with the school of origin to agree on a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for transporting the student. If an agreement cannot be reached, the costs will be shared equally.

### RECORDS

Any records ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records and evaluations for special services or programs of each homeless child or youth shall be maintained so that appropriate services may be given the student, so that necessary

referrals can be made and so that records may be transferred in a timely fashion when a homeless student  
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enters a new school district. Copies of records shall be made available upon request to students or parents in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

## **COORDINATOR**

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

Attendance Supervisor  
136 Flat Fork Road  
Wartburg, Tennessee 37887  
423-346-6214

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

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools in the district.
3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which such families and students are eligible.
4. The parents or guardians of homeless students are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated where such students receive services.
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law.
7. The parent or guardian of a homeless student and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services.
8. Unaccompanied youths will be assisted in placement or enrollment decisions
9. Students who need to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, will receive assistance.

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### Legal Reference:

1. McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 Subtitle B §§ 721-725

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### Cross Reference:

Student Transportation 3.400  
Parental Involvement 4.502  
Promotion and Retention 4.603  
School Admission 6.203

