

Admission of Homeless Students

Students considered homeless are authorized to attend school and will be provided School Department services for which they are eligible.

Pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act of 2001 – Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act – Section 725 (NCLB), homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Are abandoned in hospitals;
5. Awaiting foster care placement;
6. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
7. Are migratory children living in conditions described above?
8. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings

An unaccompanied youth is homeless youth not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.

The Superintendent of Schools shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the liaison for homeless students and their families.

To the extent feasible, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing.

Parents or guardians of homeless students may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area the student is actually living,

In the event of an enrollment dispute, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent or guardian shall be informed, in writing, of the School Department's decision and the right to appeal the decision.

Once the enrollment decision is made, the student shall be immediately enrolled pursuant to School Department policies and procedures. If the student does not have immediate access to immunization or other required records, the student shall be admitted under a personal exception. Upon request, the designated School Department liaison may assist the family in obtaining immunization records. Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment consistent with School Department policies and procedures.

Homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If the school of origin is in a different district from Portsmouth, or a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school of origin in this district, the School Department will make reasonable efforts to coordinate the transportation services

necessary with the other district. When one or more districts are involved, every effort shall be made to agree upon a method to apportion the cost and responsibility of transportation. A dispute as to transportation shall not delay the immediate enrollment of a homeless student.

The School Department Liaison for homeless students and their families shall coordinate with other agencies for the following:

1. Social services provided to homeless children and youths and their families;
2. Other school districts regarding transportation and records transfers;
3. State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies;
4. Review and recommendations regarding policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.