

## **Homeless Children**

## **JFAB**

It is the policy of Crook County School District #1 that every child will have equal access to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Children who are homeless have the same rights to FAPE as do other children, and the district is committed to assure that those rights are fully protected and honored.

Homeless is defined as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence and who has a primary night time residence that is:

- A supervised, publicly or privately owned shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
- An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
- A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

The terms “homeless” or “homeless individual” do not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained.

In determining whether a child or youth is homeless, the relative permanence of the living arrangements should be considered. Determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis. In general, children or youth living in welfare hotels, transitional housing shelters, the streets, cars, abandoned buildings, and other inadequate accommodations will be considered homeless.

Children and Youth in Transitional or Emergency Shelters: If children or youth are placed in a transitional or emergency shelter because there is nowhere else to send them, and they are awaiting placement in a foster home or a home for neglected children, they will be considered homeless while in the emergency or transitional shelter. Once placed in a foster home or a home for neglected children or youth, they will no longer be considered homeless.

Children and Youth in Trailer Parks and Camping Grounds: Children and youth staying temporarily in trailer parks or campgrounds because they lack adequate living accommodations will be considered homeless. Those living in trailer parks or camp areas on a long-term basis in adequate accommodations will not be considered homeless.

Doubled-up Children and Youth: Children and youth who are living in “doubled-up” accommodations, that is, are sharing housing with other families or individuals, will be considered homeless if they are doubled-up because of a loss of housing or other similar situation. Families living in doubled-up accommodations voluntarily to save money generally will not be considered homeless.

Foster Children and Youth: In general, children and youth in foster homes will not be considered homeless. Many foster children are in the care of a public agency, awaiting placement in more permanent situations. The foster home, although temporary, serves as a fixed regular and adequate night time residence. Children placed in foster homes for lack of shelter space, however, will be considered homeless.

Incarcerated Children and Youth: Children and youth who are incarcerated for violation or alleged violation of a law will not be considered homeless even if prior to their incarceration they would have been considered homeless, because they are living in adequate accommodations. Children who are under the care of the state and are being held in an institution because they have no other place to live will be considered homeless. Once these children are placed in more permanent facilities, they will no longer be considered homeless.

Migratory Children and Youth: Migratory children and youth will not be considered homeless simply because they are children of migratory families. To the extent that migratory children are staying in accommodations not fit for habitation, they will be considered homeless.

The CCSD#1 Migrant Education Program is a supplementary instructional program that serves identified migrant students in grades K-12. The program is funded by Title I, Part C of the Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994.

The purpose of the Migrant Education Program is to provide support to migrant children who may experience educational disruptions and other problems that result from repeated moves and to ensure that children are provided with appropriate educational services to meet the same challenging state content and student performance standards that all children are expected to meet. An eligible migrant student is one who has crossed school district lines during the past three years so that the student, a parent, or other member of the immediate family may seek employment in agricultural or fishing related activities.

The CCSD#1 Migrant Education Program provides support services for migrant students through the following seven areas of focus: Identification and Recruitment, New Generation System (NGS) for Migrant Student Record Transfer, Migrant Services Coordination, Early Childhood Education, Graduation Enhancement, Secondary Credit Exchange and Accrual, and Parent Involvement.

Runaways: Children or youth who have run away from home and live in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, the street or other inadequate accommodations will be considered homeless, even if their parents have provided and are willing to provide a home for them.

School-Aged, Unwed Mothers: In general, if school-aged, unwed mothers or expectant mothers are living in homes for unwed mothers, and they have no other available living accommodations, they will be considered homeless. However, if they are staying in such a home only temporarily to receive specific health care or other services and intend to move to other adequate accommodations, they will not be considered homeless.

Sick or Abandoned Children and Youth: There are instances where children or youth remain in a hospital beyond the time they would normally stay for health reasons because their families have abandoned them. These children or youth will be considered homeless because they have no other place to live. Children or youth who were homeless prior to hospitalization will be considered to be homeless while they are in the hospital, unless regular and adequate living accommodations will be made available to them upon release from the hospital.

If a school has students who meet any of the above definitions of homeless, the student should be referred to the building principal. The principal will convene the necessary staff and community agencies needed to develop an action plan to provide the student with a free appropriate public education.

Adopted: September 19, 2002

Revised: December 16, 2010