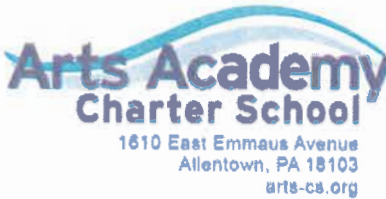


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	04/15/2019
	10/16/2023



## Board Policy 2.9

# Homeless Students

The Board recognizes the importance of ensuring that homeless students have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other school students. The Board shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the school population and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state law and regulations.

The Board authorizes the Executive Director to waive school policies, procedures and administrative regulations that create barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, transportation, school stability and success in school of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Unaccompanied youth means a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This includes youth who have run away from home, been abandoned or forced out of home by a parent, guardian or other caretaker; or separated from a parent or guardian for any other reason.

**Homeless students** shall be defined in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

A student determined to be homeless must be enrolled if classroom space is available; however, the homeless student must meet the Arts' related criteria required for entrance to AACMS. Deadlines must be waived for homeless students.

**School of origin** is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including preschool. When the child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the school of origin shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

The Board designates the Chief Academic Officer to serve as the school's liaison for homeless students and families.

The school's liaison shall comply with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act, and Act 1 of 2022 concerning students experiencing education instability, to provide stability within the educational program for homeless students. To that end, AACMS shall be responsible to facilitate implementation of all requirements under the Act, including, but not limited, to:

1. Ensure outreach and coordination with local social service agencies and other entities that provide services to homeless children and youth and families; 02/18/2019 04/15/2019  
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2. Coordinate and cooperate with other school entities on issues of prompt identification, transfer of records, transportation and other inter-school activities.

3. Ensure provision of services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

4. Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is disseminated in accordance with law.

5. Participate in professional development programs and other technical assistance activities.

6. Arrange professional development program for school staff.

7. Mediate enrollment and placement disputes.

8. Inform children and families of all transportation options and assist in accessing them.

9. A student determined to be homeless is entitled to the benefits of Act 1 of 2022 (24 P.S. §1331.1) which requires the school to conduct a credit assessment and award full or partial credit for all work satisfactorily completed in all prior schools.

10. The school district of origin will remain financially responsible for the education of the student until the student is no longer deemed homeless.

Students shall not be discriminated against, segregated, nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless.