

**Cambridge Public Schools
Administrative Guidelines and Procedures**

HOMELESS STUDENTS

In accordance with the Cambridge School Committee Policy on the Education of Homeless Students, the Cambridge Public Schools (“CPS”) has issued the following guidelines and procedures regarding the status and rights of its homeless students. For the purposes of these guidelines and procedures and in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)(A), a homeless student is one who fits one or more of the following descriptions:

- The student does not have a permanent home.
- The student is in state custody.
- The student lives in an emergency or transitional shelter, is abandoned in a hospital, or is awaiting foster care placement.
- The student lives in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or camping ground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- The student lives in a car, park, bus or train station, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, or other similar setting not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- The student shares the housing of other persons due to the loss of their own housing, economic hardship, or other similar reason.
- The student is considered an “unaccompanied youth” (i.e. a youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian/caregiver).

Homeless students have rights consistent with the philosophy that no students shall be afforded lesser opportunity or otherwise treated differently from their peers solely because of their residential status.

1. A homeless student has the right to attend school even though they have no permanent address.
2. A homeless student has the right to attend school even if they do not have all the documents required for enrollment.
3. A homeless student has the right to continue to attend the same school they were attending at the time they became homeless while the student remains homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. CPS must provide transportation to and from the student’s school if their parent/guardian/caregiver wants the student to remain in their original school.

4. Homeless students are entitled to free breakfast and lunch.
5. The parent/guardian/caregiver of a homeless student has the right to file a complaint if they feel that their child is being kept out of school unfairly.

Any questions regarding support and resources for students and families who are displaced or in transition should be directed to the Homeless Family Liaison at 617-349-6487.

Policy references: JFABD

Legal references: 20 U.S.C. §§ 11431 et seq.

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