

EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS

Policy 411.2

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Students of homeless individuals and unaccompanied homeless youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian) residing in the Melrose-Mindoro School District (MMSD) shall have equal access to the public school educational programs and services that allow them to meet the same challenging state academic standards to which all students are held. Homeless students and youth shall not be required to attend a separate school or program for homeless students and shall not be stigmatized by school personnel.

Definition of Homeless Students and Unaccompanied Youths

The term 'homeless students and unaccompanied youths' means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason. It includes students and youths (preschool-grade 12) who are:

- Living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or campgrounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in cars, parks, public or private spaces not designed for humans to live, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.
- 'Doubled up' by living with friends and family.
- Unsuitable living conditions, such as lack of utilities, mold, infestations, or dangers.

Migratory students and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition.

Homeless status is determined in cooperation with the parent/guardian or in the case of unaccompanied youth, the local educational agency liaison. Homeless status may be documented through a variety of MMSD forms such as the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction PI-Q03-8 Rev. 10/10 or through direct contact with MMSD staff.

The Melrose-Mindoro School District does not discriminate against students on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or physical, cognitive, emotional or learning disability or handicap in its education programs or activities. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

Legal References: WI State Statute 118.13
PI9, Wisconsin Administrative Code
Title IX, Education Amendment of 1972
Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964
Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973
American with Disabilities Act of 1990
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
Civil Rights Act of 1991
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

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