FACT SHEET: HOMELESS STUDENTS IN NEW JERSEY

Children who qualify as homeless have the right to:

- Immediate school enrollment, even when records are not present
- Remain in their school of origin (The school district where the child lived before displacement)
- Receive transportation to/from school of origin
- Receive support for academic success, including: bilingual/ESL, Intervention and Referral, Section 504 and/or special education

CHILDREN WHO QUALIFY AS HOMELESS ARE:

- Sharing the housing of other persons (“doubled up”)
- Living in a place that is intended to provide temporary living accommodations
- Living in a place not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation

IMPORTANT FACTS

The school district where the child lived prior to becoming homeless (“school district of origin”) is responsible for their education for as long as the family remains homeless -- including paying for tuition and transportation for child(ren) attending the district where they are temporarily living.

Parents/guardians of homeless students have the right to:

- Decide whether child(ren) will continue to attend their school of origin or the district where the family is currently living
- Appeal any decisions with which they disagree.

Note: A dispute or appeal may not delay the homeless student’s immediate entrance into school.

DID YOU KNOW?

Find your District Homeless Liaison here:
https://www.nj.gov/education/homeless/liaison.shtml

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

- SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
- Education Law Center’s Homeless Students’ Guide
- School Help for Homeless Children with Disabilities: Parent Resource Brief
- Homeless Prevention Contact List
- Housing Assistance Program

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