

CHAPTER 17

STUDENTS AT RISK OF NOT RECEIVING A PUBLIC EDUCATION

Authority

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, 18A:7B-12, 18A:7B-1 et seq. and 18A:7F-1 et seq.

Source and Effective Date

R.2002 d.56, effective February 19, 2002.
See: 33 N.J.R. 3603(a), 34 N.J.R. 915(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 17, Students at Risk of Not Receiving a Public Education, expires on February 19, 2007.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

6A:17-1.1 Purpose

These rules are adopted in order to ensure that homeless children and students placed in State facilities are provided a thorough and efficient education. These rules establish uniform Statewide policies and procedures to ensure the enrollment of homeless children and to respond to appeals made by parents or other parties related to their enrollment. The rules also identify general program requirements related to the operation, administration and approval of educational programs in State facilities.

SUBCHAPTER 2. EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN

6A:17-2.1 Scope

These rules apply to district boards of education providing general education services to students in grades preschool through 12 and special education services to students ages three through 21. Nothing in this chapter shall limit the educational rights of homeless children and youth or school district responsibilities under Subtitle VII-B of the Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 11431 et seq).

Amended by R.2004 d.185, effective May 3, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5469(a), 36 N.J.R. 2195(b).

Added the second sentence.

6A:17-2.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, will have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“District liaison for the education of homeless children” means the person identified in each school district who facilitates all of the activities needed to ensure the enrollment of homeless children.

“District of origin” means the district in which the parent last resided prior to becoming homeless.

“Enroll” or “enrollment” means attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

“Homeless child” means a child or youth who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate residence, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.3.

“Immediate” or “immediately” means at the instant that the need for placement is made known.

“Parent” means the natural or adoptive parent, legal guardian, foster parent, surrogate parent, and person acting in the place of a parent such as the person with whom the child legally resides or a person legally responsible for the child’s welfare.

“Unaccompanied youth” means a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian at the time of enrollment.

Amended by R.2004 d.185, effective May 3, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5469(a), 36 N.J.R. 2195(b).

In “District of origin”, substituted “origin” for “residence”; added “Enroll” and “Immediate”.

Amended by R.2005 d.257, effective August 1, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 848(a), 37 N.J.R. 2864(a).

Added “Unaccompanied youth”.

6A:17-2.3 Determination of homeless status

(a) A district board of education shall determine that a child is homeless for purposes of this subchapter when he or she resides in any of the following:

1. A publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including:
 - i. Hotels or motels;
 - ii. Congregate shelters, including domestic violence and runaway shelters;
 - iii. Transitional housing; and
 - iv. Homes for adolescent mothers;
2. A public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation, including:
 - i. Cars or other vehicles including mobile homes;
 - ii. Tents or other temporary shelters;
 - iii. Temporary shelters provided to migrant workers and their children on farm sites;
3. The residence of relatives or friends with whom the homeless child is temporarily residing out of necessity because the family lacks a regular or permanent residence of its own; or
4. Any temporary location wherein children and youth are awaiting foster care placement.

Amended by R.2004 d.185, effective May 3, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5469(a), 36 N.J.R. 2195(b).

In (a), substituted "including" for "excluding" in 2i and added 4.

6A:17-2.4 Responsibilities of the district of origin

(a) The district of origin for a homeless child shall be responsible for the education of the child and shall:

1. Determine the district in which the child shall be enrolled after consulting with the parent pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.6;
2. Pay the cost of tuition pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-3.1 when the child attends school in another district; and
3. Provide for transportation for the child pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-6.2.

(b) The determination of a homeless child's district of origin shall be made by the chief school administrator or designee of the school district(s) involved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.5 based upon information received from the parent, the Department of Human Services, a shelter provider, another school district, an involved agency or a case manager.

(c) The district board of education identified as the district of origin in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12 for a

homeless child shall be the district of origin for as long as the parent remains homeless.

Amended by R.2004 d.185, effective May 3, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5469(a), 36 N.J.R. 2195(b).

Substituted "origin" for "residence" and "resident" throughout.

6A:17-2.5 Designation of district liaisons and their responsibilities

(a) The chief school administrator of each school district shall identify a district liaison for the education of the homeless children. The district liaison shall:

1. Facilitate communication and cooperation between the district of origin and the district where the homeless child is temporarily residing;
 2. Develop procedures to ensure that a homeless child temporarily residing in the district is enrolled and attending school pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.6;
 3. Ensure that homeless families, children and youth receive educational services for which such families, children and youth are eligible, including Head Start and Even Start programs and preschool programs administered by the local education agency, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services;
 4. Inform parents and guardians of homeless children and youth of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and ensure that they are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
 5. Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is disseminated where such children receive services, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens;
 6. Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.8;
 7. Ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, or any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the district of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school that is selected under N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.6;
 8. Assist the parent or guardian to obtain the homeless child or youth's medical records or required immunizations; and
 9. Assist an unaccompanied youth to ensure he or she is enrolled and is receiving all the services pursuant to this section.
- (b) When a homeless child is living temporarily in a school district, the district liaison, upon receiving notification from the parent, the Department of Human Services, a shelter director, an involved agency, or a case manager, shall notify