

Board Governance

(JFABD) Admission of Homeless Students

Definitions

Children who are identified as meeting the Federal definition of "homeless" will be provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the same manner as all other students of Lionheart Classical Academy (LCA). To that end, homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. The Academy shall ensure that homeless students are protected from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.

Homeless children and youth are defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and include children and youth who meet any of the following criteria:

- A. share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- B. live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- C. live in emergency or transitional shelters
- D. are abandoned in hospitals
- E. have a primary night time residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, or
- F. live in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing¹, bus or train station, or similar setting

Pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Act, an unaccompanied youth includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Services to Homeless Children and Youth

LCA will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance, services and work to establish that connection between the family and the resources linked to the previous town of residence.

LCA will provide services to homeless students that are comparable to other students in the Academy, including:

1. programs for children with disabilities;
2. programs for English Learners (ELs) (i.e., students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP));
3. programs in career and technical education;
4. school nutrition programs; and
5. before- and after-school programs.

The Executive Director shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the school's liaison for homeless students and their families. The staff member designated to this position will be posted on the school's website. The staff member will complete the required training annually to fulfill the requirements of holding this position.

Immediate Enrollment

The Academy has an obligation to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless students. A school chosen on the basis of a best interest determination must immediately enroll the homeless student, even if the student does not have the documentation typically necessary for enrollment, such as immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, proof of guardianship, birth certificate or previous academic records. The homeless student must also be enrolled immediately regardless of whether the student missed application or enrollment deadlines during the period of homelessness or has outstanding fines or fees.

In addition, the Academy will also make sure that, once identified for services, the homeless student is attending classes and not facing barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities.

Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment, consistent with district policies.

Legal References:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(17), Homeless Students RSA 193:12, Legal Residence Required

No Child Left Behind Act, 2002

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431, et seq.

LCA Organization Committee Approved:

LCA Board Approved: May 8, 2025