

## **ADMISSION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN: SPECIFIC PROCEDURES**

Purpose: The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools is committed to educating homeless children and youth. Accordingly, it is the policy of Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools to ensure that homeless children and youth are provided with equal access to the School District's educational programs, have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State of Kansas and USD No. 500, are not segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and to establish safeguards that protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.

Immediate Enrollment. Homeless children have the right to *immediate* enrollment in school. Thus, school officials must permit children to enroll and begin attending school immediately, even if the child lacks documentation. A homeless child need not provide a birth certificate, shot records, proof of residence, or a social security card to begin attending school.

Segregation Prohibited. Homeless children and youth shall not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. Thus, school officials must permit homeless students to enroll and begin attending school immediately.

USD NO. 500 School District will serve each homeless student according to the student's best interest and will:

(i) continue the student's education in the "school of origin" for the duration of the school year,

In situations where the student becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; and

In situations where a homeless student obtains permanent housing during the school year

or

(ii) enroll the student in any public school associated with the attendance area for the place where the student is actually living.

Student's Best Interests. In determining the best interest of a homeless student, the USD NO. 500 School Board shall:

(i) keep the student in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the student's parent or guardian;

(ii) follow the procedures identified by the Kansas State Department of Education in addressing disputes related to enrollment. See Attachment B, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

(iii) in the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the district's homeless liaison assists in placement or enrollment decisions regarding the student, considers the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the dispute resolution process outlined in the Administrative Guidelines approved by the Superintendent of Schools.

Residency Affidavit. Any school official who received a Student Residency Affidavit from the Office of the Homeless Liaison will immediately enroll the presenting student in school.