Lempster School District 29 School Street Lempster, NH

Key Educational Rights of Homeless Students

1. Immediate Enrollment

Students experiencing homelessness must be enrolled immediately, even if they lack:

- Birth certificates
- Immunization records
- Proof of residency
- School records
- Guardianship documents

Schools must help obtain missing documents after enrollment.

2. School Stability

Students have the right to stay in:

- Their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the last school they were enrolled in), or
- The local school where they are currently staying
- The choice is based on the student's best interest, with strong consideration of the family's or youth's wishes.

3. Transportation

If a student chooses to remain in their school of origin, the district must provide or arrange transportation to and from that school.
This applies even if the student moves across district lines.

4. Access to All Programs and Services

Students experiencing homelessness must have equal access to:

- Special education
- Gifted programs
- Career and technical education
- Extracurricular activities
- School meals
- Title I services
- Early childhood programs

They cannot be excluded because of homelessness.

5. Support for Unaccompanied Youth

Unaccompanied homeless youth have the right to:

- Enroll without a parent or guardian
- Receive help from the McKinneyVento liaison
- Participate fully in school activities
- Access counseling, mental health services, and academic support

Schools must remove barriers related to lack of adult involvement.

6. Dispute Resolution

If a disagreement arises about enrollment, school selection, or services:

- The student must be immediately enrolled in the school the family or youth chooses

- The district must provide a written explanation of its decision
- The family/youth must be informed of their right to appeal
- The McKinneyVento liaison must assist throughout the process

The student remains fully enrolled and supported during the dispute.

7. Privacy and Dignity

Schools must:

- Keep information about a student's homelessness confidential
- Avoid stigmatizing language or practices
- Ensure students are treated with dignity and respect