

Policy # 51**EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and Commissioner's Regulations allow a homeless child or, a person in a parental relationship to a homeless child or, when the homeless child is living in a shelter for runaway or homeless use, the Director of the shelter to designate this District as the District of attendance for the homeless child when this District is either the School District of current location, the School District of origin or is a School District participating in a Regional Placement Plan.

A homeless child or youth is defined in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act and Commissioner's Regulations § 100.2 (x). The term homeless child, however, shall exclude children living in foster care or otherwise placed through a government agency into a family home at board, school for the mentally retarded, hospital or other institution for care, custody and treatment of children under the direction of the Department of Social Services, Office of Mental Health or the Division for Youth.

Homeless child and youth shall be entitled to access to District programs on the same basis as all other District students. Homeless student and youth shall be to the extent possible, integrated with non-homeless children.

Where the student is temporarily living in a Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) shelter outside of the school district the student has designated to attend, the RHY shelter may provide transportation and will be fully reimbursed by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). If the RHY shelter is unwilling or unable to provide transportation, the school district must provide transportation and will be fully reimbursed by NYSED

The School District designates a homeless liaison as the Local Educational Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth for the District. In addition to any other duties required by law, this person shall be responsible for reporting to the Board of Education on an annual basis the number of homeless children in the District, the placement of these children, and any suggestions for lowering any barriers to enrollment, attendance, school success and retention of homeless children and youth in the District.

Where the District receives a completed Commissioner's form designating the District as the school of attendance for a child and disputes issues relating to school enrollment or school selection of that student, the following shall occur:

1. The student shall be immediately enrolled in the designated school.
2. Prior to making a final determination on the disputed issue, the Superintendent or

Superintendent's designee shall afford the student or person in parental relation to the student an opportunity to submit information to the District addressing the disputed issue.

3. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall render a decision in writing and provide a copy to the student or person in parental relation.

A written decision shall include an explanation of the school's decision and a statement regarding the right to appeal the decision to the Commissioner of Education as required by law.

The School District will collect and transmit to the Commissioner of Education in accordance with the Commissioner's rules, a report containing information the Commissioner determines necessary to assess the educational needs of homeless children and youths.

First Reading:	April 5, 2017
Second Reading:	April 24, 2017
BOE Adoption:	April 24, 2017