

## **Policy: Homeless Students**

### **Board Policy:**

**A.** The board supports the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youths in school and want to ensure that homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.

**B.** The term homeless children and youth means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition also includes:

1. Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
2. Children who may be living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, shelters, or awaiting foster care placement.
3. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
4. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, or
5. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are children who are living in similar circumstances listed above.

**C.** The Director shall act as liaison for any homeless children or youths.

**D.** Public notice of the rights of homeless children and youths shall be posted on the school Website with written copies of the information made available to the public upon request.

**E.** Lack of transportation shall not preclude a student from enrolling at Alder Grove Charter School.

**F.** The board wishes to promptly resolve any dispute regarding school selection and enrollment for homeless children and youth.

**G.** The dispute resolution process regarding school selection and enrollment for homeless children and youth shall be as follows:

1. If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the child/youth will be immediately enrolled pending resolution of the dispute [PL 107-110, Section 722(g)(3)(E)(iv)].
2. The student, parent, or guardian will be referred to the LEA's homeless liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. The homeless liaison must ensure that the dispute resolution process is also followed for unaccompanied youth.
3. A written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment will be provided if a parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth disputes such a school selection or enrollment decision, including the right to

appeal [PL 107-110, §722(g)(3)(E)(ii)]. The written explanation shall be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated, and provided in a language that the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth can understand.

4. If the dispute remains unresolved at the district level or is appealed, then the homeless liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the homeless liaison at the county office of education (COE). The COE's homeless liaison will review these materials and determine the school selection or enrollment decision within five (5) working days of receipt of the materials. The COE homeless liaison will notify the LEA and parent of the decision.

5. If the dispute remains unresolved or is appealed, the COE homeless liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the State Homeless Coordinator. Upon the review of the LEA, COE, and parent information, the CDE will notify the parent of the final school selection or enrollment decision within ten (10) working days of receipt of materials. The State Homeless Coordinator, Leanne Wheeler, may be reached by phone at 916-319-0383 or by e-mail at [lwheeler@cde.ca.gov](mailto:lwheeler@cde.ca.gov).

Approved: *STO*

Date: *8/2012*