

## Rights of Homeless Students:

### Enrollment, Transportation, School of Origin, and the Elimination of Barriers for Children or Youth Experiencing Homelessness including Unaccompanied Youth

#### Hamlin School District Board Policy

May 13, 2011

The Hamlin School District shall implement *the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act* to ensure that children and youth in transition are provided with equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education as provided to other children and youths in the district. Children and youths in transition shall have equal opportunity to meet state and district academic achievement standards, and are free from discrimination, segregation and harassment. By doing this, it is the intent of the Hamlin School District to ensure the elimination of stigmatization or segregated services and the elimination of other identified barriers for homeless children and youth.

The Hamlin School District's Policy is to ensure the immediate enrollment of children or youth experiencing homelessness until all enrollment records may be secured. This includes records such as academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation. It is also the policy of the Hamlin School District to keep a child or youth experiencing homelessness in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child's or youth's parent or guardian.

The Hamlin School District's intent is to provide children or youth experiencing homelessness with services comparable to services offered to other students in the school district. Thus, services offered to other students would be offered to students experiencing homelessness. Those services would include such things as transportation services, vocational and technical education, gifted and talented programs, and school nutrition programs. It would also include educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria, such as services provided under Title I of *the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* or similar state or local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency.

Information regarding this policy will be distributed to all students upon enrollment. The information will be available in the district office, as well as other places where children, youth, and families in transition receive services, including family and youth shelters, soup kitchens, motels, campgrounds, drop-in centers, welfare departments, health departments, and other social service agencies.