

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #294 (2008-2009)

April 13, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD POLICY REVISION: SECTION 345,
THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO HOMELESS CHILDREN
(FIRST READING)

ASD Goal: Ensure public accountability through effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Policy Committee's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading revisions to ASD School Board Policy 345, The School's Responsibility to Homeless Children. (Attachment A)

PERTINENT FACTS:

Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act, schools and districts have certain responsibilities to homeless children. ASD School Board Policy 345 outlines those responsibilities. Some of the suggested revisions are mere clarifications, such as the method to establish a school of origin for homeless students new to the district and the length of time for which a homeless student is eligible for transportation to the school of origin, whereas others are required by recent changes in state education regulations.

Specifically, the State Board of Education and Early Development has passed regulations providing for the immediate enrollment of homeless students who may have been delayed in the past due to lack of immunization records. This change in state regulations brings Alaska's regulations into compliance with federal law. This proposed policy also adds the categorization of unaccompanied youth to the list of definitions of homeless students. This also is in accordance with federal law.

CC/RG/CK/DM-K

Attachment

Prepared by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Crystal Kennedy, Policy Committee Chair
David Mayo-Kiely, Coordinator, Child in Transition/Homeless

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

It is the policy of the Board that no homeless child be deprived of any of the opportunities or benefits offered by the program of instruction because of his/her living situation. Therefore, consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act, provision shall be made for assistance to a student for continued attendance in the school of origin; establishment of a school of origin; transportation; immediate enrollment; acquiring immunizations and school records; ensuring accrual of credits; and immediate access to free meal program, materials for instruction and full participation in school activities, including extracurricular activity fee waivers.

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- a. The Title 1 Child in Transition/Homeless Project (CIT/H) is the Anchorage School District's contact for homeless students and families, school district staff, and shelter and community agencies to assist in the establishment of eligibility, enrollment of homeless students, and providing educational services for homeless students.
- b. The school of origin is the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.
- c. Establishment of a school of origin when a homeless student is new to the district will be determined using the following criteria:

- (1) Availability of support services for the student/family.
- 2. The school zoned for the location of the student's temporary accommodations.

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d. Transportation will be provided for a homeless student to attend his school of origin during the school year in which he becomes homeless. Other transportation will be provided to each homeless student comparable to that received by other district students.

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e. The district will make special efforts to ensure the immediate enrollment, attendance and full participation of a homeless student, including a student, who does not currently attend school. The Anchorage School District's 15-day attendance rule will not be applied. The district will allow a homeless student to enroll, attend and fully participate by exceptions, waivers, or grace period under the following conditions:

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- (1) Parents/guardians reside in another district and the student is not living with a parent or legal guardian.
- (2) Student/family cannot demonstrate proof of residency.
- (3) Student/family does not have a permanent address.
- (4) Student does not have the records from another school.

(5) Student has not officially withdrawn from a previous school.

(6) Student does not have proof of age document.

(7) Student is an unaccompanied youth.

(8) Student does not have a record of required immunizations.

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References:

42 U.S.C. 11431-11435

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