

# HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM



Appoquinimink School District

# We're here to help you!

When the family breadwinner loses a job, when medical bills overwhelm the budget, or any one of a dozen other emergencies arise, families can suddenly find themselves homeless.

If this happens, it's important to contact a School Social Worker for help. The Appoquinimink School District is dedicated to providing a stable educational environment for young people. We'll work with you to make sure your student has access to supportive services, programs and activities designed to provide a safety net until you can re-establish a permanent residence.

## Who is considered homeless?

“Homeless” is defined as any young person or family, who out of necessity is living in a shelter, motel, car, campground, on the street, or doubled up with relatives or friends. The list includes, but is not limited to a student who is

- Living doubled up with another family because they have no other choice
- Staying in shelters, including domestic abuse shelters
- Awaiting foster care placement
- Living in locations such as:
  - Motels
  - Hotels
  - Cars
  - Parks
  - Abandoned buildings

## **Does residency have to be proved?**

“Residence,” traditionally equated with “home,” does not apply where homeless children and youth are concerned.

Because homeless families are presently unable to establish a “home” on a permanent basis, a school cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay the enrollment of school-age children.

## **Which school can a homeless child attend?**

- The school of origin, which is the school your child attended before you had to move OR
- An appropriate school in the attendance zone where you are currently living

## **Support can include the following:**

- Enrollment assistance, including help in obtaining needed school and medical records and immunizations
- Transportation
- FREE breakfast/lunch
- Tutorial programs
- Before- and after-school programs
- Books and school supplies
- Waiver of school fees (required field trips, records, cap and gown...)
- Preschool/early education programs
- Translation and ESL services
- Referral to social services agencies, community resources, and other related services that can assist homeless families with basic needs
- Assistance with the appeal process if you feel your rights have been denied

## **How will children get to school?**

The district will arrange transportation if needed in order to ensure that your child(ren) can continue to learn and thrive in a familiar educational setting where they enjoy the support of a close network of teachers, friends and staff who will be able to maximize their education. These transportation services include trips both to and from school and for school related activities, such as after-school programs.

## **Is there any reason to delay enrolling a homeless child?**

No, the lack of school records cannot create a barrier to enrolling a homeless student in a new school. A student's immunization records can be transferred over the phone from the school nurse of the sending school to the school nurse of the receiving school. Homeless students do not need to wait until other academic and health records arrive to begin attending the new school.

## **How long will the support continue?**

Providing consistency for families is our main objective during this difficult time. A homeless child or youth is entitled to continue to attend the school they attended when permanently housed for as long as he/she remains homeless or, if permanent housing becomes available, support will be continued until the end of the academic year.

When a child has to change schools as much as 3-6 months of education can be lost with each new move. That means that homeless children and youth are at risk of falling behind unless we work together to provide support.





## Appoquinimink School District

THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

Student Services Department

313 S. Fifth Street, PO 4010

Odessa, DE 19730-4010

(302) 376-4111 phone

(302) 378-5263 fax

[www.apposchooldistrict.com](http://www.apposchooldistrict.com)

The Homeless Education Program is here to help homeless children and youth succeed in school.

### We can help you by providing:

- Transportation to the school you attended before you had to move
- FREE breakfast and lunch
- Tutoring and homework help
- Books and school supplies
- Immunizations
- Before- and after-school programs & activities
- Translation and ESL services

### If you need assistance, contact us!

#### HOMELESS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Eunice Woodard-Deputy

(302) 376-4117

[eunice.deputy@appo.k12.de.us](mailto:eunice.deputy@appo.k12.de.us)

#### SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

Main Office

302-376-4111

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