

**Arlington Public Schools – Office of Student Services**  
**Homeless Education Program**  
**Project Extra-Step**

**RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS**

Arlington Public Schools (APS) shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every APS homeless student shall have equal access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not homeless. This commitment to the educational rights of homeless children, youth, and youth not living with a parent or guardian, applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available by APS.

A student is considered “**homeless**” if he or she is presently living:

- Temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Temporarily living in motels or hotels due to the lack alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency shelter or family shelters
- Living in transitional housing
- Unsheltered living in cars, campgrounds or trailer parks
- Unaccompanied homeless youth

**Homeless Students Have Rights To:**

- **Immediate school enrollment.** *A school must immediately enroll students even if they lack health, immunization or school records, proof of guardianship, or proof of residency.*
- **Enroll in:**
  - \*the school he/she attended when permanently housed (school of origin)
  - \*the school in which he/she was last enrolled (school of origin)
  - \*any school that non-homeless students living in the same attendance area in which the homeless child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.
- **Remain** enrolled in his/her selected school for as long as he/she remains homeless or, if the student becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year.
- **Priority** in certain preschool programs. Parents or guardians are encouraged to seek enrollment in these programs.
- **Obtain** information regarding how to get fee waivers, free uniforms, and low-cost or free medical referrals.
- **Transportation services** A homeless student attending his/her school of origin has a right to transportation to go to and from school of origin as long as he/she is homeless or, if the student becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year. APS staff shall inform homeless parents/guardians or youth of transportation services to and from school and school-related activities.

If you disagree with school officials about enrollment, transportation or fair treatment of a homeless child or youth, you may file a complaint. Information regarding the dispute resolution process can be obtained by contacting the Department of Student Services at 703-228-6046.