

4.1.3 – Homeless Policy

The Van Buren School District will ensure that homeless children and youth receive a free appropriate public education and are given meaningful opportunities to succeed in Van Buren schools. They will be given appropriate educational opportunities in Title I, Special Education, Gifted and Talented, Athletics, or any program that will enhance the learning of the child and be given full opportunity to meet state and local academic achievement standards. Homeless children and youth will be included in state and district assessments and accountability systems.

For the purposes of this policy, students shall be considered homeless if they:

- a) lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- b) living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- c) living in emergency or transitional shelters, abandoned in hospitals, or 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
- d) living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and are migratory children who are living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through (d)

The Van Buren School District will ensure that homeless children and youth in transition are free from discrimination, segregation, and harassment, and will follow the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act.

A.C.A. § 6-18-114

A.C.A. § 9-25-106

Approved by Board of Education 01/13/04

Approved by Board of Education 07/11/23