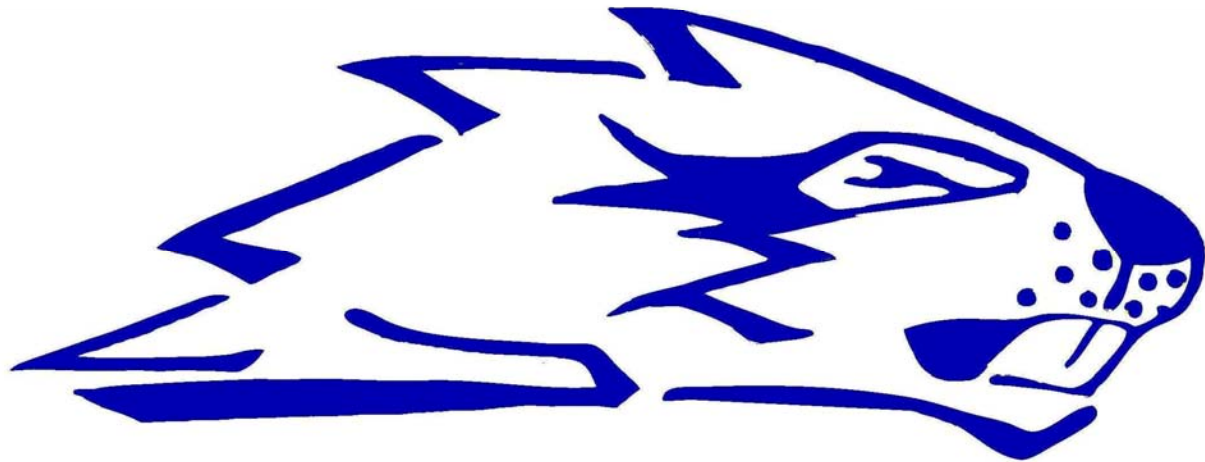


Wilton Community School District

Homeless Plan

November, 2010



Identified Wilton Homeless Liaison:

Juvenile Court School Liaison

Chris Castrey

Wilton Community School

I. Definition of Homeless:

A. Children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up)
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- living in emergency or transitional shelters
- abandoned in hospitals or
- awaiting foster care placement

B. Children and youth who 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;

C. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

D. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

II. Rights of Homeless Students:

A. Homeless children and youth have the right of access to the same free and appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to all the other children.

B. A homeless child or youth may remain in the school he/she attended before becoming homeless if that is determined to be in the child's best interest.

C. Homeless children must be admitted immediately, even without medical or school records. Lack of these cannot prevent the child's enrollment.

D. Homeless families do not need to provide a permanent address in order to enroll students in school, nor do youth on their own need to provide this information before enrolling. Schools cannot require proof of residency that will prevent or delay school enrollment for children meeting the definition of homeless.

E. Parental permission cannot be used to delay enrolment of homeless youth.

F. In determining school placement, the child's best interest must be considered. Consideration must be given to parents requests for school placement.

G. A child or youth who meets the definition of homeless shall not be denied a free appropriate public education solely on the basis of transportation.

H. A comprehensive checklist of Iowa requirements for the education of homeless children can be found in the publication: Homelessness: Local Program Planning Review Guide: Services for Homeless Children and YOU. This may be accessed through the Iowa Department of Education website.

III. School Services:

- A. The district shall make available to homeless youth all the services and assistance on the same basis as those services and assistance are provided to other students. These services include but are not limited to:
- Compensatory Education
 - Special Education
 - Vocational and Technical education courses or programs
 - Talented and gifted
 - Health services
 - Preschool
 - Food and Nutrition programs

IV. Title I

- A. Homeless youth attending school are automatically eligible for Title I services.
- B. The district must set aside Title I funds to serve homeless children who do not attend a participation building, including living in shelters.
- C. The district will include homeless students in academic assessment, reporting, and accountability systems.

V. Educational Support Strategies Provided by the District

- A. Immediate enrollment
- B. Assess academic skill if school records are missing
- C. Training for school personnel
- D. Inform staff of student's homeless status
- E. Arrange for homeless liaison to meet with child and/or family
- F. Identify family and support services and resources available
- G. Transportation to and from school
- H. Educational programs that offer stability and continuity
- I. Pyramid of Interventions
- J. Provide support services that include school supplies, food, counseling, shelter, and recreation if needed.
- K. Maintain record of pertinent information regarding homeless students
- L. Maintain a cumulative count of homeless students

VI. Process for Identification and Service of Homeless Youth

- A. Yearly the Homeless Liaison will train staff regarding the definition of homelessness by McKinney-Vento act.
- B. Staff will be asked to assist in the identification of homeless youth by contacting the Homeless Liaison if they suspect a youth meets the definition.
- C. Upon receiving notification or suspecting a youth is homeless the Homeless Liaison will contact the youth or their Parent/Guardian to determine their status.
- D. The Liaison will meet with the Parent/Guardian or unaccompanied youth to offer

assistance, and make them aware of their rights if certified as homeless.

- E. If applicable the Liaison will contact other School Districts to assist with costs associated with services provided.

VII. Provide and Posting of Homeless Information:

- A. Post information regarding availability of school programs, services, funding, and homeless rights in
- School District Buildings
 - Day Care Centers
 - Area Churches
 - Post Office
 - Convenience, grocery store, city hall, restaurants, and other local establishments

VIII. District Wide Goals:

- A. Post notification of the district's liaison contact
- B. Review Board Policies to identify any possible barriers to enrollment for homeless children
- C. Maintain a count of homeless students
- D. Review identification procedures with staff
- E. Ensure homeless students are enrolled and have access to services
- F. Ensure that student records of homeless students are received or transferred
- G. Ensure homeless students are transported to the district
- H. Collaborate with outside agencies and organizations to provide services to homeless children
- I. Ensure appropriate resources are available for homeless children and youth-meals, school supplies, and clothing
- J. Respond to community inquiries regarding Homelessness
- K. Be available for and work with shelter and agency personnel and parents to assist with the enrollment and provision of support services for homeless children
- L. Work to remove boundaries for homeless children regarding enrollment, attendance, and transportation
- M. Ensure that systems are in place for the identification of homeless children and youth
- N. Evaluate district policies and procedures to determine effectiveness of services to homeless youth and their families

IX. Homeless Information

- A. Iowa Department of Education:
<http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/is/homeless/documents.html>
- B. The National Center for Homeless Education
110 West Market Street Suite 300
Greensboro, North Carolina 27403
1-800-308-2145

C. Federal Law regarding educating the homeless.

[McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001](#)

D. State Law regarding educating the homeless

[**281--Iowa Administrative Code 33**](#)

E. Guide to Homeless rights

[!\[\]\(74d4806277d7e73349d8e8c0897931e9_img.jpg\) Educating Homeless Children and Youth, The Guide to Their Rights](#)