Students Experiencing Homelessness Policy

Nittany Valley Charter School

Adopted 11/18/15

The NVCS School Board recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless students have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other students. The CEO will serve as the school’s liaison and shall work to identify homeless children within the school, encourage their enrollment if there is classroom space, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state law and regulations.

DEFINITION OF A HOMELESS STUDENT

* Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
* Living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
* Living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters.
* Abandoned in hospitals.
* Awaiting foster care placement.
* Living in public or private places not designed for regular sleeping accommodations.
* Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or transportation stations.
* Living as run-away children.
* Abandoned or forced-out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
* Living as school age unwed mothers in houses for unwed mothers because they have no other living accommodations.

Nittany Valley Charter School shall waive policies, procedures and administrative regulations that create barriers for enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless students, based on the recommendation of the CEO.

The homeless liaison shall coordinate with:

1. Local service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youth and families.

2. Other school districts on issues of records transfer and transportation.

3.  State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies.