

Students

Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students

Students of Parents/Guardians Moving to Thomaston

The Superintendent is authorized to admit non-resident students who are to be residents of Thomaston within a given school year but who are not in residence at the time of their entrance into the Thomaston School System under the following conditions:

1. Such attendance shall be allowed for only up to one-hundred-twenty (120) school days from the time the student(s) enters the Thomaston School System.
2. The parents/guardians shall provide suitable evidence of their good faith efforts and intent to become residents of Thomaston within the specified one-hundred-twenty days. Such evidence shall be a purchase agreement, land purchase with intent to build, a building contract, a lease agreement, or other such documents which will show evidence of intent.
3. An extension of the time stipulated above may be made under unusual circumstances only at the discretion of the Superintendent, providing further written application is made by the parents/guardians.
4. Transportation of such students during the period of non-residency shall be the responsibility of the parents/guardians.
5. Should, for any reason, the family fail to move into Thomaston after one-hundred-twenty (120) school days or approved extension, the student may be allowed to continue in attendance as a tuition student at the full tuition rate, applicable retroactively to the first day of attendance. Any fees paid to date will be credited toward the tuition charge.

The following conditions will be considered by the Superintendent regarding non-resident students:

- A. There is room for the student without undue crowding. Acceptance shall be on a first-come basis.
- B. The student maintains a proper attitude and scholastic effort during the time he/she has been in attendance in Thomaston Public Schools.
- C. Proper tuition is paid in advance or according to a pre-arranged schedule.
- D. Transportation of such student is the responsibility of the parent.
- E. No academic advantage is taken away from a resident student.

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Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students

Students of Parents/Guardians Moving to Thomaston (continued)

- F. Each admittance shall be reviewed and approved annually by the Superintendent.
- G. Attendance by a non-resident student may be terminated by action of the Board of Education upon recommendation of the Superintendent if the Board deems such termination to be in the best interest of Thomaston Public Schools.
- H. The Board reserves the right to revoke any interdistrict attendance agreement at any time.

Non-Resident Students Defined

Students are to be considered non-residents if they are:

1. Persons whose parents or guardians are non-residents of Thomaston.
2. Persons who have a home and family elsewhere, but reside in Thomaston with a relative, friend or pay board in Thomaston for the express purpose of attending the Thomaston Schools.

Tuition Rate

The official tuition rate for Thomaston Public Schools shall be set annually by the Board of Education. The tuition shall be based upon the average cost per student for the previous year as reported on the ED-001. Special Education tuition will be set on a per student basis based on needs.

Tuition Students From Thomaston

Tuition will be paid for all students who require special education placement in other school systems, or private institutions as required by state and federal regulations. (C.G.S. 10-76 and Public Law 94-142).

Withdrawals

Students may be permitted to complete the school year on a non-tuition basis if withdrawal becomes necessary due to moving from Thomaston after May 1st or the first school day of May.

Date of moving refers to the actual date a family moves from the town, and not the date of the closing of a house sale.

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Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students

Withdrawals (continued)

A high school student who moves out of town during the first semester of his/her senior year or a student in the eighth grade may be allowed to complete the year on a tuition basis, provided he/she maintains a good scholastic record and behavior. A high school student who moves out of town during the second semester of his/her senior year may be allowed to complete the year without payment of tuition, provided he/she maintains a good scholastic record and behavior. In either case, such students shall be responsible for providing their own school transportation.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-4a Educational interests of state defined/amended by PA 97-290, An Act Enhancing Educational Choices and opportunities

10-35 Notice of discontinuance of high school service to non-residents.

10-76d Duties and powers of Board of education to provide special education programs and services. State agency placements; apportionment of costs. Relationship of insurance to special education costs.

10-253 School privileges for children in certain placements, nonresident

Policy adopted: September 10, 2007

THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Thomaston, Connecticut

Students

Nonresident Students

Date:

TO: Parents, Guardian, Emancipated Minor or Student eighteen (18) years of age or older

BOARD OF EDUCATION NOTICE OF HEARING

<p>1. Person/s requesting Hearing:</p>	<p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Telephone:</p>
<p>2. Date and time of Hearing:</p>	
<p>3. Place of Hearing:</p>	
<p>4. Nature of Hearing</p>	<p>Determination of student/s residency</p>
<p>5. Statutes and Regulations involved:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Section 10-186 CGS Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Section 10-187 CGS Appeal from finding of hearing Board</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Section 4-177 CGS Contested cases. Notice. Record.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Section 4-178 CGS Evidence in contested cases</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Section 4-179 CGS Proposal for decision.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Section 4-180 CGS Final decision to be rendered within ninety days.</p>	
<p>4. A short plain statement of the matters asserted:</p>	

Students

Nonresident Students

Date:

To: Parents, Guardian, Emancipated Minor or Student eighteen (18) years of age or older

Dear _____:

Following the recent hearing by the Board of Education on a residency question involving:

NAME	SCHOOL	GRADE

the _____ Board of Education found the following:

In accordance with the findings of the _____ Board of Education, the student/s named above:

_____ may continue as a student in _____ Public Schools

_____ must be withdrawn from the _____ Public Schools no later than _____ unless an appeal is filed with the Connecticut
(date within 20 days of mailing this letter) State Board of Education prior to that time.

Sincerely,

Students

Homeless Students

The Board shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the district, encourage their enrollment and eliminate existing barriers to their education, which may exist in district policies or practices, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws.

Further, it is the policy of the Board of Education that no child or youth shall be discriminated against or stigmatized in this school district because of homelessness. Homeless students, as defined by federal and state statutes, residing within the district or residing in temporary shelters in the district are entitled to free school privileges.

Homeless students within the district not placed in a shelter remain the district's responsibility to provide continued educational services. Such services for the child may be:

1. continued in the school ("school of origin") that the student attended when permanently housed or the school of last enrollment; or
2. provided in the school that is attended by other students living in the same attendance area where the homeless child lives.

To the extent feasible, a homeless child will be kept in the school of origin, unless it is against the wishes of the parent/guardian.

Homeless children shall be provided educational services that are comparable to those provided to other students enrolled in the district, including but not limited to, Title I, transportation services, compensatory educational programs, gifted and talented, special education, ESL, health services and food and nutrition programs.

The Superintendent of Schools shall refer identified homeless children under the age of eighteen who may reside within the school district, unless such children are emancipated minors, to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families.

The district administration shall attempt to remove existing barriers to school attendance by homeless emancipated minors and youth eighteen years of age:

1. The selected school for the homeless child shall enroll the child, even in the absence of records normally required for enrollment. The last school enrolled shall be contacted to obtain records.
2. Other enrollment requirements that may constitute a barrier to the education of the homeless child or youth may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent. If the district is unable to determine the student's grade level due to missing or incomplete records, the district shall administer tests or utilize other reasonable means to determine the appropriate grade level for the child.

Students

Homeless Students (continued)

3. Fees and charges, which may present a barrier to the enrollment or transfer of a homeless child or youth, may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent.
4. Transportation services must be comparable to those provided other students in the selected school. Transportation shall be provided to the student's school of origin in compliance with federal and state regulations.
5. Official school records policies and regulations shall be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent, in compliance with federal statutes.
6. The district shall make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from information available. The District's liaison shall assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations and records. The District shall arrange for students to receive immunizations through health agencies and at District expense if no other recourse is available. Immunizations may, however, be waived for homeless youth only in accordance with provisions of Board of Education policy on immunizations.
7. Other barriers to school attendance by homeless children or youth may be waived at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools.

The District's educational liaison for homeless children is Superintendent and/or designee.

Students residing in a temporary shelter are entitled to free school privileges from the district in which the shelter is located or from the school district where they would otherwise reside if not for the placement in the temporary shelter. The district in which the temporary shelter is located shall notify the district where the student would otherwise be attending. The district so notified may choose to either:

1. continue to provide educational services, including transportation between the temporary shelter and the school in the home district; or
2. pay tuition to the district in which the temporary shelter is located.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations, to ensure compliance with applicable statutes in the implementation of this policy.

(cf. 5143 - Student Health Assessments and Immunizations)
(cf. 5146 - Child Abuse and Neglect)

Students

Homeless Students

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-253(e) School privileges for children in certain placements, non resident children and children in temporary shelters.

17a-101 Protection of children from abuse. Reports required of certain professional persons. When child may be removed from surrounding without court order.

17a-102 Report of danger of abuse.

17a-103 Reports by others.

17a-106 Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

46b-120 Definitions.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, (PL 107-110-Sec 1032) 42 U.S.C. §11431-11435.

Policy adopted: September 10, 2007

THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Thomaston, Connecticut

Students

Homeless Students

In order to appropriately implement the policy pertaining to homeless children, youth and students placed in shelters, in compliance with all applicable federal and state statutes, the following regulations are established.

Definitions:

Homeless students are federally defined as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” This definition includes the following types of students who are:

- a. sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
- b. living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- c. living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- d. abandoned in hospitals;
- e. awaiting foster care placement;
- f. 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;
- g. living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- h. migratory children living in the above described circumstances.

Connecticut’s residency definitions contained in C.G.S. 10-235(d) defines non-residency as children residing with relatives or non-relatives, when it is the intention of such relatives or non-relatives and of the children or their parents or guardians that such residence is to be (1) permanent, (2) provided without pay and (3) not for the sole purpose of obtaining school accommodations. In addition, C.G.S. 10-253(e) indicates that children in temporary shelters are entitled to free school privileges from either the school district in which the shelter is located or from the school district in which the child would otherwise reside, if not for the need for temporary shelter. The district has an obligation to identify homeless and migratory children.

District Obligations Regarding Placement of Homeless Students:

- i. The District must continue the student’s education in the “school of origin” which is the school the child attended when permanently housed or the school of last enrollment. **OR**
- j. The District must enroll the homeless student in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the area where the child is actually living are eligible to attend.

Students

Homeless Students

District Obligations Regarding Placement of Homeless Students (continued):

- k. The District is required, “to the extent feasible” to keep the homeless child in the school of origin unless it is against the wishes of the parent/guardian.
- l. The homeless child’s right to attend the school of origin extends for the duration of homelessness.
- m. If a child becomes permanently housed during the academic year, he/she is entitled to stay in the school of origin until the end of the school year.
- n. A child who becomes homeless in between academic years is entitled to attend his/her school of origin for the following academic year.
- o. The District must provide written explanation, including the right to appeal, whenever the school District sends the homeless child to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent/guardian.
- p. With an “unaccompanied youth,” the District’s homeless liaison must assist in the placement/enrollment decisions, considering the youth’s wishes, and provide notice of appeal under the Act’s enrollment disputes provision.

Appeal Procedures:

- a. C.G.S. 10-186 currently defines the process for resolving issues involving homeless students. The state is required to establish an appeal process.
- b. Federal law requires school districts to allow homeless students to “stay put.” “The child shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.”
- c. The District’s homeless liaison shall carry out the dispute resolution process expeditiously and, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending the resolution of the dispute.

Educational Services to be Provided to Homeless Students:

- 1. Educational services are to be comparable to those received by other students in the school.
- 2. Such students may be entitled to such services as Title I, state/local remedial programs, special education, limited English proficiency, vocational education, gifted/talented and school nutrition programs.
- 3. Homelessness alone is not to be considered a sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.
- 4. Homeless students may be segregated for short periods of time only for health and safety emergencies or to provide temporary, special or supplemental services.

Students

Homeless Students

Transportation Obligations of the School District for Homeless Students:

1. Services must be comparable to those provided other students in the selected school.
2. Homeless students must be provided transportation to the school of origin, if requested by the parent/guardian, if the school is within the school district.
3. If the school of origin is in a different school district from where the child is currently living, both school districts are to agree on a method for sharing the responsibility and costs, or share the costs equally.

Enrollment Requests from Homeless Parents:

1. The selected school is required to immediately enroll the child, even in the absence of records normally required for enrollment. Parents/guardians may be required to submit contact information.
2. The last school attended must be contacted to obtain records.
3. If the child lacks immunizations or immunization/medical records, the enrolling school **MUST** refer the parent/guardian to the liaison in order to get help obtaining immunizations and records.

District Liaison for Homeless Students:

The District's liaison for homeless students is Superintendent and/or designee.

The duties of the local liaison are:

- a. Ensure homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination with other agencies and entities.
- b. Ensure homeless children enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in the school district's schools.
- c. Ensure that homeless families and children receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start, preschool programs, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services.
- d. Parents/guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
- e. Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless children are disseminated where such children receive services. (For example, family shelters, soup kitchens, and schools)

Students

Homeless Students

District Liaison for Homeless Students (continued):

- f. Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated.
- g. Parent/guardian is fully informed of all transportation services, including to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing those services.
- h. Must assist unaccompanied youth in placement/enrollment decisions, including considering the youth's wishes in those decisions, and providing notice to the youth of the right to appeal such decisions.
- i. Must assist children who do not have immunizations, or immunization or medical records, to obtain necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.
- j. Must collaborate and coordinate with state coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children.