

District of Origin Responsibilities

- The district of origin is responsible for:
 1. the education of the homeless child;
 2. the determination of educational placement after consulting with the parent(s) or guardian(s);
 3. payment for tuition and transportation costs when the child attends school in another district;
and
 4. provision of transportation when a child attends school in the district of origin while residing in another district.
- If the decision is made to educate the student outside the district of origin, that decision **must** be made, in consultation with the parent(s), by the district of origin, not the district which educates the child. This will serve to avoid any disputes in subsequent billing of tuition to the district of origin.
- Information used to determine the district of origin may be obtained from several sources, including parent(s), case manager(s), county welfare agency, shelter provider, and/or other involved agencies.
- There is no time limit on the responsibility of a district of origin for a homeless student. The district of origin is responsible for the student until the parent or guardian is no longer homeless. The situation should be reviewed on a regular basis (at least quarterly).
- If there is no district of origin, or if the district of origin is out of state, the fiscal responsibility for tuition rests with the New Jersey Department of Education, and transportation costs rest with the district which educates the homeless child.
- In the absence of a district of origin, if the family moves to another district while still homeless, the district which previously educated the child remains as an educational option for the child (district of last attendance).
- Disputes concerning the district of origin should not delay a child's school attendance. Disputes must be referred *immediately* to the County Executive Superintendent of Schools for prompt resolution. Further appeals should be referred to the Division of Finance, New Jersey Department of Education for resolution.