

Placement Option Requirements

- Three educational options are available to homeless students under the law: the district of origin, the district of last attendance or the district where the child is temporarily residing.
- Educational placement decision making is a shared responsibility between the district of origin and the homeless parent, with consideration being given to what is in the child's best interest. The following must be considered:
 - Preference of parent;
 - Continuity of educational program;
 - Eligibility for special instructional programs; and
 - Distance, travel time and safety.
- Parental consultation may be accomplished through personal interview, telephone interview, questionnaire or other form. Parental consultation must be documented.
- The district of origin must determine placement immediately and effectuate that placement without delay.
- In the absence of a district of origin, the district which first educates the child should retain decision making authority if the family relocates while remaining homeless.
- Disputes regarding placement decisions must be referred to the County Executive Superintendent immediately for resolution within 48 hours.
- Placement in the same school should be encouraged for homeless students returning to the district of origin or the district of last attendance.
- Homeless special education students must not be denied educational services, including the identification and evaluation of potentially disabled students. The district of origin continues to be responsible to implement the IEP and must pursue an appropriate placement in which the goals and objectives can be met. Within a thirty-day period, the district of origin must review and revise the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), if necessary.
- When the homeless child is placed in a district outside of the district of origin, the district of last attendance, which may be the district of origin, shall forward all of the child's academic and health records to the new district. The transfer of records is subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C.17-2.6(3-d).
- Homeless students shall not be excluded from school for lack of academic records (N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19A).