

Annual Notice

Homeless Definition/School Responsibility

Homeless Definition:

A homeless child or youth is defined as a child between ages of three and 21 who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes the following;

- a. A child who is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; is living in a motel, hotel trailer park, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; is living in an emergency or transitional shelter; is abandoned in a hospital; or is awaiting foster care placement.
- b. A child who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- c. A child who is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.
- d. A migratory child who qualifies as homeless because the child or youth is living in circumstances described above.

Responsibility of the School Board:

The Board of Directors of the Alta Community School District and the Aurelia Community School District have three responsibilities:

- 1. Locate and identify homeless children or youth of school age who are found within the district, whether or not they are enrolled.
- 2. Homeless posters are posted pertaining information encouraging homeless children and youths of school age to enroll in the public school at community shelters and other locations in the district where services or assistance is provided to the homeless.
- 3. Examine and revise, if necessary, existing school policies or rules that create barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths, consistent with these rules. School districts are encouraged to cooperate with homeless agencies and organizations to explore comprehensive, equivalent alternative educational programs and support services for homeless children and youth when necessary to implement the intent of these rules. (281-33.3)

The Boards of Education have adopted policies compliant with Federal and State mandates to govern the identification and accommodation of homeless children in the district. A liaison has been appointed to oversee the implementation of homeless policies and programs in the district.

The liaison for the Alta-Aurelia Community School District is Maggie Lenhart, Guidance Counselor for the Aurelia building. She may be contacted at 712-200-1010 or by email at mlenhart@alta-aurelia.org. ++++++