

KEYSTONE OAKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Policy Guide



Policy No. 251

Section PUPILS

Title STUDENTS EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS, FOSTER  
CARE, AND OTHER  
EDUCATIONAL INSTABILITY

Adopted MARCH 15, 2016

Last Revised JUNE 20, 2023

	<p><b>POLICY NO. 251</b></p> <p><b>STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FOSTER CARE AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTABILITY</b></p> <p><b>THIS POLICY SHALL SUPERSEDE POLICY 255.</b></p>	
<b>Section 1</b>	<p><b><u>Purpose</u></b></p> <p>The Board recognizes the challenges encountered by students experiencing homelessness, foster care and other educational instability. The Board is committed to facilitating the immediate enrollment; eliminating barriers to the attendance, education and graduation; and providing additional supports in compliance with federal and state laws, regulations and Board policy, for such students.</p>	<p>22 PA Code 11.18 24 P.S. 1305, 1306, 1331.1 20 U.S.C. 6311, 6312 42 U.S.C. 675, 11431 et seq</p>
<b>Section 2</b>	<p><b><u>Authority</u></b></p> <p>The Board directs the District to collaborate with school staff, other school districts, local agencies and other entities in supporting the needs of students experiencing educational instability.</p> <p>The Board shall ensure that students experiencing educational instability have equal access to the same educational programs, activities and services provided to other district students.</p>	<p>22 PA Code 11.18 24 P.S. 1305, 1306, 1331.1 20 U.S.C. 6311 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.</p> <p>22 PA Code 11.18 24 P.S. 1305, 1306, 1331.1 20 U.S.C. 6311</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>POLICY NO. 251</b>  <b>STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS,</b>  <b>FOSTER CARE AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL</b>  <b>INSTABILITY</b></p> <p>The Board authorizes the Superintendent to waive specific requirements in Board policies, procedures and administrative regulations to the extent that they create barriers for the enrollment and attendance of students experiencing educational instability. Such waivers include, but are not limited to, requirements regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dress code.</li> <li>2. Transportation.</li> <li>3. School-sponsored or extracurricular activities for which students meet placement and qualification requirements, including, but not limited to, clubs, athletics, performing arts, class trips, social events, career and technical education, internships and specialized classes.</li> <li>4. Fees related to school-sponsored or extracurricular activity participation fees, and other fees including, but not limited to, school identification (badges, cards, etc.), uniforms, materials, lost or damaged items, athletic physical exams, parking or driving, food services, library, locker or padlock rental or replacement, summer school or credit recovery, technology and graduation regalia.</li> <li>5. Graduation.</li> <li>6. Registration deadlines.</li> </ol> <p>It is the policy of the Board that no student shall be discriminated against, segregated or stigmatized based on their status as a student experiencing educational instability.</p>	<p>42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.</p> <p>Pol. 221</p> <p>Pol. 810</p> <p>Pol. 113, 114, 115, 121, 122, 123</p> <p>Pol. 110, 121, 122, 123, 124, 217, 221, 223, 808</p> <p>Pol. 217</p>
<b>Section 3</b>	<p><b><u>Definitions</u></b></p> <p><b>Student Experiencing Educational Instability</b> means a student who has experienced one (1) or more changes in school enrollment during a single school year due to any of the following:</p>	<p>24 P.S. 1331.1</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>POLICY NO. 251</b>  <b>STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS,</b>  <b>FOSTER CARE AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL</b>  <b>INSTABILITY</b></p> <p>1. Homelessness.</p> <p>2. An adjudication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dependency relating to child protective services and juvenile matters;</li> <li>b. Delinquency, if disclosed by the student's person in parental relation; or</li> <li>c. As part of court-ordered services under a voluntary placement or custody agreement.</li> </ul> <p>A student experiencing foster care may also qualify as a student experiencing educational instability as defined above, if such circumstances apply.</p> <p><b>Enroll or Enrollment</b> means attending classes and participating fully in school activities.</p> <p><b>Additional costs</b> means the difference between what the District spends to transport a resident student to the student's assigned school and the cost to transport a child in foster care to the child's school of origin.</p> <p><b>Foster care</b> means twenty-four (24) hour substitute care for children placed away from their person in parental relation and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions and pre-adoptive homes. A child is in foster care in accordance with this definition regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed and payments are made by the state, tribal or local agency for the care of the child, whether adoption subsidy payments are being made prior to the finalization of an adoption or whether there is federal matching of any payments that are made.</p>	<p>22 PA Code 11.18  24 P.S. 1306  42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. 6301 et seq  42 Pa C.S.A. 6301 et seq</p> <p>45 CFR 1355.20</p> <p>42 U.S.C. 11434a</p> <p>45 CFR 1355.20</p>
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<p><b>Section 4</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>POLICY NO. 251</b>  <b>STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS,</b>  <b>FOSTER CARE AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL</b>  <b>INSTABILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school of origin for a child in foster care - the school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care. If a child's foster care placement changes, the school of origin is the school the child is attending immediately prior to each change in placement.</li> <li>• When the homeless child or youth, or child in foster care, completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the school of origin shall become the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.</li> </ul> <p><b>Unaccompanied youth</b> means a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a person in parental relation. This includes youth who have run away from home; been abandoned or forced out of home by a parent, guardian or other caretaker; or separated from a parent or guardian for any other reason.</p> <p><b><u>Delegation of Responsibility</u></b></p> <p>The Board designates the Superintendent or designee to serve as the District's point of contact for students experiencing educational instability.</p> <p>The name and contact information of the District's point of contact shall be included in the student's education records and provided to the student's education decision maker.</p> <p>The District's point of contact shall ensure outreach and coordination with the following, as appropriate to each individual student's needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local children and youth agency.to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish formal mechanisms to ensure that the District is promptly notified when a child enters foster care or changes foster care placements;</li> <li>b. Develop a protocol on how to make best interest determinations; and</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>42 U.S.C. 675</p> <p>42 U.S.C. 11434a</p> <p>24 P.S. 1331.1  20 U.S.C. 6311  42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p> <p>24 P.S. 1331.1</p> <p>24 P.S. 1331.1  20 U.S.C. 6311  42 U.S.C. Sec. 11432</p>
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		24 P.S. 121, 1331.1



	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>POLICY NO. 251</b>  <b>STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS,</b>  <b>FOSTER CARE AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL</b>  <b>INSTABILITY</b></p> <p>The District’s point of contact shall assist the student in determining the student’s eligibility for a Keystone Diploma and, if eligible, obtaining the Keystone Diploma from the PA Department of Education.</p> <p><i>Students with Disabilities –</i></p> <p>Students experiencing educational instability who have an IEP shall maintain the right to special education and the right to graduate either through attainment of credits or through the completion of the goals established in their IEP.</p> <p>Students with an IEP may elect to remain in school until age twenty-one (21) even if the District determines there is an earlier pathway to graduation. Such students may participate in the graduation ceremony with their current graduating class, even if the student elected to remain in school.</p>	<p>24 P.S. 121, 1331.1</p> <p>Pol. 113, 217</p> <p>Pol. 217</p>
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