

Northampton Public Schools

Office of Student Services



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FAQs for Homeless and Foster Care Students

Question	Foster Care	Homeless*
Who is the district point of contact?	Joshua Dickson Director of Student Services 413-587-1451 jdickson@northampton-k12.us	Joshua Dickson Director of Student Services 413-587-1451 jdickson@northampton-k12.us
When can a student be enrolled in the Northampton Public Schools?	A new student cannot be registered and enrolled until a Best Interest Determination (BID) Meeting takes place. <i>Please reach out to the district point of contact to set this up.</i>	A new student can be registered and enrolled in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
If a student is enrolled in the NPS and becomes involved in the Foster Care system or is considered homeless, how long can the student remain enrolled in NPS?	Continued Placement decisions are made through a Best Interest Determination (BID) meeting. If the result of that meeting is that the student should remain in the school of origin, students may remain enrolled in the school of origin until they complete the grade of transition (grade 5, grade 8, or grade 12). At that time, the district in which the foster placement resides becomes the district of origin.	Students may remain enrolled in the school of origin until they find permanent housing. At that time, the student may choose to remain enrolled in NPS until the end of the current school year. At the end of the school year, the student's local educational agency (LEA) is the district of residence.
Can my student continue in the NPS as a school choice student?	School Choice slots are determined each year by the School Committee. If a School Choice slot is available, your child may apply. Continued enrollment is not guaranteed, and the district will not be able to open additional slots. It is important to note that transportation is not provided for School Choice students.	
Is my child entitled to transportation?	Yes, your child is eligible for transportation from their foster placement to NPS if the BID meeting determines that the student should remain in the NPS.	Yes, your child is eligible for transportation from their temporary housing to NPS through the end of the current school year.

* The McKinney-Vento Act defines "homeless children and youths" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes children and youths who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up");
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- living in emergency or transitional shelters; or - abandoned in hospitals;
- 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;
- who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.