

EOY Training 2014, Session 1.4 – Homeless Education Questions and Answers

Q: If a student is pulled from their home and placed in the grandparent’s custody is that homeless?

A: It depends. Just because they are placed with the grandparents is not enough information. You have to ask the question: Can the grandparent provide for them? Just because the courts place a child with family, you still have to ask all those questions. Another example would be, if I move in with grandmother because I think she’s the best thing since sliced bread, I’m not homeless. If I move in with grandmother because otherwise I’d be on the streets, then I’m homeless. So, you have to ask the right questions. Does their placement create an economic hardship? It is not black and white, you get into gray areas and you have to ask the hard questions.

Q: When a student is homeless, they are automatically eligible for free lunch. Is an application required for that? Can I just go in and tell food service the student is homeless?

A: The homeless coordinator indicating the child as homeless needs to keep a list and give to food service, which needs to be signed and dated by the homeless coordinator. They are also qualified for free lunch for the first 30 days of the next school year until their living status is evaluated.

Q: Is there an age limit on unaccompanied youth? If a student enrolls who is 18 but not living with parent or guardian is he considered homeless or considered independent and not to be marked homeless?

A: If the student is ‘school age’ and not in the custody of his or her parent/guardian, the student is considered an unaccompanied youth. ‘School age’ in Kentucky is up to the age of 21. We all went to school with kids whose parents kicked them out of the house. We didn’t think of them as homeless but they really were. They were couch surfing at somebody’s house. They are unaccompanied youth and can enroll themselves in school.

Q: Does KDE have a homeless form that includes a decision tree with the types of questions that would help determine if a student is homeless?

A: No, however, our [website](#) contains guidance and the most frequently answered questions (FAQs) for Homeless determination.

Q: You said if we identify a student as homeless during the academic year that their status remains homeless for the rest of that academic year, when we roll students forward in Infinite Campus does that automatically roll forward or is it blank?

A: The homeless indicator and living status do not carry forward when the students are rolled forward. A student's homeless indicator and living status has to be verified and entered in Infinite Campus within the first 30 days of the new school year. See the [Homeless Data Standards](#) for reporting and verification of this data.

Q: Are foster children considered homeless or not?

A: Student's **awaiting** foster care placement are considered homeless. Students who have been **placed** in foster care are **not** considered homeless. Kentucky statute defines 'foster care' as the provision of temporary twenty-four (24) hour care for a child for a planned period of time when the child is: (a) Removed from his parents or person exercising custodial control or supervision and subsequently placed in the custody of the cabinet; and (b) Placed in a foster home or private child-caring facility or child-placing agency but remains under the supervision of the cabinet. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 620.020

Q: If an 18 year old is still in school and leaves his home and moves in with a family that qualifies for free lunch, does the 18 year qualify for free lunch?

A: You have to take that individual's child income. The 18 year old would be considered homeless which qualifies him for free lunch.

Q: Should that additional 18 year old be added to the family's free/reduced lunch application?

A: No.

Q: If a child is placed in foster care this year then next year is still in the same foster home, are they considered homeless?

A: No.

Q: If a child is awaiting foster care placement, then they are considered homeless which qualifies them for free lunch. Once they are placed in foster care are they still qualified for free lunch the rest of the year?

A: Yes for the remainder of that academic year, if the student is marked as homeless within an enrollment as they are 'awaiting foster care'. The following year if the student is still in foster care they would no longer be considered homeless or qualify for free lunch based on homeless status.

Q: Will the foster placement question be clarified in the data standard and made available to those who enter the data?

A: Yes, the [Homeless Data Standard](#) document has been updated and posted to [KDE's website](#).