

# New Jersey Department of Education



Chapter 17, Education for Homeless  
Children and Students in State Facilities



# Purpose of the Chapter



- Ensures that homeless children, students placed in state facilities, and children in resource family care (formerly known as foster care) are provided a thorough and efficient education.
- Establishes uniform Statewide policies to ensure school enrollment of homeless children and youth.
- Establishes policies to ensure the educational stability of children in resource family care.



# Proposed Title Change



<b>Current Title of Chapter</b>	<b>Proposed Title of Chapter</b>
Chapter 17. Education for Homeless Children and Students in State Facilities	Chapter 17. Education for Homeless Children and Youths in State Facilities and Educational Stability for Children in Resource Family Care



# Proposed New Definitions



Term	Definition
Best interest determination	School placement decision made by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P).
Resource family care	The term is synonymous with the term “foster care” as defined in the ESEA, as reauthorized by the ESSA, and includes “resource family home” found elsewhere in the New Jersey Administrative Code and in the New Jersey Statutes Annotated.
School of origin	For a child in resource family care it means the school district in which a child was enrolled prior to a change in the child’s care, custody, or guardianship.



# Proposed Amendments

## Subchapter 2 – Determination of Homeless Status



Current Language	Proposed Language
N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.2(a)5 “Any temporary location wherein children and youth are awaiting foster care placement.”	The Department proposes to amend this section to <b>remove item 5</b> from 6A:17-2.2(a)1-5 under Determination of homeless status to ensure alignment with ESSA.



# Proposed Amendments

## Subchapter 2 – Disputes and Appeals



Current Language	Proposed Language
<p>N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.7(b)...school districts shall immediately notify the Executive County Superintendent, who shall make a determination immediately, if possible, but no later than within 48 hours.</p>	<p>Extends the amount of time for the Executive County Superintendent to make a determination from “immediately, if possible, or no later than 48 hours” to <b>5 business days</b>. Proposed change allows for a more reasonable period of time for fact finding and consultation with the state coordinator when required.</p>



# Proposed New Subchapter 4: 6A:17-4.1 – Purpose and Scope



- Ensures the educational stability of children placed in resource family care so that they receive a thorough and efficient education.
- Ensures alignment with the December 2016 requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



# Proposed New Subchapter 4: 6A:17-4.2 School District Responsibilities



Each district shall:

- Identify a point of contact; and
- Develop policies and procedures which ensure:
  - Transportation;
  - Immediate enrollment;
  - Record transfers; and
  - Continued enrollment.





# Proposed New Subchapter 4: 6A:17-4.3 School District Point of Contact



Each district shall identify a point of contact who shall:

- Ensure children are immediately enrolled and regularly attend school;
- Develop and coordinate transportation;
- Facilitate the transfer of records;
- Facilitate data sharing with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P); and
- Provide professional development and training to district staff.



# Proposed New Subchapter 4: 6A:17-4.4 Immediate enrollment and records transfer



When school districts are notified by DCP&P they must:

- Ensure immediate enrollment;
- Immediately take steps to obtain all relevant academic records; and
- Ensure continued enrollment for the duration of the child's time in resource family care.



# Proposed New Subchapter 4: 6A:17-4.5 Transportation



Each district shall collaborate with DCP&P to:

- Develop clear written procedures regarding transportation during the child's time in resource family care; and
- Ensure that children in resource family care receive transportation promptly in a cost-effective manner.



# Proposed New Subchapter 4: 6A:17-4.6 Tuition



- When a child in resource family care is enrolled in a school district other than the district of residence, the school district of residence shall pay tuition to the school district in which the child is enrolled.
- If the State has assumed fiscal responsibility for the tuition, the State shall pay the costs of tuition for the child to attend school in the school district of enrollment.

