

Homelessness, foster youth, and education.

Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

- Requires the Indiana housing and community development authority (authority) to:
 - (1) oversee and encourage a regional homeless delivery system;
 - (2) facilitate the dissemination of information to assist individuals and families in accessing local resources, programs, and services related to homelessness, housing, and community development; and
 - (3) determine the number of homeless individuals, including homeless children, in Indiana, and the number of homeless in Indiana who are not residents of Indiana.
- Extends the authority's power to coordinate and establish linkages between governmental and social services programs to include individuals or families facing or experiencing homelessness.

Department of Education

- Requires the department of education (department) to establish an office of coordinator for education of homeless children.
- Requires each school corporation to:
 - (1) appoint a liaison for homeless children (liaison); and
 - (2) report to the department the contact information for the liaison.
- Requires the department to train new liaisons.
- Requires each school corporation that has an Internet web site to publish on the web site the contact information for the liaison.
- Requires certain school corporations to transport a student in foster care to and from the school in which the student was enrolled before receiving foster care.
- Requires, after June 30, 2009, each school corporation to provide tutoring for a child who is in foster care or who is homeless if the school corporation determines a child has a demonstrated need for tutoring.

Department of Child Services (DCS)

- Requires the department of child services (DCS) to promote sibling visitation for every child who receives foster care.
- Allows a sibling or certain other individuals to request sibling visitation if one of the siblings is receiving foster care.
- Requires DCS to allow sibling visitation if it is in the best interests of the child receiving foster care.
- Provides that if DCS denies a request for sibling visitation, a child's guardian ad litem or court appointed special advocate may petition a juvenile court for sibling visitation.
- Requires a court to grant sibling visitation if the court determines sibling visitation is in the best interests of the child who receives foster care.
- Permits a court to appoint a guardian ad litem or court appointed special advocate if a child requesting sibling visitation is receiving foster care.

Shelter & Services

- Provides that a child may receive shelter and services or items directly related to providing shelter for homeless or low income individuals without the approval of a parent, guardian, or custodian.
- Requires an emergency shelter or shelter care facility to notify DCS not later than 24 hours after a child enters the shelter or facility unless the child is an emancipated minor.
- Requires DCS to:
 - (1) conduct an investigation concerning the child not later than 48 hours after DCS receives notification; &
 - (2) notify the child's parent, guardian, or custodian not later than 72 hours after the child enters the shelter or facility.
- Prohibits DCS from notifying the child's parent, guardian, or custodian as to the specific shelter or facility the child has entered if DCS has reason to believe the child is a victim of child abuse or neglect.

Student Enrollment

- Allows a student who has resided in a school corporation for at least two consecutive years immediately before moving to an adjacent school corporation to attend school in the former school corporation without transfer tuition being charged if the principal and superintendent in both school corporations agree.
- Prohibits a student to enroll primarily for athletic reasons in a school in a school corporation where the student does not have legal settlement.