

Chapter 167. Pupils and Special Services (Refs & Annos)

+ Foster Care Education Bill of Rights

>> 167.018. Foster care education bill of rights--school district liaisons

to be designated, duties

1. Sections 167.018 and 167.019 shall be known and may be cited as the "Foster Care Education Bill of Rights".

2. Each school district shall designate a staff person as the educational liaison for foster care children. The liaison shall do all of the following in an advisory capacity:

(1) Ensure and facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of foster children;

(2) Assist foster care pupils when transferring from one school to another or from one school district to another, by ensuring proper transfer of credits, records, and grades;

(3) Request school records, as provided in section 167.022, within two business days of placement of a foster care pupil in a school; and

(4) Submit school records of foster care pupils within three business days of receiving a request for school records, under subdivision (3) of this subsection.

Chapter 167. Pupils and Special Services (Refs & Annos)

>> 167.018. Foster care education bill of rights--school district liaisons

to be designated, duties

1. Sections 167.018 and 167.019 shall be known and may be cited as the "Foster Care Education Bill of Rights".

2. Each school district shall designate a staff person as the educational liaison for foster care children. The liaison shall do all of the following in an advisory capacity:

(1) Ensure and facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of foster children;

(2) Assist foster care pupils when transferring from one school to another or from one school district to another, by ensuring proper transfer of credits, records, and grades;

(3) Request school records, as provided in section 167.022, within two business days of placement of a foster care pupil in a school; and

(4) Submit school records of foster care pupils within three business days of receiving a request for school records, under subdivision (3) of this subsection.

>> 167.019. Placement decisions, agencies to consider foster child's school attendance area--right to remain in certain districts--course work to be accepted--graduation requirements--rulemaking authority.

1. A child placing agency, as defined under section 210.481, RSMo, shall promote educational stability for foster care children by considering the child's school attendance area when making placement decisions. The foster care pupil shall have the right to remain enrolled in and attend his or her school of origin pending resolution of school placement disputes or to return to a previously attended school in an adjacent district.

2. Each school district shall accept for credit full or partial course work satisfactorily completed by a pupil while attending a public school, nonpublic school, or nonsectarian school in accordance with district policies or regulations.
3. If a pupil completes the graduation requirements of his or her school district of residence while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as described in chapter 211, RSMo, the school district of residence shall issue a diploma to the pupil.
4. School districts shall ensure that if a pupil in foster care is absent from school due to a decision to change the placement of a pupil made by a court or child placing agency, or due to a verified court appearance or related court-ordered activity, the grades and credits of the pupil shall be calculated as of the date the pupil left school, and no lowering of his or her grades shall occur as a result of the absence of the pupil under these circumstances.
5. School districts, subject to federal law, shall be authorized to permit access of pupil school records to any child placing agency for the purpose of fulfilling educational case management responsibilities required by the juvenile officer or by law and to assist with the school transfer or placement of a pupil.
6. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of

chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2009, shall be invalid and void.

>> 167.020. Registration requirements--residency--homeless child or youth defined--recovery of costs, when--records to be requested, provided, when

1. As used in this section, the term "homeless child" or "homeless youth" shall mean a person less than twenty-one years of age who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including a child or youth who:

(1) Is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; is living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; is living in emergency or transitional shelters; is abandoned in hospitals; or is awaiting foster care placement;

(2) Has 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;

(3) Is living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(4) Is a migratory child or youth who qualifies as homeless because the child or youth is living in circumstances described in subdivisions (1) to (3) of this

subsection.

2. In order to register a pupil, the parent or legal guardian of the pupil or the pupil himself or herself shall provide, at the time of registration, one of the following:

(1) Proof of residency in the district. Except as otherwise provided in section 167.151, the term "residency" shall mean that a person both physically resides within a school district and is domiciled within that district or, in the case of a private school student suspected of having a disability under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1412, et seq, that the student attends private school within that district. The domicile of a minor child shall be the domicile of a parent, military guardian pursuant to a military-issued guardianship or court-appointed legal guardian; or

(2) Proof that the person registering the student has requested a waiver under subsection 3 of this section within the last forty-five days. In instances where there is reason to suspect that admission of the pupil will create an immediate danger to the safety of other pupils and employees of the district, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee may convene a hearing within five working days of the request to register and determine whether or not the pupil may register.

3. Any person subject to the requirements of subsection 2 of this section may request a waiver from the district board of any of those requirements on the basis of hardship or good cause. Under no circumstances shall athletic ability be a valid basis of hardship or good cause for the issuance of a waiver of the

requirements of subsection 2 of this section. The district board or committee of the board appointed by the president and which shall have full authority to act in lieu of the board shall convene a hearing as soon as possible, but no later than forty-five days after receipt of the waiver request made under this subsection or the waiver request shall be granted. The district board or committee of the board may grant the request for a waiver of any requirement of subsection 2 of this section. The district board or committee of the board may also reject the request for a waiver in which case the pupil shall not be allowed to register. Any person aggrieved by a decision of a district board or committee of the board on a request for a waiver under this subsection may appeal such decision to the circuit court in the county where the school district is located.

4. Any person who knowingly submits false information to satisfy any requirement of subsection 2 of this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

5. In addition to any other penalties authorized by law, a district board may file a civil action to recover, from the parent, military guardian or legal guardian of the pupil, the costs of school attendance for any pupil who was enrolled at a school in the district and whose parent, military guardian or legal guardian filed false information to satisfy any requirement of subsection 2 of this section.

6. Subsection 2 of this section shall not apply to a pupil who is a homeless child or youth, or a pupil attending a school not in the pupil's district of residence as a participant in an interdistrict transfer program established under a court-ordered desegregation program, a pupil who is a ward of the state and has been placed in a residential care facility by state officials, a pupil who has

been placed in a residential care facility due to a mental illness or developmental disability, a pupil attending a school pursuant to sections 167.121 and 167.151, a pupil placed in a residential facility by a juvenile court, a pupil with a disability identified under state eligibility criteria if the student is in the district for reasons other than accessing the district's educational program, or a pupil attending a regional or cooperative alternative education program or an alternative education program on a contractual basis.

7. Within two business days of enrolling a pupil, the school official enrolling a pupil, including any special education pupil, shall request those records required by district policy for student transfer and those discipline records required by subsection 9 of section 160.261, RSMo, from all schools previously attended by the pupil within the last twelve months. Any school district that receives a request for such records from another school district enrolling a pupil that had previously attended a school in such district shall respond to such request within five business days of receiving the request. School districts may report or disclose education records to law enforcement and juvenile justice authorities if the disclosure concerns law enforcement's or juvenile justice authorities' ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records are released. The officials and authorities to whom such information is disclosed must comply with applicable restrictions set forth in 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g (b)(1)(E).