

Education For Homeless Children

The Governing Board believes that the identification of students experiencing homelessness is critical to improving the educational outcomes of such students and ensuring that students experiencing homelessness have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the district. The district shall provide students experiencing homelessness with access to education and other services necessary for such students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

When there are at least 15 students experiencing homelessness in the district or a district school, the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP) shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of students experiencing homelessness. (Education Code 52052, 52060, 52064)

The Superintendent or designee shall review district policies at least once every three years and recommend updates to ensure removal of any barriers to the education of homeless students. Any such review shall address identification, enrollment, and retention of such students, including those barriers that are due to absences or outstanding fees or fines. (Education Code 48851.3, 42 USC 11432)

The Superintendent or designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a liaison for homeless children and youths. The district liaison for homeless students shall fulfill the duties specified in 42 USC 11432 to assist in identifying and supporting students experiencing homelessness to succeed in school, and as specified in Education Code 48851.3 related to trainings for district staff providing assistance to students experiencing homelessness.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each district school identifies all students experiencing homelessness enrolled at the school. (Education Code 48851)

To ensure easy identification of students experiencing homelessness, the Superintendent or designee shall annually provide and administer a housing questionnaire developed by the California Department of Education (CDE) to all parents/guardians of students. (Education Code 48851)

If the primary language of a student's parent/guardian is not English, either the housing questionnaire shall be made available in the primary language of the student's parent/guardian pursuant to Education Code 48985, or an appropriate translation of the housing questionnaire shall be provided upon request of a student's parent/guardian. (Education Code 48851)

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The Superintendent or designee shall report to CDE the number of students experiencing homelessness enrolled in the district as identified from the housing questionnaire described above. (Education Code 48851)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district liaison's contact information and other information on homelessness, including, but not limited to, information regarding the educational rights and resources available to persons experiencing homelessness, are posted on the district and school web sites as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48852.6)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for students experiencing homelessness are based on the student's best interest as defined in law and administrative regulation.

Each student experiencing homelessness shall be provided services that are comparable to services offered to other students in the school, including, but not limited to, transportation, educational programs for which the student meets the eligibility criteria (such as federal Title I services or similar state or local programs, programs for students with disabilities, and educational programs for Emergent Bilinguals), career and technical education programs, programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition programs. (Education Code 48850; 42 USC 11432)

Students experiencing homelessness shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way. However, the Superintendent or designee may separate homeless students on school grounds as necessary for short periods of time for health and safety emergencies or to provide temporary, special, and supplementary services to meet the unique needs. (42 USC 11432, 11433)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that information and/or materials for students experiencing homelessness are provided in a manner and form understandable to the student's parents/guardians.

Information about the living situation of a student experiencing homelessness shall be considered part of a student's educational record, subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, shall not be deemed to be directory information as defined in 20 USC 1232g, and shall not be released without written consent. (42 USC 11432)

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that students experiencing homelessness are promptly identified, ensure that students experiencing homelessness have access to and are in reasonable proximity to available education and related support services, and raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness. Toward these ends, the Superintendent or designee shall

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collaborate with local social services agencies, other agencies or entities providing services to ~~homeless~~ students experiencing homelessness, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities with other local educational agencies. As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate, within the district and with other involved local educational agencies, services for students experiencing homelessness and services for students with disabilities. (42 USC 11432)

At least annually, the district liaisons and other appropriate staff shall participate in professional development and other technical assistance activities to assist them in identifying and meeting the needs of students experiencing homelessness. Such professional development and technical assistance shall include, but are not limited to, training on the district's homeless education program policies, definitions of terms related to homelessness, recognition of signs that students are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness, the steps that should be taken once a potentially homeless student is identified, and how to connect students experiencing homelessness with appropriate housing and service providers. (Education Code 48851.3, 48852.5; 42 USC 11432)

At least annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board on outcomes the identification of and for students experiencing homelessness, which may include, but are not limited to, the housing questionnaire responses, school attendance, student achievement test results, promotion and retention rates by grade level, graduation rates, suspension/expulsion rates, and other outcomes related to any goals and specific actions identified in the LCAP. Based on the evaluation data, the district shall revise its strategies as needed to more effectively identify and support the education of students experiencing homelessness.

| State | Description |
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| 5 CCR 4600-4670 | Uniform complaint procedures |
| Ed. Code 39807.5 | Payment of transportation costs by parents |
| Ed. Code 48850 | Academic achievement of students in foster care and homeless children |
| Ed. Code 48850-48859 | Education of foster youth and homeless students |
| Ed. Code 48851 | Identification of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths; housing questionnaire |
| Ed. Code 48851.3 | Homeless education program policies; liaison responsibilities |

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Instruction

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| Ed. Code 48851.5 | Local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths |
| Ed. Code 48852.3 | Monitoring for compliance with chapter |
| Ed. Code 48852.5 | Notice of educational rights of homeless students |
| Ed. Code 48852.6 | Information regarding homelessness |
| Ed. Code 48852.7 | Education of homeless students; immediate enrollment |
| Ed. Code 48859 | Definitions |
| Ed. Code 48915.5 | Recommended expulsion; foster youth with disabilities |
| Ed. Code 48918.1 | Notice of recommended expulsion |
| Ed. Code 48985 | Notices to parents in language other than English |
| Ed. Code 51225.1-51225.3 | Graduation requirements |
| Ed. Code 52052 | Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups |
| Ed. Code 52060-52077 | Local control and accountability plan |

| Federal | Description |
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| 20 USC 1087vv | Free Application for Federal Student Aid; definitions |
| 20 USC 1232g | Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 |
| 20 USC 1400-1482 | Individuals with Disabilities Education Act |
| 20 USC 6311 | State plan |
| 42 USC 11431-11435 | McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act |
| 42 USC 12705 | Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act; state and local strategies |