



INSTRUCTION

BOARD POLICY – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

BP 6173

The County Board of Education (County Board) and the County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) believe that the identification of students experiencing homelessness is critical to providing services for improving the educational outcomes of such students and ensuring that such students have access to the same free and appropriate public education made available to other students. Students experiencing homelessness shall be provided with access to education and other services necessary for meeting the same challenging academic standards as other students.

When there are at least 15 students experiencing homelessness in a Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) county-operated program, the SBCEO's local control and accountability plan (LCAP) shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of such students. (Education Code 52052, 52064, 52066)

SBCEO homeless education policies shall be reviewed at least once every three years and updated to ensure removal of any barriers to the education of students experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth. Such policy review shall address identification, enrollment, and retention of students experiencing homelessness, including those barriers that are due to absences or outstanding fees or fines. (Education Code 48851.3; 42 USC 11432)

Each student experiencing homelessness shall be provided services that are comparable to services offered to other students in a SBCEO county-operated program, 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 English learners), 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 SBCEO county-operated program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way. On SBCEO county-operated program grounds, students experiencing homelessness shall only be separated for short periods of time, as necessary for health and safety emergencies or to provide temporary, special, and supplementary services to meet their unique needs. (42 USC 11432, 11433)

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)

At least annually, the County Superintendent shall receive a report on the identification of and outcomes 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 SBCEO's strategies shall be revised as needed to more effectively identify and support the education of students experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, the number of students experiencing homelessness graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from SBCEO established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements shall be annually reported to California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1.

The County Board hereby incorporates by reference the policies, procedures, and measures implemented by the County Superintendent to ensure the identification and full participation of students experiencing homelessness in SBCEO county-operated schools, programs, and activities, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The designation of an appropriate staff person to serve as the SBCEO's liaison for homeless children and youths who will assist and support students experiencing homelessness to succeed in school and fulfill other duties specified in Education Code 48851.3 and 42 USC 11432
2. Easy identification of students experiencing homelessness, including at each SBCEO county-operated program or school, in accordance with law, through annual administration of a housing questionnaire to parents/guardians of all students and to unaccompanied youths, posting of the SBCEO liaison's contact information and homeless education information on SBCEO web sites, and collaboration with local social services agencies and other agencies or entities providing services to students experiencing homelessness, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities
3. Provision of homeless education information and/or materials to the student's parents/guardians and unaccompanied youths in a manner and form understandable to such parents/guardians and unaccompanied youths
4. Assurance that placement decisions for students experiencing homelessness are based on the student's best interest as defined in law
5. Annually report the number of students experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth, to the California Department of Education (CDE)

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the County Superintendent of Schools or designee to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Federal

20 USC 1087vv
20 USC 1232g
20 USC 1400-1482
20 USC 6311
42 USC 11431-11435
42 USC 12705

Description

Free Application for Federal Student Aid; definitions
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
State plan
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act; state and local strategies

Management Resources

California Child Welfare Council

California Department of Education
Publication
California Department of Education
Publication
National Center for Homeless
Education Publication
U.S. Department of Education
Guidance
U.S. Department of Education
Guidance
Website
Website
Website

Website
Website
Website
Website
Website

Website
Website

Description

Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations,
September 2013
Homeless Education Dispute Resolution Process, March 2020

Federal Program Monitoring Instrument

Homeless Liaison Toolkit, 2020

Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program,
Non-Regulatory Guidance, August 2018
Dear Colleague Letter, July 27, 2016

[National Homelessness Law Center](#)
[University of California](#)
[U.S. Department of Education, Education for Homeless Children
and Youths Grants for State and Local Activities](#)
[National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty](#)
[National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE](#)
[California State University](#)
[California Interscholastic Federation](#)
[California Department of Education, Homeless Children and
Youth Education](#)
[California Community Colleges](#)
[California Child Welfare Council](#)

State

5 CCR 4600-4670
Ed. Code 39807.5
Ed. Code 48850

Ed. Code 48851

Ed. Code 48851.3
Ed. Code 48851.5

Ed. Code 48852.3
Ed. Code 48852.5
Ed. Code 48852.6
Ed. Code 48852.7
Ed. Code 48859
Ed. Code 48915.5

Description

Uniform complaint procedures
Payment of transportation costs by parents
Academic achievement of students in foster care and homeless
children
Identification of homeless children and youths and
unaccompanied youths; housing questionnaire
Homeless education program policies; liaison responsibilities
Local educational agency liaison for homeless children and
youths
Monitoring for compliance with chapter
Notice of educational rights of homeless students
Web site posting of information regarding homelessness
Education of homeless students; immediate enrollment
Definitions
Recommended expulsion; homeless student with disabilities

Ed. Code 48918.1
Ed. Code 48985
Ed. Code 51225.1-51225.3
Ed. Code 52052
Ed. Code 52060-52077

Notice of recommended expulsion
Notices to parents in language other than English
Graduation requirements
Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups
Local control and accountability plan

APPROVED BY COUNTY BOARD: March 4, 2010
REVISED: December 11, 2020
February 8, 2024