EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

The Governing Board desires to ensure that homeless students have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the district. The district shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for these students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

The Superintendent or designee shall identify and remove any barriers to the identification and enrollment of homeless students and to the retention of homeless students due to absences or outstanding fees or fines. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 3250 - Transportation Fees)
(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)
(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

When there are at least 15 homeless students 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 homeless students. (Education Code 52052, 52060)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

The Superintendent or designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a liaison for homeless children and youths. The district liaison shall fulfill the duties specified in 42 USC 11432 to assist in identifying and supporting homeless students to succeed in school.

Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be considered part of a student's educational record, subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and shall not be deemed to be directory information as defined in 20 USC 1232g. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

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

Each homeless student 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 English learners), career and technical education programs, programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition programs. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)
(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)
(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)
(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)
(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)
(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)
(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)
(cf. 6177 - Summer Learning Programs)
(cf. 6178 - Career and Technical Education)
(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Homeless students 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 of homeless students. (42 USC 11432, 11433)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that homeless children and youth are promptly identified, ensure that homeless students 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 collaborate with local social services agencies, other agencies or entities providing services to homeless children and youth, 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 homeless students and services for students with disabilities. (42 USC 11432)

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 homeless students and to provide training on the definitions of terms related to homelessness. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)
(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
39807.5 Payment of transportation costs by parents
48850 Educational rights of homeless and foster youth
48852.5 Notice of educational rights of homeless students
48852.7 Enrollment of homeless students
48915.5 Recommended expulsion, homeless student with disabilities
48918.1 Notice of recommended expulsion
51225.1-51225.3 Graduation requirements
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1087vv Free Application for Federal Student Aid; definitions
1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
6311 Title I state plan; state and local educational agency report cards
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
12705 Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act; state and local strategies

Management Resources:
CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS
Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Homeless Education Dispute Resolution Process, January 30, 2007
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HOMELESS EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Homeless Liaison Toolkit, 2013
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GUIDANCE
Dear Colleague Letter, July 27, 2016
Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program, Non-Regulatory Guidance, July 2016
WEB SITES
California Child Welfare Council: http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/CAChildWelfareCouncil.aspx
California Department of Education, Homeless Children and Youth Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy
National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE: http://www.serve.org/nche
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty: http://www.nlchp.org
U.S. Department of Education: http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/index.html

Board Policy Revised/Adopted: June 12, 2018
Previous Adoption: October 14, 2014

Menlo Park City School District
Atherton, CA