

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless children have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other children 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. Students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless, nor shall homeless students be stigmatized in any way.

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

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. 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. 5111.13 - Residency for Homeless Children)

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)

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

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)

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)

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)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

(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)
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 (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)

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)

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

1980-1986 County community schools

2558.2 Use of revenue limits to determine average daily attendance of homeless children

39807.5 Payment of transportation costs by parents

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

*Management Resources:*CDE PUBLICATIONSEnrolling Students in Homeless Situations, 1999*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

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EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

FEDERAL REGISTER

U.S. Department of Education: Notice of school enrollment guidelines, 67 Fed. Reg. 10698

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/cilbranch/homeless/homelesstoc.html>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/CEP/hmlsprogresp.html>

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty: <http://www.nlchp.org>

Policy

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VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vacaville, California