

**FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION****Instruction
EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN**

County Superintendent and County Board believe 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 County Superintendent and/or County Board schools. County Superintendent and County Board 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 a County Superintendent/County Board school(s), the applicable 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 County Superintendent or designee shall review County policies at least once every three years and recommend updates to ensure removal of any barriers to the education of homeless students and unaccompanied youth. 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 County Superintendent or designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a liaison for homeless students ("County Superintendent liaison").

The County Superintendent liaison 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 staff providing assistance to students experiencing homelessness.

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each County Superintendent/County Board school identifies all students experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youths enrolled at the school. (Education Code 48851)

To ensure easy identification of students experiencing homelessness, the County 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 and all unaccompanied youths. (Education Code 48851)

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

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

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In addition, the County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the County Superintendent 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 County Superintendent and school web sites as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48852.6)

The County 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 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 school or program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way. However, County Superintendent or designee may separate students experiencing homelessness 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 their unique needs. (42 USC 11432, 11433.)

The County 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 and to unaccompanied youths.

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

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At least annually, the County Superintendent liaison 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 County Superintendent'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)

Annually, the County Superintendent or designee shall report to CDE, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, 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 County established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements.

Adopted: 12/08/2011

Amended: 09/21/2017, 06/15/2023

Legal ReferenceEducation Code

39807.5 Payment of transportation costs by parents
48850-48859 Educational rights of homeless and foster youth
48915.5 Recommended expulsion, homeless student with disabilities
48918.1 Notice of recommended expulsion
48985 Notices to parents in language other than English
51225.1-51225.3 Graduation requirements
52052 Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

Code of Regulations, Title 5

4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures

United States Code, Title 20

1087vv Free Application for Federal Student Aid; definitions
1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
6311 State plan

United States Code, Title 42

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

Management ResourcesCalifornia Child Welfare Council Publications

Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations

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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 Youth Program, Non-Regulatory Guidance, July 2016

Web Sites

California Child Welfare Council: <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/CACChildWelfareCouncil.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:

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

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/index.html>