

Instruction

Education for Homeless Children

Definitions

Homeless means students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes: (42 USC 11435)

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in conditions described in (1)-(3) above

School of origin means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled. (42 USC 11432)

Best interest means, to the extent feasible, continuing a student's enrollment in the school of origin for the duration of his/her homelessness, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of his/her parent/guardian. (42 USC 11432)

Unaccompanied youth means a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. (42 USC 11434(a))

District Liaison

The Superintendent or designee designates the following staff person as the district liaison for homeless students (42 USC 11432):

Superintendent or Designee
11019 Valley Home Avenue, Whittier, CA 90603
(562) 943-0211

The district's liaison for homeless students shall ensure that: (42 USC 11432)

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Education for Homeless Children (continued)

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies

(cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced-Price Meals)

(cf. 5141.6 - Student Health and Social Services)

2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, district schools

3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible

4. Ensure that homeless families and students receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

5. Parents/guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law, Governing Board policy and administrative regulation

7. Ensure that school personnel providing services to homeless students receive professional development and other support

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

8. Fully inform parents/guardians of homeless students and unaccompanied youth of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and assist them in accessing transportation to the school of choice

(cf. 3250 - Transportation Fees)

(cf. 3541 - Transportation Routes and Services)

9. Ensure that unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school, have opportunities to meet the same challenging state academic standards established for other students, and are informed of their status as independent students under 20 USC 1087vv and that they

may receive assistance from the district liaison to receive verification of their independent student status for purposes of applying for federal student aid pursuant to 20 USC 1090

10. Coordinate and collaborate with state coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless students, including the provision of comprehensive data to the state coordinator as required by law

In addition, when notified pursuant to Education Code 48918.1, the district liaison shall assist, facilitate, or represent a homeless student who is undergoing a disciplinary proceeding that could result in his/her expulsion. When notified pursuant to Education Code 48915.5, the district liaison shall participate in an individualized education program team meeting to make a manifestation determination regarding the behavior of a student with a disability.

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

Enrollment

Placement decisions for homeless students shall be based on the student's best interest. In determining a student's best interest, a homeless student shall, to the extent feasible, be placed in his/her school of origin, unless his/her parent/guardian requests otherwise. (42 USC 11432)

The student may continue attending the school of origin for the duration of the homelessness or until the student moves into permanent housing. (42 USC 11432)

If the student is placed at a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the parent/guardian with a written explanation of the decision along with a statement regarding the parent/guardian's right to appeal the placement decision. (42 USC 11432)

Once a placement decision has been made, the principal or designee shall immediately enroll the student in the school of choice, even if the parent/guardian is unable to provide the school with the records normally required for enrollment. (42 USC 11432)

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Education for Homeless Children (continued)

(cf. 5111.13 - Residency for Homeless Children)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5141.31 – Immunizations)

The principal or designee shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain the relevant records. If the student needs to obtain immunizations or does not possess immunization or other medical records, the principal or designee shall refer the parent/guardian to the district homeless student liaison. The liaison shall assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations or records for the student. (42 USC 11432)

Enrollment Disputes

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a particular school, the student shall be immediately admitted, pending resolution of the dispute, to the school designated by the district liaison. (42 USC 11432)

The parent/guardian (or unaccompanied youth) shall be provided with a written explanation of the placement decision, including an explanation of the parent/guardian's right to appeal the decision. He/she shall also be referred to the district liaison. (42 USC 11432)

The district liaison shall carry out the dispute resolution process provided by the state as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Regulation Approved: March 23, 1987

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