

EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS

The Yolo County Governing Board desires to ensure that students who are homeless have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the Yolo County Office of Education. The County Office shall provide students who are homeless with access to education and other services necessary for them to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

The Yolo County Superintendent of Schools or designee shall identify and remove any barriers to the identification and enrollment of students who are homeless and to the retention of students who are homeless 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 students who are homeless in the County Office program, the County Office's local control and accountability plan (LCAP) shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of students who are homeless. (Education Code 52052, 52060)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

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

In order to identify County Office students who are homeless, the County Superintendent or designee may give a housing questionnaire to all parents/guardians during school registration, make referral forms readily available, include the County Office liaison's contact information on the County Office and school web sites, provide materials in a language easily understood by families and students, provide school staff with professional development on the definition and signs of homelessness, and contact appropriate local agencies to coordinate referrals for children and youth who are homeless and youth who are unaccompanied.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS (continued)

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

Each student who is homeless 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 students who are English learners), career and technical education programs, programs for students who are gifted and talented, 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)

Students who are homeless 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 County Superintendent or designee may separate students who are homeless 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 students who are homeless. (42 USC 11432, 11433)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS (continued)

The County Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that children and youth who are homeless are promptly identified, ensure that students who are homeless 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 children and youth who are homeless, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities. In addition, the County Superintendent or designee shall coordinate transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities with other local educational agencies. As necessary, the County Superintendent or designee shall coordinate, within the County Office and with other involved local educational agencies, services for students who are homeless and services for students with disabilities. (42 USC 11432)

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

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

At least annually, the County Superintendent or designee shall report to the County Board on outcomes for students who are homeless, which may include, but are not limited to, 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 County Office shall revise its strategies as needed to better support the education of students who are homeless.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS (continued)

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
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
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/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: <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.htmlPolicy>

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YOLO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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