

Policy 6173: Education For Homeless Children

The Governing Board believes that the identification of ~~homeless students~~ **students experiencing homelessness** is critical to improving the educational outcomes of such students and ~~desires to ensure that homeless students~~ **ensuring that students experiencing homelessness** have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the district. The district shall provide ~~homeless students~~ **students experiencing homelessness** with access to education and other services necessary for ~~these~~ **such** students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

When there are at least 15 ~~homeless students~~ **students experiencing homelessness** 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.~~ **students experiencing homelessness.** (Education Code 52052, 52060, 52064)

The Superintendent or designee shall ~~regularly review and recommend updates to district policies~~ **review district policies at least once every three years and recommend updates** to ensure removal of any barriers to the education of ~~homeless students~~ **students experiencing homelessness** 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 Superintendent or designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a ~~district liaison for homeless children and youths.~~ The district liaison **for homeless students** shall fulfill the duties specified in 42 USC 11432 to assist in identifying and supporting ~~homeless students~~ **students experiencing homelessness** to succeed in school, and as specified in Education Code 48851.3 related to trainings for district staff providing assistance to students experiencing homelessness.▪

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each district school identifies all ~~homeless children and youths~~ **students experiencing homelessness** and unaccompanied youths enrolled at the school. (Education Code 48851)

~~In order to identify district students who are homeless~~ **To ensure easy identification of students experiencing homelessness,** the Superintendent or designee shall annually ~~administer~~ **provide and administer** a housing questionnaire developed by the California Department of Education (CDE) to all parents/guardians of students ~~during school registration, make referral forms readily available, 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 homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth.~~ and all unaccompanied youths. (Education Code 48851)

If the primary language of a ~~student's~~ 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~~ 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~~ student's parent/guardian or an unaccompanied youth. (Education Code 48851)

~~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 1232, and shall not be released without written consent. (42 USC 11432)¶~~

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

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district 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 district and school ~~web sites~~ websites as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48852.6)

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

Each ~~homeless student~~ 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~~)

~~Homeless students~~ 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, the Superintendent or designee may separate ~~homeless students~~ 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 ~~the~~^{their} unique needs ~~of homeless students.~~ (42 USC 11432, 11433)

The 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 Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that ~~homeless children and youth~~^{students experiencing homelessness} are promptly identified, ensure that ~~homeless~~^{students experiencing homelessness} 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~~^{students experiencing homelessness}, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities. ~~In addition~~^{Additionally}, 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 experiencing homelessness} ~~students~~^{students experiencing homelessness} and services for students with disabilities. (42 USC 11432)

At least annually, ~~the~~^{liaison} district ~~liaison~~^{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 ~~homeless students~~^{students experiencing homelessness}. Such professional development and technical assistance shall include, but ~~is~~^{are} not limited to, training on the ~~district's homeless education program policies~~^{district's homeless education program policies}, definitions of terms related to homelessness, ~~the signs of~~^{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 ~~homeless students~~^{students experiencing homelessness} with appropriate housing and service providers. (Education Code 48851.3, 48852.5; 42 USC 11432) ~~The Superintendent or designee shall report to CDE the number of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths enrolled in the district as identified from the housing questionnaire described above. (Education Code 48851)~~¶

At least annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the **Governing** Board on the identification of and outcomes for ~~homeless students~~ **students experiencing homelessness**, which may include, but are not limited to, the housing questionnaire responses, 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 district shall revise its strategies as needed to ~~better~~ **more effectively identify and** support the education of ~~homeless students~~ **students experiencing homelessness**.