

The Board 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 performance 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.

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 district shall provide transportation for a homeless student to and from a district school of origin when the student is residing within the district and the parent/guardian requests that such transportation be provided. If the student moves outside of district boundaries but continues to attend this district's school of origin, the superintendent or designee shall consult with the superintendent of the district in which the student is now residing to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation.

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

WEB SITES:

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

Board of Trustees

May 2003

1.0 Definitions

Homeless means students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

- 1.1 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; or are awaiting foster care placement
- 1.2 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
- 1.3 Youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- 1.4 Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in conditions described in 1-3 above
- 1.5 School of origin 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.

2.0 District Liaison

The superintendent or designee designates the district liaison for homeless students. The district's liaison for homeless students shall ensure that:

- 2.1 Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies
- 2.2 Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, district schools
- 2.3 Homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible
- 2.4 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

2.5 Notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated at places where children receive services, such as schools, shelters, and soup kitchens

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

2.7 Parents/guardians are fully informed of all transportation services

3.0 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.

The student may continue attending the school of origin for the duration of the homelessness and until the end of any academic year in which the student moves into permanent housing.

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's right to appeal the placement decision. 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.

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.

4.0 Enrollment disputes

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a particular school, the student shall be promptly admitted, pending resolution of the dispute, to the school in which enrollment is sought.

The parent/guardian 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.

The district liaison shall carry out the dispute resolution through the district's Uniform Complaint Procedure process provided by the state as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute.

Board of Trustees
June 2003