## **Policy 6173: Education For Homeless Children**

Status:

Original Adopted Date: 01/23/2013 | Last Revised Date: 12/13/2017

The Governing Board desires to ensurebelieves that homeless 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 the district. The district shall provide homeless students experiencing homelessness with access to education and other services necessary for themsuch students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

(cf. 6011 -

Academic Standards)

Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee shall identify and remove any barriers to the identification and enrollment of homeless students and to the retention of homeless students 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 homeless-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. (Education Code 52052, 52060)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

The Superintendent Chief Learning Officerstudents experiencing homelessness. (Education Code 52052, 52060, 52064)

The Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee shall review district 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 Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a 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 experiencing homelessness to succeed in school.

In order, and as specified in Education Code 48851.3 related to identify trainings for district students who are homeless, staff providing assistance to students experiencing homelessness.

The Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee shall ensure that each district 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 Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee may giveshall annually provide and administer a housing questionnaire developed by the California Department of Education (CDE) to all parents/guardians during school registration, make referral forms readily 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, include 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 Superintendent Chief Learning Officer 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)

In addition, the Superintendent Chief Learning Officer 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, 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.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 4131 - as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48852.6)

The Superintendent Chief Learning Officer Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

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 1232g. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

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

Each homeless 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)

(cf. 3550 -

Students experiencing homelessnessFood 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)

Homeless students 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 Chief Learning Officer or designee may separate homeless-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 thetheir unique needs of homeless students... (42 USC 11432, 11433)

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

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

The Superintendent Chief Learning Officer 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 Chief Learning Officer or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that homeless children and youthstudents experiencing homelessness are promptly identified, ensure that homeless-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 Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee shall collaborate with local social services agencies, other agencies or entities providing services to homeless children and youthstudents experiencing homelessness, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities. In addition, the Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee shall coordinate transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities with other local educational agencies. As necessary, the Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee shall coordinate, within the district and with other involved local educational agencies, services for homeless-students experiencing homelessness and services for students with disabilities. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

District liaisons

At least annually, the district 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 experiencing homelessness. Such professional development and to provide technical assistance shall include, but are not limited to, training on the district'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)

At least annually, the Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee shall report to the Board on the identification of and outcomes for homeless-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

support the education of homeless students.more effectively identify and support the education of students experiencing homelessness.

Annually, the Superintendent Chief Learning Officer 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 district-established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

## **Policy Reference Disclaimer:**

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

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<b>State</b> 5 CCR 4600-4670	<b>Description</b> Uniform complaint procedures
Ed. Code 39807.5	Payment of transportation costs by parents Payment of transportation costs by parents
Ed. Code 48850	Academic achievement of students in foster care and homeless children Academic achievement of students in foster care and homeless children
Ed. Code 48850-48859	<u>Education of foster youth and homeless students</u> Education of foster youth and homeless students
Ed. Code 48851	Identification of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths; housing questionnaire Identification of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths; housing questionnaire
Ed. Code 48851.3	Homeless education program policies; liaison responsibilities Homeless education program policies; liaison responsibilities
Ed. Code 48851.5	<u>Local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths</u> Local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths
Ed. Code 48852.3	Monitoring for compliance with chapter Monitoring for compliance with chapter
Ed. Code 48852.5	Notice of educational rights of homeless students Notice of educational rights of homeless students

Ed. Code 48852.6 Information regarding homelessness Information regarding homelessness Ed. Code 48852.7 Education of homeless students; immediate enrollment Education of homeless students; immediate enrollment Ed. Code 48859 **Definitions Definitions** Ed. Code 48915.5 Recommended expulsion; foster youth with disabilities Recommended expulsion; foster youth with disabilities Notice of recommended expulsion Notice of recommended Ed. Code 48918.1 expulsion Ed. Code 48985 Notices to parents in language other than English Notices to parents in language other than English Ed. Code 51225.1-51225.3 Graduation requirements Graduation requirements Ed. Code 52052 Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups Ed. Code 52060-52077 Local control and accountability planLocal control and accountability plan **Federal** Description 20 USC 1087vv Free Application for Federal Student Aid; definitions 20 USC 1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 20 USC 1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 20 USC 6311 State plan 42 USC 11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 42 USC 12705 Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act; state and local strategies **Management Resources** Description California Child Welfare Council Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations, Publication September 2013 Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations, September 2013 California Department of Education Federal Program Monitoring Instrument Publication California Department of Education Homeless Education Dispute Resolution Process, March 2020 **Publication** National Center for Homeless Education Homeless Liaison Toolkit, 2020 Publication U.S. Department of Education Guidance Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program, Non-Regulatory Guidance, August 2018

Website <u>CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</u>

Website California State University

Website <u>University of California</u>

Website <u>California Department of Education, Homeless Children and</u>

**Youth Education** 

Website National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE

Website National Homelessness Law Center

Website U.S. Department of Education - Education for Homeless

**Children and Youths Grants for State and Local Activities** 

Website <u>California Community Colleges</u>

Website California Interscholastic Federation

Website <u>California Child Welfare Council</u>

## **Cross References**

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