EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

The Board of Trustees desires to ensure that homeless students have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the district. The district shall provide homeless students 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 Superintendent or designee shall identify and remove any barriers to the identification and immediate 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 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 or designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a liaison for homeless children and youths. The district liaison shall fulfill the duties specified in 42 USC 11432 to assist in identifying and supporting homeless students to succeed in school.

In order to identify district students who are homeless, the Superintendent or designee may give a housing questionnaire to all parents/guardians during school registration, make referral forms readily available, include the district liaison's contact information 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. 4131/4231/4331 - 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 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.

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

Each homeless student 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), programs for gifted and talented students, 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. 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 or designee may separate homeless students on school grounds for short periods of time for health and safety emergencies or to provide temporary, special, and supplementary services to meet the 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 or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that homeless children and youth are promptly identified, immediately enrolled in school regardless of documentation generally required for enrollment, ensure that homeless 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, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities. In addition, 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 and services for students with disabilities. (42 USC 11432)

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

District 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 homeless students and to provide training on the definitions of terms related to homelessness. (42 USC 11432)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

At least annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board on outcomes for homeless students, 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 district shall revise its strategies as needed to better support the education of homeless students.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)
(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Transportation

The district shall provide transportation for a homeless student to and from the student's school or 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 the district boundaries, but continues to attend their school of origin within the district, 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. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 3260 – Transportation Fees)
(cf. 3541 – Transportation Routes and Services)

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

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

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 Youth Program, Non-Regulatory Guidance, July 2016

WEB SITES

California Child Welfare Council: http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/CAChildWelfareCouncil.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.html