



Book	Policy Manual
Section	6000 - Instruction
Title	Education For Homeless Children
Code	6173 Board Policy
Status	Active
Adopted	July 13, 2005
Last Revised	June 28, 2023
Prior Revised Dates	05/11/2016; 1/17/2018; 7/6/2022

### **EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN**

The Governing Board believes that 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 students experiencing homelessness with access to education and other services necessary for such students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

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

The Superintendent 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. (42 USC 11432)

The Superintendent 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 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 children experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youths enrolled at the school. (Education Code 48851)

To ensure easy identification of students experiencing homelessness, the Superintendent or designee shall annually provide and administer a housing questionnaire developed by the California Department of Education (CDE) to all parents/guardians 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 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 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 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 as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48852.6)

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

Each 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)

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 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 their unique needs. (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 parents/guardians of homeless students 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 students experiencing homelessness are promptly identified, ensure that 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 or designee shall collaborate with local social services agencies, other agencies or entities providing services to children experiencing homelessness 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 students experiencing homelessness and services for students with disabilities. (42 USC 11432)

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 students experiencing homelessness. Such professional development and 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 or designee shall report to the Board on the identification of and outcomes for 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 more effectively identify and support the education of students experiencing homeless.

Legal

**\*\*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.

STATE REFERENCES:

[5 CCR 4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures](#)

[Ed. Code 39807.5 Payment of transportation costs by parents](#)

[Ed. Code 48850 Academic achievement of students in foster care and homeless children](#)

[Ed. Code 48850-48859 Education of students in foster care and students who are homeless](#)

[Ed. Code 48851 Identification of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths; housing questionnaire](#)

[Ed. Code 48851.3 Homeless education program policies; liaison responsibilities](#)

[Ed. Code 48851.5 Local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths](#)

[Ed. Code 48852.3 Monitoring for compliance with chapter](#)

[Ed. Code 48852.5 Notice of educational rights of homeless students](#)

[Ed. Code 48852.6 Web site posting of information regarding homelessness](#)

[Ed. Code 48852.7 Education of homeless students; immediate enrollment](#)

[Ed. Code 48859 Definitions](#)

[Ed. Code 48915.5 Recommended expulsion, homeless student with disabilities](#)

[Ed. Code 48918.1 Notice of recommended expulsion](#)

[Ed. Code 48985 Notices to parents in language other than English](#)

[Ed. Code 51225.1-51225.3 Graduation requirements](#)

[Ed. Code 52052 Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups](#)

[Ed. Code 52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan](#)

#### FEDERAL REFERENCES:

[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:

[California Child Welfare Council Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations](#)

[California Department of Education Publication 2021-22 Federal Program Monitoring Instrument, May 2021](#)

[California Department of Education Publication Homeless Education Dispute Resolution Process, March 2020](#)

[National Center for Homeless Education Publication Homeless Liaison Toolkit, 2020](#)

[U.S. Department of Education Guidance Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program, Non-Regulatory Guidance, August 2018](#)

#### WEBSITES:

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

[California State University: <https://www.calstate.edu/>](#)

[University of California: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/>](#)

[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 Homelessness Law Center: <https://homelesslaw.org/>](#)

[U.S. Department of Education - Education for Homeless Children and Youths Grants for State and Local Activities:](#)

[California Community Colleges: https://www.cccco.edu/](https://www.cccco.edu/)

[California Interscholastic Federation: https://www.cifstate.org/landing/index](https://www.cifstate.org/landing/index)

[California Child Welfare Council:](#)

<http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/CACHildWelfareCouncil.aspx>

## Cross References

[0410 Board Policy - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities](#)

[0460 Board Policy - Local Control and Accountability Plan](#)

[0500 Board Policy - Accountability](#)

[1312.3 Board Policy - Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[1312.3 Exhibit - Uniform Complaint Procedure Discrimination/Harassment Complaint Reporting Form](#)

[3260 Board Policy - Fees and Charges](#)

[3515.4 Board Policy - Recovery For Property Loss or Damage](#)

[3550 Board Policy - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program](#)

[3553 Board Policy - Free and Reduced Price Meals](#)

[4112.9 / 4212.9 / 4312.9 Board Policy - Employee Notifications](#)

[4131 Board Policy - Staff Development](#)

[4331 Board Policy - Staff Development](#)

[5111 Board Policy - Admission](#)

[5113.1 Board Policy - Chronic Absence and Truancy](#)

[5125 Board Policy - Student Records](#)

[5125.1 Board Policy - Release of Directory Information](#)

[5125.2 Board Policy - Withholding of Grades, Diploma, and Transcripts](#)

[5132 Board Policy - Dress and Grooming](#)

[5141.22 Board Policy - Infectious Diseases](#)

[5141.31 Board Policy - Immunizations](#)

[5144.1 Board Policy - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process](#)

[5145.6 Board Policy - Parental Notifications](#)

[5145.6 Exhibit - Parental Notifications](#)

[6011 Board Policy - Academic Standards](#)

[6120 Board Policy - Response To Instruction And Intervention](#)

[6143 Board Policy - Courses of Study](#)

[6145 Board Policy - Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities](#)

[6159 Board Policy - Individualized Education Program](#)

[6159.1 Board Policy - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints For Special Education](#)

[6159.3 Board Policy - Appointment of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students](#)

[6162.51 Board Policy - State Academic Achievement Tests](#)

[6164.5 Board Policy - Student Success Teams](#)

[6171 Board Policy - Title I Programs](#)

[6172 Board Policy - Gifted and Talented Student Program](#)

[6173.1 Board Policy - Education For Foster Youth](#)

[6174 Board Policy - Education For English Learners](#)

[6177 Board Policy - Summer School](#)

[6179 Board Policy - Supplemental Instruction](#)

[6190 Board Policy - Evaluation of the Instructional Program](#)