

BOARD POLICY 6173: EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

Comparison Chart

Section: Instruction

SUMMARY OF UPDATE

Summary of Update: Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 27, 2021)** which requires districts to ensure that each school within the district identifies all homeless children and unaccompanied youths and to create a web page or post on the district website a list of district liaisons for homeless students, contact information for such liaisons, and specific information on homelessness, including information regarding the educational rights and resources available to persons experiencing homelessness. Policy also updated to reflect **AB 27** requirement for districts that receive American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief - Homeless Children and Youth funds to administer a housing questionnaire developed by the California Department of Education (CDE) to parents/guardians of all students and all unaccompanied youths and report to CDE the number of homeless children and unaccompanied youths enrolled in the district. In addition, policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 400, 2021)** which requires CDE to develop and implement a system to verify that districts are providing required training to district liaisons and other appropriate staff at least annually. Policy also updated for clarity and closer alignment with law.

PARA	Section	Sub-Section	June 18, 2019 CURRENT VERSION	March 2022 REVISED VERSION	CSBA MODIFICATIONS and/or NOTES
1			<p>The Governing Board 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.</p>	<p>The Governing Board believes that the identification of homeless students is critical to improving the educational outcomes of such students and ensuring 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 such students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.</p>	<p>CSBA NOTE: The following policy reflects the intent of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431-11435) that each homeless student should have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education and services as other students. 42 USC 11432 mandates that districts adopt, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless children and youth, ensure that homeless students are not segregated or stigmatized on the basis of their status as homeless, and provide for professional development for appropriate staff, as provided in the following policy. In addition, 42 USC 11432 requires that, in reviewing and revising applicable policies, consideration be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth</p>

				certificates, school records and other documentation, and guardianship.
			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.	
3		The Superintendent 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.	The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review and recommend updates to district policies 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.	CSBA NOTE: The following paragraph is mandated pursuant to 42 USC 11432. 42 USC 11432 requires that districts adopt policy to remove barriers to homeless students' enrollment and retention due to absences or outstanding fees or fines. See the accompanying administrative regulation for additional procedures designed to remove barriers to the identification and enrollment of homeless students.
4		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.	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 homeless students to succeed in school.	CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 42 USC 11432, districts are required to designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other federal programs, as a district liaison for homeless students. See the accompanying administrative regulation for information about the designation and duties of the district liaison.
			The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each district school identifies all homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths enrolled at the school.	CSBA NOTE: Education Code 48851, as added by AB 27 (Ch. 394, Statutes of 2021), requires the district to ensure that each school within the district identifies all homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths enrolled at the school.
5		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,	To ensure easy identification of homeless students, the Superintendent or designee shall annually administer a housing questionnaire developed by the California	CSBA NOTE: The following paragraph is for districts that receive funding from the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief -

		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.	Department of Education (CDE) to all parents/guardians of students and all unaccompanied youths.	Homeless Children and Youth Fund (ARP-HCY) and may be deleted or revised to reflect district practice by districts that do not receive such funds. Education Code 48851, as added by AB 27, requires districts receiving ARP-HCY funds to annually administer a housing questionnaire to parents/guardians of all students and all unaccompanied youths for purposes of identifying homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths. The housing questionnaire must be based on best practices developed by the California Department of Education (CDE), include an explanation of the rights and protections a student has as a homeless child or youth or as an unaccompanied youth, and be made available in paper form. A sample housing questionnaire is available on CDE's web site.
6		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.	Paragraph moved	
			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.	
			In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district liaison's contact	CSBA NOTE: Education Code 48852.6, as added by AB 27, requires districts to create a

			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.	web page or post on its web site (1) a list of district liaisons and contact information for such liaison(s) and (2) specific information on homelessness, including, but not limited to, information regarding the educational rights and resources available to persons experiencing homelessness. Additionally, Education Code 48852.6, as added by AB 27, requires a district school, if it has a web site, to post the contact information for the district liaison, as well as the name and contact information of any employee or person under contract the school may have who assists the district liaison in completing the liaison's duties. See the accompanying administrative regulation for more information regarding posting requirements.
7		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.	No change	CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 42 USC 11432, placement determinations for homeless students must be made according to the student's "best interest," as defined in the accompanying administrative regulation.
8		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), career and technical education programs, programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition programs.	No change	
9		Homeless students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on	No change	CSBA NOTE: The following paragraph is mandated by 42 USC 11432. Although this law

		<p>their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way. However, the Superintendent or designee may separate homeless students 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 unique needs of homeless students.</p>		<p>prohibits the segregation of homeless students into a separate school or program, separate schools that were in operation before 2001 may continue to operate under specified conditions. Districts that maintain such a school may revise the following paragraph to reflect district practice.</p>
			<p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that information and/or materials for homeless students are provided in a manner and form understandable to the parents/guardians of homeless students and to unaccompanied youths.</p>	
			<p>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, shall not be deemed to be directory information as defined in 20 USC 1232g, and shall not be released without written consent.</p>	<p>CSBA NOTE: Although students' addresses generally may be designated as "directory information" that is not harmful if disclosed, 42 USC 11432 provides that information about a homeless student's living situation must instead be provided the protections afforded to other student records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. For further information about the disclosure of homeless students' records, see the U.S. Department of Education's (USDOE) "Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance."</p>
10		<p>The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that homeless children and youth are promptly identified, 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</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 42 USC 11432, districts receiving assistance through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act are required to coordinate services as provided below. Other districts may delete or revise the following paragraph to reflect district practice.</p>

		<p>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.</p>		
11		<p>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.</p>	<p>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. Such professional development and technical assistance shall include, but are not limited to, training on the definitions of terms related to homelessness, the signs of homelessness, the steps that should be taken once a potentially homeless student is identified, and how to connect homeless students with appropriate housing and service providers.</p>	<p>CSBA NOTE: 42 USC 11432 mandates that districts adopt policies and practices to ensure participation by district liaisons and other appropriate staff in professional development and other technical assistance activities, as determined appropriate by the federal Office of the Coordinator.</p> <p>Education Code 48852.5 requires CDE to provide specified informational and training materials to district liaisons, including informational materials on the educational rights of homeless children and youth and resources available to assist homeless children and youth. Education Code 48852.5, as amended by SB 400 (Ch. 400, Statutes of 2021), also requires CDE to develop and implement a system to verify that districts are providing the required training to school personnel providing services to youth experiencing homelessness at least annually.</p>

					The following paragraph reflects the training requirement of Education Code 48852.5 and USDOE's "Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance," regarding the content of the professional development.
				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.	CSBA NOTE: Education Code 48851, as added by AB 27, requires districts to collect the completed housing questionnaires described above, and annually report to CDE the number of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths enrolled in the district.
12			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.	At least annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board on the identification of and outcomes for homeless students, 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 homeless students.	CSBA NOTE: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Pursuant to Education Code 52064.5, the State Board of Education has adopted evaluation rubrics for use by districts in evaluating their strengths, weaknesses, and areas that require improvement. In addition, pursuant to 20 USC 6311 annual district report cards for districts receiving Title I funds are required to include disaggregated student achievement data and graduation rates of homeless students.

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