

Berkeley USD

Administrative Regulation

Education For Homeless Children

AR 6173

Instruction

Definitions

Homeless means students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes (42 USC 11434a) and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

1. Children and 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.
2. Children and youth 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.
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in conditions described in (1) to (3) above.

School of Origin means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled (42 USC 11432).

Best interest 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 (42 USC 11432).

District Liaison

The Superintendent or Designee designates the following staff person as

the district liaison for homeless students (42 USC 11432):

[Susan Craig, Director, Student Services](#)[2020 Bonar Street, Room 112](#)
Berkeley, CA [94702](#)
(510) [883-5224](#)
susancraig@berkeley.net

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The district's liaison for homeless students shall ensure that (42 USC 11432):

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.

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

(cf. 3553-Free and Reduced-Priced Meals)

(cf. 5141.6- Student Health and Social Services)

2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in district schools.

3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible, including pre-school and other available supplemental programs; referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, social services and other appropriate services.

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.

5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated at places where children receive services, such as schools, shelters, and soup kitchens.

6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law (Governing Board policy and administrative regulation).

7. Parents/guardians are fully informed of all transportation services and are assisted in gaining access to transportation to the school of origin or the current attendance area.

8. Children and youth who do not have immunization or medical records are assisted to obtain necessary immunizations or medical records.

9. Collaboration and coordination with state coordinators and

community and school personnel occurs in order to provide education and related services to homeless children and youth.

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 (42 USC 11432).

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

The District shall utilize the McKinney-Vento Affidavit and Caregiver Authorization forms in lieu of missing documents in order to ensure immediate enrollment, thereby eliminating any possible barrier for homeless students.

The principal or designee shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student in order to obtain the relevant records. If the student needs to obtain immunizations or does not possess immunizations or other medical records, the principal or designee shall refer the parent/guardian and unaccompanied youth to the District homeless student liaison. The liaison shall refer the parent/guardian and unaccompanied youth to the appropriate medical service providers to obtain the necessary immunizations.

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 and unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the decision along with a statement regarding the parent/guardian's and unaccompanied youth's right to appeal the placement decision (42 USC 11432).

(cf. 5111.13 - Residency for Homeless Children)

(cf. 5125- Student Records)

(cf. 5141.31 -Immunizations)

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 for the student (USC 11432).

Transportation

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 requests that such transportation be provided.

If the student moves outside the 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 (USC 11432).

Transportation services are provided as long as children or youth are homeless.

Enrollment Disputes

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a particular school, the student shall be immediately admitted, pending resolution of the dispute, to the school in which enrollment is sought (USC 11432).

The parent/guardian shall be provided with a written explanation of the placement decision, including the parent/guardian's right to appeal. He/she shall also be referred to the district liaison (42 USC 11432).

The district liaison shall carry out the dispute resolution process provided by the state as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute (42 USC 11432).

(cf. 1312.3 -Uniform Complaint Procedures)

In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

Regulation BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Approved: January 11, 2006 Berkeley, California

1835 Allston Way