

CSBA Sample

Board Policy

Instruction

BP 6173(a)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

Note: The following policy reflects the intent of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431-11435), **as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (P.L. 114-95)**, 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.**

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.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

Note: The following paragraph is mandated pursuant to 42 USC 11432, as amended by P.L. 114-95. **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.**

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. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 3250 - Transportation Fees)

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

Note: Education Code 52060-52077 require districts to develop a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) which must be aligned to specific state priorities and any additional local priorities, and which must contain annual goals for all students and for each "numerically significant" student subgroup and the specific actions to be taken to achieve each goal; see BP/AR 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan. AB 104 (Ch. 13, Statutes of 2015) amended the definition of "numerically significant student subgroups" in Education Code 52052 to include homeless students when there are at least 15 homeless students in the school or district.

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)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

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 designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a district 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.

Note: The U.S. Department of Education's Non-Regulatory Guidance, Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program, emphasizes that districts should include the identification of homeless students and their unique educational needs in district needs assessments and school improvement plans. The following optional paragraph reflects strategies included in the Guidance for identifying homeless students and may be revised to reflect district practice. Also see the California Department of Education's (CDE) web site for a sample student residency questionnaire and "You Can Enroll in School" poster.

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 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Note: Although students' addresses generally may be designated as "directory information" that is not harmful if disclosed, P.L. 114-95 amended 42 USC 11432 to provide 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 USDOE's Non-Regulatory Guidance, Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program.

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)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

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.

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.

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. (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 Language Learners)

(cf. 6177 - Summer Learning Programs)

(cf. 6178 - Career and Technical Education)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Note: **The following paragraph is mandated by 42 USC 11432. mandates that districts adopt policies and practices that ensure that homeless children are not segregated or stigmatized on the basis of their status as homeless. Although this law also prohibits the segregation of homeless students into a separate school or program; however, separate schools that were in operation before the reauthorization in 2001 may continue to operate under specified conditions. Districts that maintain such a school may revise the following paragraph to reflect district practice.**

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 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. (42 USC 11432, 11433)**

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

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

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.

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 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. 1020 - Youth Services)

Note: 42 USC 11432, as amended by P.L. 114-95, 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.

SB 1068 (Ch. 538, Statutes of 2016) requires the 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. It also requires the CDE to adopt policies and practices to ensure that liaisons participate in professional development and technical assistance programs.

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)

Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Pursuant to Education Code 52064.5, as amended by AB 104 (Ch. 13, Statutes of 2015), the State Board of Education is required to ~~has~~ adopted evaluation rubrics by October 1, 2016, for use by districts in evaluating their strengths, weaknesses, and areas that require improvement for the purpose of updating their LCAP.

In addition, pursuant to 20 USC 6311, as amended by P.L. 114-95, annual district report cards for districts receiving Title I funds are required to include disaggregated student achievement data and graduation rates of homeless students.

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)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

2558.2 Use of revenue limits to determine average daily attendance of homeless children

39807.5 Payment of transportation costs by parents

48850 Educational rights **of homeless and foster youth; participation in extracurricular activities**

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

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 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

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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 Youths Program, Non-Regulatory Guidance, July 2004 2016

WEB SITES

California Child Welfare Council: <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/CChildWelfareCouncil.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>