

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

DEFINITIONS

Homeless means students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes: (42 USC 11435)

1. Children and youths who are sharing the house of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or 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 youths 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 youths 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)-(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 UCS 11432):

Director of Pupil Services
710 Encinitas Blvd.
Encinitas, CA 92024
(760) 753-6491

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
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

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. 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

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 until the end of any academic year in which the student moves into permanent housing. (42 USC 11432)

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 with a written explanation of the decision along with a statement regarding the parent/guardian's right to appeal the placement decision. (42 USC 11423)

Once a placement decision has been made, the principal or designee shall immediately enroll the student in the school of choice, even if the parent/guardian is unable to provide the school with the records normally required for enrollment. (42 USC 11432)

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 or records for the student. (42 USC 11432)

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. (42 USC 11432)

The parent/guardian shall be provided with a written explanation of the placement decision, including an explanation of the parent/guardian's right to appeal the decision. 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)