

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD POLICY NO. 6173

ADOPTED: 03/19/07

CLASSIFICATION: Instruction

**REVISED: 02/19/19
05/22/23**

SUBJECT: Education for Homeless Children

The County Superintendent and County Board believe that the identification of students experiencing homelessness is critical to providing services for improving the educational outcomes of such students and ensuring that such students have access to the same free and appropriate public education made available to other students. VCOE shall provide students experiencing homelessness with access to education and other services necessary for these students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

When there are at least 15 students experiencing homelessness in a VCOE operated school or program, VCOE'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, 52064, 52066)

VCOE homeless education policies shall be reviewed at least once every three years and updated to ensure removal of any barriers to the education of students experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth. Such policy review shall address the identification, enrollment and retention of students experiencing homelessness including those barriers that are due to absences or outstanding fees or fines. (Education Code 48851.3; 42 USC 11432)

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. On school grounds, students experiencing homelessness shall only be separated, 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)

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).

At least annually, the County Superintendent or designee shall report to the County Board on the identification of and the 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, VCOE shall revise its strategies as needed to more effectively identify and support the education of students experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, the number of students experiencing homelessness graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from VCOE-established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements shall be annually reported to CDE, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1.

The County Board hereby incorporates by reference the policies, procedures, and measures implemented by the County Superintendent to ensure the identification and full participation of students experiencing homelessness in VCOE schools, programs, and activities, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The designation of an appropriate staff person to serve as VCOE's liaison for homeless children and youth who will assist and support students experiencing homelessness to succeed in school and fulfill other duties specified in Education Code 48851.3 and 42 USC 11432
2. Easy identification of students experiencing homelessness, including at each school, in accordance with law, through annual administration of a housing questionnaire to parents/guardians of all students and to unaccompanied youths, post VCOE liaison's contact information and homeless education information on the VCOE and school web site, and collaboration with local social services agencies and other agencies or entities providing services to students experiencing homelessness, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities
3. Provision of homeless education information and/or materials to the students' parents/guardians and unaccompanied youths in a manner and form understandable to such parents/guardians and unaccompanied youths
4. Assurance that placement decisions for students experiencing homelessness are based on the student's best interest as defined in law
5. Annually report the number of students experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth, to the California Department of Education (CDE)

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

39807.5	Payment of transportation costs by parents
48850	Educational rights of homeless and foster youth

48851 Identification of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths;
 housing questionnaire
 48851.3 Homeless education program policies; liaison responsibilities
 48851.5 Local education agency liaison for homeless children and youths
 48852.3 Monitoring for compliance with chapter
 48852.5 Notice of educational rights of homeless students
 48852.6 Website posting of information regarding homelessness
 48852.7 Education of homeless students; immediate enrollment
 48859 Definitions
 48915.5 Recommended expulsion, homeless student with disabilities
 48918.1 Notice of recommended expulsion
 51225.1-51225.3 Graduation requirements
 52052 Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups
 52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1087vv Free Application for Federal Student Aid; definitions
 1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
 1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education 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

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