

6000

INSTRUCTION

6173

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS (UNHOUSED) STUDENTS

The Marin County Board of Education and Marin County Superintendent of Schools recognize the obligation to ensure that homeless students have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the educational programs provided by the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE). The MCOE shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for them to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to 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 United States Code (USC) 11432]

When there are at least 15 homeless students attending MCOE schools, the MCOE Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of homeless students.

The County Superintendent or designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a liaison for homeless children and youth. The school liaison shall fulfill the duties specified in 42 USC 11432 to assist in identifying and supporting homeless students to succeed in school.

In order to identify MCOE students who are homeless, the school or program designee shall give a housing questionnaire to all parents/guardians during school registration, make referral forms readily available, include the MCOE liaison's contact information on the MCOE website, 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.

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 (FERPA) and shall not be deemed to be directory information as defined in 20 USC 1232g. [42 USC 11432]

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for homeless students are based on the student's best interest as defined in law.

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 County 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]

The County 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 County Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local social services agencies, other agencies or entities providing services to homeless children and youth, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities. In addition, the County Superintendent or designee shall coordinate transportation, transfer of school records, and other MCOE (transfer) activities with other local educational agencies (LEA). As necessary, the County Superintendent or designee shall coordinate, within the organization and with other involved LEAs, services for homeless students and services for students with disabilities. [42 USC 11432]

MCOE program 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]

At least annually, the County Superintendent or designee shall report to the County 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 MCOE shall revise its strategies as needed to better support the education of homeless students.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

39807.5 Payment of transportation costs by parents

48850 Educational rights of homeless and foster youth

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

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

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

References:

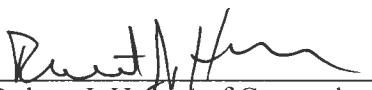
Education Code

1980-1986 County community schools

39807.5 Payment of transportation costs by parents

United States Code, Title 42

11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Approved as to form:


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Approved by the
Marin County Board of Education: 5/10/22