# Legal Rights of Homeless Students

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This document provides a summary of the legal rights of homeless students under federal and state law, particularly the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and relevant California legislation such as SB 445. It outlines the protections and entitlements for students experiencing homelessness to ensure equal access to education and supportive services.

## Key Legal Rights of Homeless Students

### Immediate Enrollment and Access

Homeless students must be enrolled in school immediately, even without typically required documentation.

### Right to Stay in School of Origin

Students can remain in the school they attended before becoming homeless for the duration of their homelessness or through the school year if housing is secured.

### Transportation

Districts must provide transportation to and from the school of origin.

### Equal Access to Programs and Activities

Homeless students must be allowed to participate in the same programs and extracurricular activities as other students.

### Protection for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Unaccompanied youth have the same rights and must be supported in enrollment and access without requiring parental involvement.

### Right to Appeal

If enrollment is denied, students must be given a written explanation and a right to appeal.

### Removal of Barriers

Schools must remove enrollment and attendance barriers, including those caused by missing records or documents.

### Special Education and Disability Services

Homeless students with disabilities are entitled to services under IDEA and ADA.

## Summary of Relevant Laws

### McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Federal law that provides the basic framework for the educational rights of homeless children and youth.

### California Education Code Section 48852.7 (SB 445)

State law that reinforces the right to remain in the school of origin through graduation and provides additional support mechanisms.

## School Liaison Support

All school districts must have designated liaisons for homeless students. These liaisons help facilitate immediate enrollment, coordinate services, and ensure students' rights are upheld. Students or their guardians can contact school offices or local education agencies for support.