

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 63

Introduced by Senator Ashby

September 29, 2025

A bill to establish Family Safe Sites in Sacramento that will provide shelter, childcare, and tutoring for unhoused families while ensuring their youth remain enrolled in school.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 63, as introduced, Senator Ashby. Safe Routes & Services for Homeless Families Act.

Existing law requires each school district to identify homeless students under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq.) and ensure that they receive equal access to free and reliable public education. However, current shelters in Sacramento are not equipped to meet the needs of entire families, leading to disrupted schooling, unsafe conditions, and inadequate access to childcare or tutoring.

This bill would require the City and County of Sacramento, in partnership with school districts and nonprofit organizations, to create designated Family Safe Sites. These sites would provide overnight shelter, daily childcare, and academic tutoring. The bill would further require that children enrolled at these sites remain in their original schools of attendance whenever feasible, preventing educational disruption.

Implementation would be overseen by the Sacramento County Office of Education in coordination with the Sacramento City Unified School District and participating nonprofit agencies.

Vote: 2/3rds Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

Section 48853.8 is added to the Education Code, to read:

48853.8.

(a) In addition to the requirements of the federal McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq.), each county office of education shall coordinate with local housing agencies and nonprofit organizations to establish Family Safe Sites designated specifically for unhoused families with minor children.

(b) Family Safe Sites shall ensure that:

(1) Students experiencing homelessness have immediate enrollment and continued access to their school of origin, as required under federal law.

(2) Families are provided access to childcare and after-school tutoring, delivered in coordination with school districts and nonprofit service providers.

(3) Transportation assistance is made available, using existing McKinney–Vento funds, to ensure attendance at the student’s school of origin.

(c) Implementation of this section shall be carried out using existing federal McKinney–Vento funds, school district resources, and nonprofit contributions.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the appropriation of additional state funds.

SECTION 2. Establishment of Program

(a) The Sacramento County Office of Education shall be responsible for oversight and compliance of Family Safe Sites.

(b) The sites shall operate primarily through

(1) Federal McKinney–Vento education funds.

(2) In-kind services provided by nonprofit organizations and school districts.

(3) Existing shelter and community spaces repurposed for family use.

(c) District 08 school districts shall report annually to the Legislature on the number of families served, educational outcomes, and recommendations for expansion.

SECTION 3. Coordination

- (a) Each Family Safe Site shall appoint an Education Liaison responsible for coordination with Sacramento County schools.
- (b) The Sacramento County Office of Education shall submit a brief annual report to the Legislature on the number of families served and educational outcomes for enrolled children.