



Book	Board Policies and ARRs
Section	6000 Instruction
Title	Homeless Education
Code	6173 BP
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Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) shall provide opportunities for pupils experiencing homelessness to meet the same challenging academic standards that all pupils are expected to meet. The Superintendent or designee shall identify and remove any barriers to the identification and enrollment of homeless pupils and the retention of homeless pupils including those due to absences or outstanding fees or fines.

The Superintendent or designee shall identify SCOE pupils experiencing homelessness through outreach and coordination with other entities and agencies. In order to identify pupils experiencing homelessness, SCOE will annually administer a housing questionnaire to the parents and guardians of all pupils and to all unaccompanied youth.

Enrollment

Education placement decisions for SCOE pupils experiencing homelessness shall be based on a pupil's best interest as defined by law. **Best interest means that, in making educational and school placement decisions for a homeless pupil, consideration is given to, among other factors, educational stability, the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress, and the pupil's access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils. Placement in the school of origin, when applicable, is presumed to be in a pupil's best interest unless the parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth requests otherwise.**

SCOE pupils 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. However, the Superintendent or designee may separate homeless pupils on school grounds for short periods of time for health and safety emergencies and to provide temporary, special, and supplementary services to meet the unique needs of homeless pupils.

Pupils experiencing homelessness have a right to continue at or enroll **in their school of origin, as applicable, and** in SCOE's community schools and at other SCOE school sites if they are otherwise eligible. A school site will enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth: 1) is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, records of immunization, and other required health records, or other documentation; or (2) has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

Information about a homeless pupil's living situation shall be considered part of a pupil's educational record, subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and shall not be deemed to be directory information under the Act, **and shall not be released without written consent unless otherwise permitted by law.**

Transfer of Coursework/Graduation Requirements

Pupils in homeless situations shall be entitled to the transfer of credits for coursework successfully completed, including partial credits, consistent with BP 6173.1 and BP 6146.3. When a homeless pupil who may qualify for an exemption from SCOE's graduation requirements transfers into a SCOE program, SCOE will within 30 calendar days of the pupil's transfer notify the pupil, educational rights holder, and SCOE homeless liaison of the availability of the exemption and whether the pupil qualifies for it. (See BP 6146.1 – Graduation Requirements.)

SCOE will use its Uniform Complaint Procedures (ARR 1312.3) to investigate and resolve complaints that SCOE has not complied with requirements regarding the transfer of credits or the exemption of local graduation requirements for homeless youth.

Services

Each homeless pupil shall be provided services that are comparable to services offered to other pupils in the school, including, but not limited to, transportation, educational programs for which the pupil meets the eligibility criteria (such as federal Title I services or similar state or local programs, programs for pupils with disabilities, and educational programs for English learners), career and technical education programs, and school nutrition programs. **Pupils experiencing homelessness will also be given an opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities if any are offered at the school site.**

When **an unaccompanied youth or** a parent or guardian of a pupil who becomes homeless requests that transportation be provided, SCOE shall arrange for transportation for a pupil to a SCOE school for the duration of homelessness to the extent required by law in consultation with the school district(s) in which the pupil is located.

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that homeless pupils are promptly identified, ensure that homeless pupils 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local social services agencies, other agencies or entities providing services to homeless children and youth, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate transportation, transfer of school records, and other activities with other local educational agencies. When a person who is experiencing homelessness also has a disability, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate services as required by law within the SCOE programs and with other involved local educational agencies.

Liaison

The Superintendent shall designate a staff person as the SCOE liaison for homeless children and youth to assist with access to SCOE's education and services. The liaison shall fulfill the duties specified in 42 United States Code section 11432 **and in the California Education Code** to assist in identifying and supporting homeless pupils to succeed in school.

~~Liaisons and other appropriate staff shall participate in professional development and other technical assistance to assist them in identifying and meeting the needs of homeless pupils and in understanding the definitions of terms related to homelessness as used in applicable laws.—~~

At least annually, the SCOE liaison and other appropriate staff shall participate in professional development and other technical assistance activities geared toward identifying and meeting the needs of homeless pupils, including those opportunities deemed appropriate by the State Superintendent. At the direction of the SCOE liaison, training will be provided to SCOE staff to assist in the identification and provision of services to pupils who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, homelessness.

Board Reports

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board on the status of pupils experiencing homelessness in SCOE schools and in programs served by SCOE's liaison or designee.

~~Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board on outcomes for pupils experiencing homelessness, which may include, but are not limited to, school attendance, achievement test results, promotion and retention rates, graduation rates, suspension/ expulsion rates, and other outcomes related to any goals and specific actions identified in the Local Control and Accountability Plan.~~

Dispute Resolution Process

SCOE shall assist in resolving school district disputes regarding eligibility, school selection, or enrollment of homeless children and youth pursuant to the resolution process developed by the California Department of Education. SCOE's procedures for resolving such disputes are in Administrative Rule and Regulation 6173.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1980-1986 County community schools

39807.5 Payment of transportation costs by parents and exemptions

48645.5 Acceptance of coursework

48850 Educational opportunities for children who are homeless or in foster care

48851 Housing questionnaire

48851.3 Establishment of homeless education program policies

48851.5 Liaison outreach and coordination activities

48852.5 Notice of the education rights of homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth

48852.6 Liaisons and websites

48852.7 Education of homeless child in school of origin

48853 Foster children living in emergency shelters

48915.5 Suspension and expulsion

51225.1 Exemption from local graduation requirements

51225.2 Pupils in foster care/homeless youth; coursework and credits

TITLE 20, UNITED STATES CODE

6311 Title I state plan; state and local educational agency report cards

TITLE 42, UNITED STATES CODE

11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act