



## Homeless Children and Youth Board Policy

### Instruction

The Governing Board must ensure that homeless students have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the charter school. The school shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for them to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

Homeless students shall not be segregated into a separate program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way.

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

When there are at least 15 homeless students in the charter school, the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP) shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of homeless students. (California Education Code [EC] sections 52052, 52060)

At least annually, if there are at least 15 homeless students, the Superintendent/Principal or designee shall report to the 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 school shall revise its strategies as needed to better support the education of homeless students.

### Definitions

The term homeless children and youth means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes: (42 United States Code [42 U.S.C.] Section 11434a; EC Section 48852.7)

1. Students who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or, are abandoned in hospitals
2. Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
3. Students who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings

4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in conditions described above
5. Unaccompanied youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

The term school of origin means the school that the homeless student attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled. If the school the homeless student attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which they were last enrolled, or if there is some other school that they attended within the preceding 15 months and with which they are connected, the school liaison shall determine, in consultation with and with the agreement of the homeless student and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, and in the best interests of the homeless student, which school shall be deemed the school of origin. (42 U.S.C. Section 11432[g][3][I]; EC Section 48852.7)

When determining the best interest in making educational and school placement decisions for a homeless student, 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 student's access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all charter school students. (42 U.S.C. Section 11432[g][3][B]; EC Sections 48850, 48853)

### **School Liaison**

The Superintendent/Principal designates the following staff person as the school liaison for homeless students: (42 U.S.C. Section 11432[g][6][A]):

Veronica Blajine, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach  
[vblajine@bullischarterschool.com](mailto:vblajine@bullischarterschool.com)

The school's liaison for homeless students shall: (42 U.S.C. Section 11432[g][6][A]; EC Section 48852.5)

1. Ensure that homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordinated activities with other entities and agencies
2. Ensure that homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the charter school program
3. Ensure that homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible
4. Inform parents/guardians of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and ensure that they are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children

5. Disseminate notice of the educational rights of homeless students within the school and at places where they receive services, such as family shelters and hunger relief agencies (soup kitchens)
6. Mediate enrollment disputes in accordance with law, board policy, and administrative regulation
7. Fully inform parents/guardians of all transportation services
8. When notified pursuant to *EC* Section 48918.1, assist, facilitate, or represent a homeless student who is undergoing a disciplinary proceeding that could result in their expulsion
9. When notified pursuant to *EC* Section 48915.5, participate in an individualized education program team meeting to make a manifestation determination regarding the behavior of a student with a disability
10. Assist a homeless student to obtain records necessary for their enrollment into or transfer out of the school, including immunization, medical, and academic records

### **Enrollment**

The school shall make placement decisions for homeless students based on the student's best interest. (42 U.S.C. Section 11432[g][3][B]; *EC* Section 48852.7)

When making a placement decision for a homeless student, the Superintendent/Principal or designee may consider the age of the student, the distance of the commute and the impact it may have on the student's education, personal safety issues, the student's need for special instruction, the length of anticipated stay in the temporary shelter or other temporary location, likely area of future housing, school placement of siblings, and the time remaining in the school year.

However, placement decisions shall not be based on whether a homeless student lives with their homeless parent/guardian or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.

In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison shall assist in placement or enrollment decisions, consider the views of the student, and provide notice to the student of their appeal rights.

Once a placement decision has been made, the Superintendent/Principal or designee shall immediately enroll the student. The student shall be enrolled even if they:

1. Have outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or monies due to the school last attended
2. Does not have clothing normally required by the school, such as school uniforms

3. Is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, proof of residency, and medical records, including, but not limited to, records or other proof of immunization history

The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain the relevant records. If the student needs to obtain immunizations or does not possess immunization or other medical records, the principal or designee shall refer the parent/guardian to the school liaison for homeless students. The school liaison shall assist the parent/guardian, or the student if they are an unaccompanied youth, in obtaining the necessary immunizations or records for the student.

To ensure that the homeless student has the benefit of matriculating with their peers in accordance with the established feeder patterns, the following shall apply: (*EC Section 48852.7*)

1. If the student is transitioning between grade levels, they shall be allowed to continue in the same attendance area
2. If the student is transitioning to a middle school or high school, and the school designated for matriculation is in another school district, they shall be allowed to continue to the school designated for matriculation in that district

If the student's status changes before the end of the school year so that they are no longer homeless, they shall be allowed to stay in the school: (*EC Section 48852.7*)

1. Through the duration of the school year if they are in grades K-8

### **Transportation**

The school will provide transportation for a homeless student when the student is residing within the designated school district and the parent/guardian requests that such transportation be provided, to the extent of the law. (42 U.S.C. Section 11432[g][6][A])

The school shall not be obligated to provide transportation to students who continue attending the school after they cease to be homeless, unless the formerly homeless student has an individualized education program that includes transportation as a necessary related service for the student. (*EC Section 48852.7*)

### **Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities**

A homeless student who enrolls shall be immediately deemed to meet all residency requirements for participation in interscholastic sports or other extracurricular activities. (42 U.S.C. Section 11432[g][1][F]; *EC Section 48850[a][2]*)

### **Notification and Complaints**

Information regarding the educational rights of homeless students, as specified in *EC*

sections 51225.1 and 51225.2, shall be included in the annual uniform complaint procedures notification distributed to students, parents/guardians, employees, and other interested parties pursuant to 5 California Code of Regulations Section 4622. (EC sections 51225.1, 51225.2)