



Homeless Education

**Presented by:
California Department of Education**



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Barriers Faced (1 of 2)

- Lack of identification
- Enrollment requirements
- Lack of school supplies and transportation
- Poor health, fatigue, hunger, anxiety, and trauma
- Prejudice and misunderstanding



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Barriers Faced (2 of 2)

- Lack of awareness
- Parents not wanting to get involved due to fear of judgement, authorities removing their children, etc.
- Credit deficiency
- Lack of legal guardian for an unaccompanied homeless youth



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Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (1 of 3)

- Originally passed in 1987
- Reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
 - Amendments took effect October 1, 2016



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Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (2 of 3)

- 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 11431 et seq.
- Sections 721 and 722 of the McKinney-Vento Act



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Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (3 of 3)

- Works hand-in-hand with Title I, Part A and other federal education programs
- Provides stability, access, and support for the academic success for homeless children and youth, including preschool-aged children



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Homeless Definition (1 of 7)

- Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
 - Awaiting foster care placement was eliminated on December 10, 2016



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Homeless Definition (2 of 7)

- Fixed, regular, and adequate are defined as:
 - A **fixed** residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.



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Homeless Definition (3 of 7)

- A **regular** residence is one that is used on a normal, standard, and consistent basis.
- An **adequate** residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.



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Homeless Definition (4 of 7)

- Examples of homelessness include children and youth living in:
 - Shared housing due to economic hardship
 - Motels or hotels
 - Public or private places not designed for sleeping



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Homeless Definition (5 of 7)

- Trailer parks or campgrounds
- Cars, parks, and abandoned buildings
- Shelters
- Emergency or transitional shelters



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Homeless Definition (6 of 7)

- Additional examples of homelessness include children and youth who are:
 - Migratory children who qualify as homeless
 - Abandoned in hospitals
 - Unaccompanied homeless youth



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Homeless Definition (7 of 7)

- To determine if a homeless child or youth lives in substandard living conditions consider:
 - Health and safety concerns
 - Number of occupants per square foot
 - Age of occupants
 - State and local building codes



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Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Definition

- “Unaccompanied homeless youth” is defined as a child or youth who meets the McKinney-Vento definition and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.



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Immediate Enrollment (1 of 5)

- Homeless students are entitled to immediate enrollment in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend; even if:
 - Students have missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness



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Immediate Enrollment (2 of 5)

- Students do not have required documents, such as school records, records of immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, guardianship, or other documents



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Immediate Enrollment (3 of 5)

- Local educational agencies (LEAs) must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of children and youth in homeless situations, including barriers due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences.



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Immediate Enrollment (4 of 5)

- “Enroll” and “enrollment” means attending classes and participating fully in school activities.



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Immediate Enrollment (5 of 5)

- California Senate Bill 177 changed California *Education Code (EC)* Section 48850 to align to the same provisions relating to immediate enrollment of homeless children and youth.



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Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Enrollment

- Liaisons must help unaccompanied homeless youth choose and enroll in a school, give priority to the youth's wishes, and inform the youth of his or her appeal rights.



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Preschool Enrollment

- Preschools are included in the school of origin definition.
- Liaisons must ensure access to Head Start, early intervention (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA], Part C), and other preschool programs administered by the LEA.

Reporting Requirements (1 of 2)



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- All LEAs are required to report the number of homeless students enrolled during a school year through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS), annually.

Reporting Requirements (2 of 2)



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- CALPADS is the longitudinal data system used to maintain individual-level data including student demographics, course data, discipline, assessments, staff assignments, and other data for state and federal reporting.



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School of Origin (1 of 4)

- “School of origin” is the school the child attended when permanently housed or the school last enrolled.
- Students can continue to attend their school of origin the entire time they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing.



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School of Origin (2 of 4)

- SB 445 changed *EC* Section 48852.7 to align to this provision and allow a homeless youth, now permanently housed, to remain in their high school through graduation, if:
 - It is in the best interest of the student; and,
 - It is parent/guardian requested



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School of Origin (3 of 4)

- School attended when permanently housed or school in which last enrolled, including a preschool
- The designated receiving school at the next grade level for feeder school patterns, when the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin



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School of Origin (4 of 4)

- If a student is sent to a school other than that requested by a parent or guardian, the district must provide a written explanation to the parent or guardian of its decision and their right to appeal.

School Stability (1 of 3)



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- In determining best interest, the LEA shall:
 - Presume that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest, unless contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied homeless youth



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School Stability (2 of 3)

- Consider student-centered factors, including the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety
- Give priority to the request of the parent/guardian
- Give priority to the youth's request (in the case of an unaccompanied homeless youth)



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School Stability (3 of 3)

- If the LEA determines that it is not in the student's best interest, the LEA must provide a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied homeless youth, including information regarding the right to appeal.



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Transportation (1 of 2)

- LEAs must provide transportation to and from the school of origin, including until the end of the year when the student obtains permanent housing, at the request of a parent or guardian (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied homeless youth).



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Transportation (2 of 2)

- LEAs must eliminate barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of students experiencing homelessness (including transportation barriers).
- If the LEA of origin and the LEA of residence cannot agree on who will pay the costs, the two LEAs must share the costs.



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Dispute Resolution (1 of 5)

- If a dispute arises over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment in a school:
 - The student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute (including all available appeals)



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Dispute Resolution (2 of 5)

- The parent, guardian, or unaccompanied homeless youth must be provided a written explanation of decisions made by the school, LEA, or state educational agency (SEA), and how to appeal them



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Dispute Resolution (3 of 5)

- Whenever there is a disagreement, the school must:
 - Immediately enroll student in school according to parent's wishes;
 - Keep the student until the dispute is settled;



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Dispute Resolution (4 of 5)

- Provide transportation;
- Explain the decision in writing to parents; and,
- Contact liaison to assist in settling the dispute with parents, guardian, or youth



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Dispute Resolution (5 of 5)

- If dispute is not resolved at the district level, refer case to the county liaison
- If case is still not resolved, refer to the State Coordinator
- You can find information about California's Homeless Education Dispute Resolution Process on the California Department of Education (CDE) Resources for Homeless Children and Youths web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/>



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Policies

- Develop and implement good local policies on identification, enrollment, and retention; barriers due to fees, fines, and absences; credit accrual; full participation in academic and extra-curricular activities; enrollment of unaccompanied homeless youth; school stability; transportation; privacy; inter-district collaboration



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Academic Access (1 of 3)

- States must have procedures to eliminate barriers to academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet school, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, online learning, and charter school programs.



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Academic Access (2 of 3)

- States must have procedures to identify and remove barriers that prevent youth from receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school, in accordance with state, local, and school policies.



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Academic Access (3 of 3)

- Liaisons must implement those procedures
- Assembly Bill 1806 supports this provision and has changed *EC* Section 51225.1



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Equal Access (1 of 2)

- Homeless students should have equal access to all programs including:
 - Gifted and Talented Education
 - Special education
 - Migrant education
 - IDEA



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Equal Access (2 of 2)

- English learner programs
- Vocational education
- Title I
- State Meal Program
- Before and/or after school programs



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Higher Education Access (1 of 2)

- All homeless youth must be able to receive assistance from counselors to advise such youths, and prepare and improve the readiness of such youths for college.



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Higher Education Access (2 of 2)

- Liaisons must ensure unaccompanied homeless youth are informed of their status as independent students and may obtain assistance from the liaison to receive verification of that status.



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Segregation

- LEAs are required to ensure that homeless children and youth are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their homeless status.
- LEAs must have an adopted board policy stating this requirement.



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Coordination (1 of 3)

- LEAs must coordinate McKinney-Vento and special education services within the LEA, and with other involved LEAs.
- Information about a homeless student's living situation is a student education record subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Coordination (2 of 3)



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- SEAs receiving charter school grants under Title IV, Part C must work with charter schools on recruitment and enrollment practices to promote inclusion of all students, including eliminating any barriers to enrollment for foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth.

Coordination (3 of 3)



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- Local liaisons are authorized to affirm that students meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness, to qualify them for HUD homeless assistance programs.



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Department of Housing and Urban Development Definition (1 of 2)

- An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground



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Department of Housing and Urban Development Definition (2 of 2)

- An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements



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Title I, Part A (1 of 5)

- Amendments took effect in the 2017–18 school year
- State report cards must disaggregate achievement and high school graduation data for homeless students



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Title I, Part A (2 of 5)

- Local plans must:
 - Be coordinated with McKinney-Vento programs
 - Describe the services provided to homeless students, including any reserved funds, to support their enrollment, attendance, and success



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Title I, Part A (3 of 5)

- All LEAs that receive Title I, Part A funds must reserve (set-aside) the funds necessary to provide homeless children services comparable to services provided in Title I, Part A schools:



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Title I, Part A (4 of 5)

- Amount must be based on the total LEA allocation prior to expenditures or transfers
- Amount may be determined based on a needs assessment and should involve the liaison



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Title I, Part A (5 of 5)

- Funds may be used:
 - For homeless children and youth attending any school in the LEA
 - For services not ordinarily provided to other students
 - To provide transportation to the school of origin and to fund the liaison



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Consolidated Application and Reporting System

- Through the Consolidated Application and Reporting System (CARS), LEAs are required to indicate the reservation amount, as well as describe what Title I services will be provided.



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Local Liaisons (1 of 9)

- Every LEA must designate a McKinney-Vento liaison able to carry out his/her legal duties.
- Liaisons must ensure that:
 - Homeless students enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school



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Local Liaisons (2 of 9)

- Children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination with other entities and agencies
- Access is provided and barriers to enrollment and retention are removed



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Local Liaisons (3 of 9)

- Public notice of educational rights is disseminated in locations frequented by parents, guardians, and unaccompanied homeless youth, in a manner and form understandable to them
 - Posters can be accessed on the CDE Resources for Homeless Children and Youths web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/>
 - SB 177 and *EC* Section 48852.5



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Local Liaisons (4 of 9)

- Parents or guardians are informed of educational opportunities and transportation services
- School personnel providing McKinney-Vento services receive professional development and other support



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Local Liaisons (5 of 9)

- Children, youth, and families have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, early intervention (IDEA, Part C), and other preschool programs



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Local Liaisons (6 of 9)

- Children, youth, and families receive referrals to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing, and other services
- Children and youth who do not have immunizations are assisted



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Local Liaisons (7 of 9)

- Liaisons participate in professional development and technical assistance as determined appropriate by the State Coordinator
- Liaisons coordinate and collaborate services for homeless children, youth, and their families



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Local Liaisons (8 of 9)

- Liaisons collaborate with the State Coordinator, community agencies, and school personnel
- Disputes are promptly resolved and assistance to access transportation is provided



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Local Liaisons (9 of 9)

- Unaccompanied homeless youth are enrolled in school and that procedures are implemented to identify and remove barriers that prevent them from receiving credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed at a prior school, in accordance with state, local, and school policies



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Assembly Bill 1806

- Went into effect January 1, 2015
- Changed *EC* sections 48915.5, 48918.1, 51225.1, and 51225.2 regarding:
 - Notice of potential expulsions
 - Partial credits
 - Graduation requirements



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Listserv and Liaisons

- Join the Homeless Children and Youths Resources Listserv to receive information and updates relating to the education of homeless children and youths on the CDE Homeless Education Resources Listserv web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/homelesslistserv.asp>
- Listing of liaisons can be accessed on the CDE Homeless Education web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/>



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State Coordinator (1 of 4)

- Every state must designate a State Coordinator who can sufficiently carry out their duties
- State Coordinators must:
 - Conduct monitoring of LEAs



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State Coordinator (2 of 4)

- Post on the state's website, and annually update, a list of liaisons' contact information and duties, and data on student homelessness on the CDE Resources for Homeless Children and Youths web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/>



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State Coordinator (3 of 4)

- Respond to inquiries from homeless parents and unaccompanied homeless youth to ensure they receive the full protections of the law



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State Coordinator (4 of 4)

- Develop and implement professional development programs for liaisons and other LEA personnel to improve their identification of homeless children and youth and heighten their awareness of, and capacity to respond to, specific needs in those children's and youths' education



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Resources (1 of 3)

- CDE Homeless Education web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/>
- National Center for Homeless Education website at <http://nche.ed.gov/>



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Resources (2 of 3)

- National Center for Homeless Education's ESSA web page at <https://nche.ed.gov/legis/essa.php>
 - Legislation
 - Regulations
 - Guidance
 - Memoranda



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Resources (3 of 3)

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