



ROCKLIN ACADEMY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Education for Homeless Children Policy

The Board of Directors desires to ensure that homeless children are provided with equal access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other children within the Rocklin Academy Family of Schools (RAFOS). RAFOS shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for these students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students. Homeless students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program or stigmatized in any way based on their status as homeless. RAFOS shall establish safeguards that protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.

(cf. [3553](#) - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

(cf. [5111.13](#) - Residency for Homeless Children)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[1980-1986](#) County community schools

[2558.2](#) Use of revenue limits to determine average daily attendance of homeless children

[39807.5](#) Payment of transportation costs by parents

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

[11431-11435](#) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Management Resources:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GUIDANCE

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, Non-Regulatory Guidance, July 2004

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, Homeless Children and Youth Education:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy>

National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE: <http://www.serve.org/nche>

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty: <http://www.nlchp.org>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/index.html>

Definitions

Homeless means students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes: (42 USC [11435](#))

1. Children and youths 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; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
2. Children and youths 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. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) who qualify as homeless because the children are living in conditions described in (1)-(3) above.

Homeless status is determined in cooperation with the parent or guardian. In the case of unaccompanied youth, status is determined by the School Liaison.

School of origin means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled. (42 USC [11432](#))

Best interest means, to the extent feasible, continuing a student's enrollment in the school of origin for the duration of his/her homelessness, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of his/her parent/guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth. (42 USC [11432](#))

Unaccompanied youth means a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. (42 USC [11434a](#))

RAFOS Homeless Liaison

The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee designates the following staff person as the RAFOS liaison for homeless students ("School Liaison") (42 USC 11432):

Tamara Brosky
Data & Testing Coordinator
2204 Plaza Drive, Suite 200
Rocklin, CA 95765
(916) 778-4544

The School Liaison shall ensure that: (42 USC [11432](#))

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with

other entities and agencies;
(cf. [1400](#) - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. [3553](#) - Free and Reduced-Price Meals)
(cf. [5141.6](#) - Student Health and Social Services)

2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, RAFOS schools;
3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible, including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs) under the Head Start Act, early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, any other preschool programs administered by RAFOS, if any, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services;
4. Parents/guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
5. Notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated at places frequented by parents or guardians of such youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries and soup kitchens and in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless youth and unaccompanied youth;
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law, Governing Board policy and administrative regulation;
7. Parents/guardians and any unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, as applicable;
8. School personnel providing services receive professional development and other support;
9. The School Liaison collaborates with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths; and
10. Unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school; have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth; and are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the School Liaison to receive verification of such status for the purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of the Act.

Enrollment

The Principal or designee shall immediately enroll the student in the school of choice, (subject to the School's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in the School's charter and Board policy), even if the student lacks records normally required for enrollment. (42 USC [11432](#))

The 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. The School Liaison shall assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations or records for the student.

(42 USC [11432](#))

(cf. [6173.1](#) - Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. [1400](#) - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. [3553](#) - Free and Reduced-Price Meals)

(cf. [5141.6](#) - Student Health and Social Services)

(cf. [5111.13](#) - Residency for Homeless Children)

(cf. [5125](#) - Student Records)

(cf. [5141.31](#) - Immunizations)

Enrollment Disputes

If a dispute arises over admissions/enrollment, the student shall be immediately admitted, pending resolution of the dispute. (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E).)

The parent/guardian shall be provided with a written explanation of the admission/enrollment decision, including an explanation of the parent/guardian's right to appeal the decision. He/she shall also be referred to the School Liaison. (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E).)

The School Liaison shall carry out the Board-adopted dispute resolution and complaint process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E).)

Comparable Services

Each homeless child or youth shall promptly be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in RAFOS such as (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(4)):

- Transportation services
- Educational services for which the child or youth meets eligibility criteria, such as educational programs for students with disabilities and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency
- Programs in vocational and technical education
- Programs for gifted and talented students
- School nutrition programs

Transportation

In the event that RAFOS provides transportation services to all RAFOS students, RAFOS shall provide comparable transportation services to each homeless child or youth attending RAFOS, as noted above. (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(4))

If the RAFOS does not otherwise provide transportation services to all RAFOS students, RAFOS shall ensure that transportation is provided for homeless students to and from RAFOS, at the request of the parent or guardian (or liaison). (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J))

Professional Development

All administrators, teachers and employees of RAFOS will be provided professional development on the identification, services, and sensitivity necessary when dealing with homeless children and youth. (42 U.S.C. § 11433(d)(3).) All identified or suspected homeless children and youth will be referred to the School Liaison.