

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Mendocino County Board of Education recognizes that homelessness is a significant issue, and has enacted this policy to ensure that the education of homeless children and youth is addressed within Mendocino County. This policy is set forth in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431-11435), which ensures homeless students equal access to the same free, appropriate, and public education, including a public preschool education, as other students. As federal law, the McKinney-Vento Act supersedes state and local educational law and policy.

The Superintendent maintains regulations that support the implementation and coordination of federal, state, community, and school district efforts to provide education and related services to homeless children and youth. The Superintendent 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. Homeless students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless or be stigmatized in any way. Regulations include the process for handling the disputes to address eligibility (added in due to ESSA as of October 1, 2016), school of origin or school of residence, enrollment, and placement concerns between the LEA and parents or guardians of homeless children, youth, and unaccompanied youth.

When there are at least 15 homeless students in schools operated by MCOE, the LEA's local control and accountability plan (LCAP) shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of homeless students (Education Code 52052, 52060).

To the extent as required by law, MCOE will work with district personnel, homeless students and their families to facilitate school stability, school of origin, attendance, and equal access to services.

Legal Reference:

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B (42 U.S.C. 11431 et. seq.), reauthorized December 10, 2015 by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adopted: December 11, 2017