

**DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
INSTRUCTION**

BOARD POLICY 6173: EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

The Governing Board recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless children have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other children within the district. The district shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for these students to meet the same challenging performance standards as other students. Students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless, nor shall homeless students be stigmatized in any way.

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.

Transportation

The district shall provide transportation for a homeless student to and from a district school of origin when the student is residing within the district and the parent/guardian requests that such transportation be provided. If the student moves outside of district boundaries but continues to attend this district's school of origin, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the Superintendent of the district in which the student is now residing to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation. (42 USC 11432)

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:

CDE PUBLICATIONS

Enrolling Students in Homeless Situations, 1999

FEDERAL REGISTER

U.S. Department of Education: Notice of school enrollment guidelines, 67 Fed. Reg. 10698

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/cilbranch/homeless/homelesstoc.html>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/CEP/hmlsprogresp.html>

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

**DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION TO BOARD POLICY 6173:
EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN**

Definitions

Homeless means students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes: (42 USC 11434a)

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
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in conditions described in (1)-(3) above

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. (42 USC 11432)

District Liaison

The Superintendent or designee designates the following staff person as the district liaison for homeless students (42 USC 11432):

Director of Pupil Services
225 Ninth Street
Del Mar, CA 92014
858-755-9301

The district's liaison for homeless students shall ensure that: (42 USC 11432)

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies
2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, district schools
3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible
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 where children receive services, such as schools, shelters, and soup kitchens
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law, Governing Board policy and administrative regulation
7. Parents/guardians are fully informed of all transportation services

Enrollment

Placement decisions for homeless students shall be based on the student's best interest. In determining a student's best interest, a homeless student shall, to the extent feasible, be placed in his/her school of origin, unless his/her parent/guardian requests otherwise. (42 USC 11432)

The student may continue attending the school of origin for the duration of the homelessness and until the end of any academic year in which the student moves into permanent housing. (42 USC 11432)

If the student is placed at a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the parent/guardian with a written explanation of the decision along with a statement regarding the parent/guardian's right to appeal the placement decision. (42 USC 11432)

Once a placement decision has been agreed upon, the principal or designee shall immediately enroll the student in the designated school, even if the parent/guardian is unable to provide the school with the 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 district homeless student liaison. The liaison shall assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations or records for the student. (42 USC 11432)

Enrollment Disputes

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a particular school, the student shall be immediately admitted, pending resolution of the dispute, to the school in which enrollment is sought. (42 USC 11432)

The parent/guardian shall be provided with a written explanation of the placement decision, including an explanation of the parent/guardian's right to appeal the decision. He/she shall also be referred to the district liaison. (42 USC 11432)

The district liaison shall carry out the dispute resolution process provided by the state as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. (42 USC 11432)

**DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
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BOARD POLICY 6173.1: EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

The Governing Board recognizes its obligation to ensure that foster youth have access to the academic resources, services and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to district students. The district shall provide students in foster care within the district with access to educational opportunities and other services necessary to help such students achieve the district's performance standards.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for foster youth are based on the students' best interests as defined in law and administrative regulation.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the county placing agency and other appropriate agencies to ensure maximum utilization of available funds and to meet the educational needs of foster youth within the district.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

42920-42925 Foster children educational services

48645.1 Juvenile court schools

48850-48859 Educational placement of students residing in licensed children's institutions

49061 Student records

49069.5 Foster care students transfer of records

49076 Access to student records

56055 Rights of foster parents in special education

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 Children subject to jurisdiction

309 Investigation and release of child

361 Limitations on parental or guardian control

366.27 Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements

602 Minors violating law; ward of court

726 Limitations on parental or guardian control

727 Order of care, ward of court

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, Foster Youth Services Program:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/ssp/fysprfa/fysrfa.htm>

California Department of Social Services, Foster Youth Ombudsman Office:

<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov>

***DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION TO BOARD POLICY 6173.1:
EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH**

Definitions

Foster youth means a child who has been subject to one of the following: (Education Code 48853.5)

1. Has been removed from his/her home pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 309 (investigation and release of child)
2. Is the subject of a petition filed under Welfare and Institutions Code 300 (jurisdiction of juvenile court) or 602 (minors ward of court, violating law)
3. Has been removed from his/her home and is the subject of a petition filed under Welfare and Institutions Code 300 or 602

Person holding the right to make educational decisions means a responsible adult appointed by a court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 361 or 727.

School of origin means the school that the foster youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled. If the school the foster youth attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which he/she was last enrolled, or if there is some other school that the foster youth attended within the preceding 15 months and with which the youth is connected, the district liaison shall, in consultation with and with the agreement of the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the youth, determine, in the best interest of the foster youth, the school of origin. (Education Code 48853.5)

Best interest means a placement that ensures that the youth is placed in the least restrictive educational program and has access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to district students. (Education Code 48853)

District Liaison

The Superintendent or designee designates the following position as the district liaison for foster youth: (Education Code 48853.5)

Director of Pupil Services
Del Mar Union School District
225 9th Street
Del Mar, California 92014
(858) 523-6194

The district's liaison for foster youth shall: (Education Code 48645.5, 48853.5)

1. Ensure and facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of students in foster care
2. Assist foster youth when transferring from one school to another or from one district to another in ensuring proper transfer of credits, records, and grades, including ensuring that records reflect full or partial credit for courses taken

Enrollment

A foster youth placed in a licensed children's institution or foster family home shall attend programs operated by the district unless one of the following circumstances applies: (Education Code 48853)

1. The student has an individualized education program requiring placement in a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency or in another local educational agency.
2. The parent/guardian or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student determines that it is in the best interest of the student to be placed in another educational program.
3. The student is entitled to remain in his/her school of origin as defined above.

At the initial detention or placement, or any subsequent change in placement of a foster youth, the district shall allow the student to continue his/her education in the school of origin for the duration of the academic school year. However, the district liaison may, in consultation with and with the agreement of the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the youth, recommend that the youth's right to attend the school of origin be waived and he/she be enrolled in any school that students living in the attendance area in which the foster youth resides are eligible to attend. All decisions shall be made in accordance with the foster youth's best interest. (Education Code 48853.5)

Prior to making any recommendation to move a foster youth from his/her school of origin, the liaison shall provide the youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the youth with a written explanation of the basis for the recommendation and how this recommendation serves the youth's best interests. (Education Code 48853.5)

The role of the liaison shall be advisory with respect to placement decisions and determination of the school of origin. (Education Code 48853.5)

If the liaison, in consultation with the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, agree that the best interests of the youth would be served by his/her transfer to a school other than the school of origin, the principal or designee of the new school shall immediately enroll the foster youth. The youth shall be immediately enrolled even if he/she has outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or monies due to the school last attended or is unable to produce records, such as academic, medical, or proof of residency, or clothing normally required for enrollment. (Education Code 48853.5)

Within two business days of enrollment, the liaison shall contact the school last attended by the student to obtain all academic and other records. Upon receiving a request from a new school, the liaison for the school last attended shall provide all records within two business days of receiving the request. (Education Code 48853.5)

If a parent/guardian or foster youth disagrees with the liaison's enrollment decision, he/she may appeal the decision to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall make a determination within 30 days of receipt of the appeal. Within 30 days of receipt of the Superintendent's decision, the parent/guardian or foster youth may appeal that decision to the Governing Board. The Board shall consider the issue at its next regularly-scheduled meeting. The Board's decision shall be final.

If any dispute arises regarding the request of a foster youth to remain in the school of origin, the youth has the right to remain in the school of origin pending resolution of the dispute. (Education Code 48853.5)

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