

CLASSIFICATION: Philosophy-Goals-Comprehensive Plans**ADOPTED: 2/11/09****REVISED: 5/09/18****SUBJECT: Education for Homeless Children and Youth****PAGE: 1 of 3**

The County Board of Education recognizes that homelessness is a serious problem and is concerned, in particular, about the education of homeless children and youth in San Diego County. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act ensures homeless students equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other students. As federal law, the McKinney-Veto Act supersedes state and local educational law and policy.

Homeless students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way. However, pursuant to section 11432 of McKinney-Vento, the San Diego County Superintendent of Schools is authorized to operate separate schools for homeless students under specified conditions. Eligible students may choose to attend a separate school for homeless students but may not be required to do so. San Diego County Office of Education's (SDCOE) Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS) operates the Monarch School for homeless children, which runs on a congressional waiver.

The County Superintendent or his/her designee shall maintain 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 County Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure that placement decisions for homeless students are based on the student's best interest as defined in law and established administrative regulation. Regulations include, but are not limited to, the process for handling disputes that address school of origin or school of residence enrollment and placement concerns between the local education agency (LEA) and parents/guardians of homeless children and youth, or unaccompanied homeless children and youth.

SDCOE has oversight obligations of LEAs (school districts) within its boundaries including schools and school programs under the jurisdiction of the County Superintendent of Schools, as an extension of the State Educational Agency under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to a free and appropriate public education, including public pre-school education, in the school districts within San Diego County.

To support students that are homeless in achieving challenging state and district academic standards, the County Superintendent shall provide them with full access to any school or school program under the jurisdiction of the County Superintendent of

CLASSIFICATION: Philosophy-Goals-Comprehensive Plans**ADOPTED: 2/11/09****REVISED: 5/09/18****SUBJECT: Education for Homeless Children and Youth****PAGE: 2 of 3**

Schools and implement strategies identified as necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of homeless students in the County's local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

At least annually, the County Superintendent or his/her designee shall report to the County Board on outcomes for its 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, schools or school programs under the jurisdiction of the County Superintendent of Schools shall modify any and all strategies as needed to better support the educational needs of homeless students.

San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) Homeless Education Services Program

The SDCOE Homeless Education Services Program works with school districts and agency staff to track and serve students that are homeless for academic success. As required by law, each school district is required to appoint a district liaison to coordinate services at their schools. SDCOE's Homeless Education Services Program contact is the Homeless Education Services Project Specialist, Student Support Services.

San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS)

The County Superintendent or his/her designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a liaison for homeless children and youths for JCCS. The district liaison shall fulfill the duties specified in 42 USC 11432 to assist in identifying and supporting homeless students to succeed in school. The JCCS district liaison contact is the Student Support Supervisor, JCCS Administration.

Administrative Regulation: 0320

Derivation: Adopted 2/11/09. Amended 5/9/18.

**CLASSIFICATION: Philosophy-Goals-Comprehensive
Plans**

ADOPTED: 2/11/09

REVISED: 5/09/18

**SUBJECT: Education for Homeless Children
and Youth**

PAGE: 3 of 3

**Legal Reference: United States Code, Title 42
11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements
Act of 2001**

**Management Resources: U.S. Department of Education: *Education for Homeless Children and
Youth Program*, Non-Regulatory Guidance, July 2004**

Web Sites:

U.S. Department of Education:

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/index.html>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/>