

### **Residency For Homeless Children And Foster Youth**

Children living in the district who do not reside in a permanent, fixed residence, unaccompanied youth, and foster youth shall be admitted to district schools upon presentation of any of the following:

1. Hotel or motel receipts.
2. A letter from a social service agency verifying that the child lives within the district.
3. An affidavit from the parent/guardian stating that the family lives within the district with the intent of remaining there.
4. Placement papers from the Department of Children and Family Services or a court order.
5. A completed Fresno Unified School District Notice of Placement Form.

A reasonable effort shall be made to secure an address, phone number and medical release from the parent/guardian/foster parent when a child is placed in a classroom. In regards to foster youth, a reasonable effort shall be made to secure who holds the educational rights.

Homeless children have the right to:

1. Free and appropriate public education.
2. Services comparable to those offered to non-homeless children and youth, including transportation to their school of origin.
3. Remain in their school of origin or transfer to a school in their current attendance area for the duration of their homelessness. Once housed, a homeless child may finish the school year and then enroll in their home school the following year. Homeless students may cross district boundaries in order to remain at their school of origin. The decision should be based on what is in the best interest of the child. When feasible, school moves should occur at the end of a grading period.
4. Be enrolled in school despite the lack of a permanent address or the lack of school records. Enrollment is defined as attending classes and participating fully.
5. To be assisted by school personnel in obtaining transcripts, special education records and immunization records.
6. To be assisted by school/district personnel to expedite special education services and placement.

7. To remain at their school of origin for the duration of their homelessness when they move outside the district's boundaries. When permanent housing is secured, they can complete the year at their school of origin and enroll in their school of residence the following year.

8. To be provided with a written explanation for a school move and the appeal process, if the school sends the child to another school.

Foster Youth have the right:

1. To a free and appropriate public education.

2. To services comparable to those offered to non-foster youth.

3. To be assisted by school personnel in obtaining transcripts, special education records and immunization records within two business days.

4. To be assisted by school/district personnel to expedite special education services and placement.

5. To remain in their school of origin for the duration of the school year when their placement changes and remaining in the same school is in the child's best interests.

6. To have placing agencies promote educational stability by considering when making placement decisions the child's school attendance area.

7. To be assisted by a foster care education liaison to ensure proper placement, transfer, and enrollment in school for foster youth.

8. To have the student and their records transferred timely when a change of school is in the child's best interest.

9. To have a comprehensive public school be considered as the first school placement option.

10. To remain enrolled and attending their school of origin pending resolution of school placement disputes.

11. To be immediately enrolled in school even if all typically required school records, immunizations, or school uniforms are not available. Enrollment is defined as attending classes and participating fully.

12. To have their credits calculated and accepted for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed by the student and earned while attending a public school, juvenile court school or nonpublic and nonsectarian school.

13. To not be penalized for absences due to placement changes, court appearances, or related court ordered activities.

14. To have assistance by school/district personnel to complete the Fresno Unified School District Notice of Placement Form.

15. To be given a written explanation of the basis for the recommendation for a school placement other than their school of origin.

16. To be assisted by the Department of Children and Family Services Practitioner/Educational Liaison.

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>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

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

#### Regulation FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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