



Identification Strategies in Response to COVID 19 Homeless Education

The number of students meeting the eligibility criteria of homelessness may now be greater and more challenging to identify. That is why the California Department of Education's Integrated Student Support and Programs Office have developed the following strategies and resources to better assist you.

For children and youth experiencing homelessness, the services you provide at your local educational agency (LEA) may be the only source of food, education, consistent caring adults, and safe place to be during the day.

Our students, children and youth experiencing homelessness are highly mobile, and are many times unlikely to benefit from initiatives that are based on a stable and safe home environment.

Please remember the following:

1. Immediate Enrollment for families and students who lack fixed, regular or adequate housing, including doubled up or due to economic hardship means:
 - "Enroll" and "enrollment" means attending classes and participating fully in school activities. Even without documentation typically needed to enroll, including school records, immunizations or other required health records, proof of residency, or guardianship.
2. Continue to share your contact information and posters that include the educational rights afforded to youth experiencing homelessness in any/all areas as possible.
3. **Remind teachers** of the definition of homelessness and how to reach you. Teachers who are working with students via online or distance learning and communicating directly with families **will be the first to find out if a student is in need**, they should know how to contact their liaison. Record a video or email message for families that the teacher can forward to families.
4. Remind teachers at possible staff meetings and when meeting to **plan to have additional flexibility for deadlines and participation requirements as students who are experiencing homelessness may not be receiving notifications, may need additional time to get learning materials**, (i.e. may need transportation from the liaison to get Chromebook).
5. **Ensure that all teachers, staff and leadership knows who your county, district and school site liaisons are and how they can be reached when the school or district closed.**

When updating resources for families and staff, including web sites, please **add the local liaison's contact information.**



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When guidance is being developed at the district and school levels, **ensure the Homeless Liaison is included** in the development and delivery of services or guidance. Use the homeless liaison to reach out to families and LEAs need to consult with them to ensure the plans meet the needs of these students as well.

6. **Reach out often** to families and youth currently identified as homeless to monitor their current living situations, health, safety, basic and education needs. When connecting with students, **remember those who were or may be at risk for homelessness** for example:
 - Students who are/were new to the district,
 - Students not responding to teacher or district correspondence,
 - Families who mentioned changes in addresses, etc.
7. LEAs need to consult with Liaisons to develop or revisit messaging:
 - Ensure messaging is sensitive and related to housing- safety, stability, academic needs.
 - Adding and sharing the definition of homelessness and student rights, attached as a flyer or one pager to share with the following staff who are still a part of the student's life during closures:
 - Nutrition Services
 - Teachers and Academic Staff
 - District and County Leadership that communicate with families
8. Title I, Part A homeless education set aside reservation funds can be used to assist students and their families experiencing homelessness to provide access beyond what is typically afforded to their housed peers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact CDE's Homeless State Coordinators by email at:

Leanne Wheeler: lwheeler@cde.ca.gov
Heidi Brahms: hbrahms@cde.ca.gov
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RESOURCES: Guidance regarding learning and services- including meals, special education services, and more, please go to CDE's COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/guidance.asp>.

To add yourself to the Homeless Education Listserv please visit: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/homelesslistserv.asp> or click here: [Resources Listserv](#).

For CDE level information from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, you must subscribe to join-covid19-update@mlist.cde.ca.gov to be added to the distribution list. If you aren't already following the CDE on social media, please find us on Facebook at @CAEducation and on Twitter @CADeptEd.