

## **EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY**

The Blue Oak Charter Council desires to ensure that homeless students have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to all other students at Blue Oak.

Homeless students shall be provided with access to education and other services necessary for them to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students. Homeless students shall not be segregated in separate programs based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way. The Executive Director 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. When there are at least 15 homeless students at Blue Oak, the local control and accountability plan (LCAP) shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of homeless students.

At least annually, the Executive Director or designee shall report to the Board on outcomes for homeless students, which may include, but are not limited to, school attendance, student achievement test results, promotion and retention rates by grade level, suspension/expulsion rates, and other outcomes related to any goals and specific actions identified in the LCAP. Based on the evaluation data, Blue Oak shall revise its strategies as needed to better support the education of homeless students.

Definitions The term homeless children and youth mean individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

1. Students 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; or, are abandoned in hospitals
2. Students 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. Students 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 they are living in conditions described above Sample of Education for Homeless Children and Youth Board Policy and Administrative Regulations
5. Unaccompanied youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian



*The term school of origin means the school that the homeless student attended when permanently housed or the school in which he/she was last enrolled. If the school the homeless student attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which he/she was last enrolled, or if there is some other school that he/she attended within the preceding 15 months and with which he/she is connected, the liaison shall determine, in consultation with and with the agreement of the homeless student and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, and in the best interests of the homeless student, which school shall be deemed the school of origin. When determining the best interest in making educational and school placement decisions for a homeless student, consideration is given to, among other factors, educational stability, the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress, and the student's access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all district students.*

#### Liaison

The Executive Director designates the Registrar as the liaison for homeless students. In conjunction with the Executive Director the Registrar will:

1. Ensure that homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordinated activities with other entities and agencies
2. Ensure that homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in Blue Oak
3. Ensure that homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible