



Education for Homeless Children Policy

Education for Homeless Children

California Montessori Project (CMP) will ensure that homeless students will have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to all other students enrolled within our network. CMP will provide homeless students the same challenging academic standards and will not segregate on the basis of the student's homeless status nor will homeless students be stigmatized in any way.

Educational Definition of Homeless Children and Youth

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act, the term "homeless children and youths" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- living in emergency or transitional shelters (includes transitional housing programs)
- abandoned in hospitals or are awaiting foster care placement
- staying in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- runaways or unaccompanied youth (not in the physical custody of the parent or guardian)
- migratory who qualify as homeless because of living in circumstances described above

Enrollment

CMP holds a public random draw for enrollment with the exception of existing students who are guaranteed enrollment in the following school year. When enrolling, if the parent/guardian is unable to provide the school with the records normally required for enrollment, 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 CMP Homeless Liaison. The liaison shall assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations or records for the student.

For students already enrolled, CMP will consider the best interests of the student with parental involvement in determining whether the student will continue enrollment at the CMP campus or if the Homeless Liaison will assist the family to transfer the homeless student to an alternate educational institution where the homeless student is living near or eligible to attend. To the extent feasible, and in accordance with the student's best interest, the student shall continue his/her education at the CMP campus, except when contrary to the wishes of the parent/guardian.

Services

Each homeless student will be provided with services comparable with all CMP students. This includes educational services for which the student meets eligibility criteria, such as education programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency.

Transportation

CMP does not offer a transportation program. In the event the student needs transportation assistance to the CMP school campus, CMP reserves the right to review transportation requests on a case by case basis and will look for opportunities to assist the student with means of transportation to school.

Homeless Liaison

CMP's Governing Board designates the Student Services Coordinator to act as the network's Homeless Liaison to ensure that services are provided to our homeless students.