

LEONARDO DA VINCI HEALTH SCIENCES CHARTER SCHOOL

Policy: Education for Homeless Children / Students in Transition

The LdVCS Board of Trustees recognizes its obligations and desires to ensure that homeless children have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other children within the school. LdVCS shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for these students to meet the same challenging performance standards as other students. Students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless, nor shall homeless students be stigmatized in any way.

The 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.

Transportation

LdVCS shall provide homeless students with transportation services comparable to those offered to other students at the school. If a homeless student attending school at Victory Charter moves to a shelter outside of its school boundaries, the superintendent or designee may arrange transportation that enables the student to continue attending LdVCS, through the services of LdVCS, the new home district, or an outside agency.

LdVCS Liaison

The Director or designee designates the following staff person as the LdVCS liaison for homeless students.

The LdVCS liaison for homeless students shall ensure that:

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies
2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed at LdVCS
3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible
4. Parents/guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children
5. Notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated at places where children receive services, such as schools, shelters, and soup kitchens
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law, board policy and administrative regulation
7. Parents/guardians are fully informed of all transportation services

Enrollment Dispute Resolution Process

If a dispute arises enrollment at LdVCS, the student shall be immediately admitted, pending resolution of

The parent/guardian shall be provided with a written explanation of the placement decision, including an explanation of the parent/guardian's right to appeal the decision. He/she shall also be referred to the LdVCS liaison.

The LdVCS liaison shall carry out the dispute resolution process provided by the state as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute.

The written explanation shall be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated and provided in language that the parent/guardian or student can understand. The explanation may include contact information for the district liaison, a description of the school's decision, notice of the right to enroll in the school of choice pending resolution of the dispute, notice that enrollment includes full participation in all school activities, and notice of the right to appeal the decision to the county office of education and, if the dispute remains unresolved, to the California Department of Education.

Definitions

1. Homeless means students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes: Children and youths 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; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement
2. Children and youths 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. Children and youths 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 the children are living in conditions described in (1)-(3) above

School of origin means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.

Best interest means, to the extent feasible, continuing a student's enrollment in the school of origin for the duration of his/her homelessness, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of his/her parent/guardian.

Unaccompanied youth means a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Adopted: August 15, 2013