

McKinney-Vento/Homeless Educational Services

Definition of Terms

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

According to the McKinney-Vento Act, children and youth through age 17 who are living apart from their parents or guardians are considered “Unaccompanied.” The Act states, a child or youth **“not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.”** This means a child or youth has the right to immediate enrollment in school, without the consent of a parent or guardian.

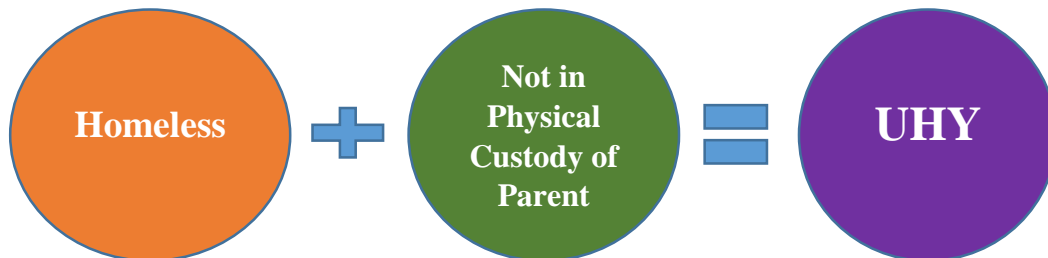
A student who is considered **homeless** (lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence) and **unaccompanied** (not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) can be registered as an unaccompanied homeless youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

A student who is not homeless, even though residing with a person other than the parent or court-appointed guardian, does not qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Age Restrictions

Lower: There is no lower age limit for unaccompanied homeless youth.

Upper: The upper age limit (as with all McKinney-Vento eligible students) is 21, but is sometimes older for special education students.



Runaway Youth

The term “Runaway” used with respect to a youth, means an individual who is less than 18 years of age and who absents (*to take or keep (oneself) away*) himself or herself from home or a place of legal residence without the permission of a parent or legal guardian.

Homeless Youth

The term “homeless youth” means an individual who is not more than 21 years of age or, in the case of a youth seeking shelter, less than the age of 18.

A youth for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative; and who has no other safe alternative living arrangement.

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Laws that protect homeless children and youth:

- ❖ **SB 172- Pupil testing: high school exit examination: suspension**
Suspends the High School exit examination for the school years; 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018
- ❖ **SB 177- Homeless Youth Education Success Act**
Immediate enrollment in interscholastic sports, CDE/DSS ensures no barriers, organize inter-agency work group, and develop policies/practices to support youth.
- ❖ **SB 252- Pupils: Diploma alternatives: Fees for G.E.D Testing Centers**
This bill exempts Homeless youth from the fee typically charged to an applicant for high school proficiency examination application.
 - It also exempts Homeless youth from fees charged by scoring contractors or testing centers that administer the equivalency exam
- ❖ **SB 445- Pupil Instruction and Services: Homeless children**
Requires a LEA to allow the Homeless child to continue his or her education in the school of origin. Through the duration of the Homelessness, and would set forth related requirements governing the enrollment of Homeless children.
- ❖ **SB 708- Pupil Nutrition: Free or Reduced-price meals: Online applications**
Authorizes school districts and COEs to make applications for free or reduced-price meals electronically available and requires those LEAs who chose to offer online applications to:
 - Ensure both paper and electronic applications contain clear instructions for families that are Homeless or Migrants.
- ❖ **AB 309- CalFresh/ CDSS**
CalFresh Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program clarifies that there is no minimum age requirement for unaccompanied youth to apply. Requires Child Welfare Departments who process CalFresh applications to: Clarify that there is no minimum age requirement for unaccompanied youth to apply. Promote awareness of CalFresh expedited services to the Homeless population by training Homeless community about CalFresh services. Evaluate and screen unaccompanied youth's CalFresh application to determine household eligibility. Provide written explanation if denied.

- ❖ **AB 379- Foster Youth: Homeless Children or Youth: Complaint of Non Compliance: Exemption from Local Graduation Requirements**
 1. Allows Youth to access the uniform complaint procedure to resolve alleged violations of educational rights.
 2. Reduces timelines for LEAs to respond to complaints alleging a violation of the right to immediate enrollment. As well as the violation of the rights to remain in the school of origin pending resolution of a dispute.

- ❖ **AB 652- Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act: Homeless children**

Clarifies that a child/youth is homeless or unaccompanied minor, is not sufficient for reporting child abuse or neglect, as defined by McKinney-Vento.

- ❖ **AB 982- Childcare and Development: Eligibility: Priority: Homeless children.**

Prioritizes Homeless families for enrollment in subsidized childcare and expands the type of agencies that can verify that a family is Homeless for purposes of eligibility.

- ❖ **AB 1068- Pupil Records**

Permits a student who is either Homeless or Unaccompanied minor 14 years or older to have access to his/her student records without parental consent. Extends rights to caregivers who enroll students in school using CA caregiver authorization affidavit.

It prevents schools from releasing directory information of students experiencing Homelessness, unless a parent expressly consents, including name, e-mail, and photographs.

- ❖ **AB 1166- Pupils in Foster Care: pupils who are Homeless children or youth: School transfer: Exemption from Local Graduation requirements**

Allows Homeless students an exemption even if the district fails to provide timely notice of the availability of the exemption.

If a pupil is exempted from Local Graduation Requirements, the exemption continues to apply after the pupil is no longer a Homeless child or youth, while he or she is enrolled in school or if the pupil transfers to another school or school district.

- ❖ **AB 1228- Public postsecondary education: Campus Housing: priority for Homeless youth**

This bill would provide priority for campus housing to current, former Homeless youth that is identical to that priority extended to current, and former Foster youth under existing law. This bill would request the campuses of the California Community Colleges, and would require the campuses of the California State University, and of the University of California, subject to its agreement by resolution, if they maintain student housing facilities, to provide housing in housing facilities that are open for uninterrupted year-round occupation to current and former Homeless youth and current and former Foster youth at no extra cost during academic or campus breaks, and would request each campus of the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to develop a plan to ensure that current and former Homeless

youth and current and former Foster youth can access housing resources during and between academic terms, including during academic and campus breaks.

❖ **AB 1733- Public Records: Fee Waiver**

Local registrars or county recorders are required to issue a birth certificate without a fee to any person, who can verify his or her status as a Homeless person or a Homeless child or youth, as defined.

Prohibits a fee from being charged for an original or replacement identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles to any person who has a Social Services provider, an Attorney, Homeless liaison or an Education counselor vouch for their Homeless status.

❖ **AB 1806- Pupil services: Homeless children or youth**

It extends some of the protections that were recently issued to Foster youth, to Homeless youth as well. The new mandates address the following:

- **Partial Credit Issuance**
- **Exemption from Graduation Requirements**
- **Expulsion Recommendations**