

**UCEN Board/Oasis Charter Public School
Salinas, California**

Policy Adopted: 4/26/2022

Policy Revised: 6/30/2026

Section V Students Services
Article IX Homeless Education

The UCEN Board and Oasis Charter Public School (OCPS) recognize their responsibility to ensure that homeless students are provided equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth. All homeless students will be provided access to the education and services provided to all other students to meet the same academic achievement standards as other students. Homeless students will be integrated into the same programs and facilities as all other students.

The School shall remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, participation, and academic success of homeless children and youth and shall provide homeless students with educational stability and equal access to educational opportunities in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.) and applicable California law.

Definition

Homeless children and youth are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

A lack of fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence is defined by the following:

- A. One who is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, living in motels, hotels, trailer parks (not including mobile home parks), or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations, is living in emergency or transitional shelters, or abandoned in hospitals;
- B. Whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- C. Who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- D.
- E. Who are migratory children who qualify as homeless for purposes of this part because the children are living in circumstances described above.

Homeless Education (cont.)

Unaccompanied Youth

An unaccompanied youth includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Unaccompanied youth shall be afforded the same rights and protections provided under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, including immediate enrollment, school stability protections, and assistance from the Homeless Community Liaison.

Charter School of Origin

A charter school is considered the school of origin when the student was permanently housed or was last enrolled in the school at the time the student became homeless.

The Charter School will not be the school of origin if it is contrary to the wishes of a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) or if it is determined not to be in the student's best interest.

To assess and determine the best interest of the student, the school shall:

- A. Presume that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, or when the school determines that remaining in the school of origin is not in the student's best interest;
- B. Consider the factors that affect the student, such as the impact of mobility on academic achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth. Consider giving priority to the request of the child's parent(s), guardian(s), or the unaccompanied youth. Additional factors may include the student's need for educational stability, the age of the student, the distance of travel, the student's attachment to teachers, peers, and school programs, and any other factors relevant to the student's educational success and well-being;
- C. If, after taking all factors into consideration and the school determines not to retain the student, the school will provide a written explanation to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal. The student shall remain enrolled pending resolution of any school selection or enrollment dispute as required by law.

Homeless Community Liaison

Jocelyn Jacobo, Family Liaison
Oasis Charter Public School
1135 Westridge Pkwy. Salinas, Ca. 93907
(831) 424-9003

The Homeless Community Liaison is required to do all of the following:

- A. Ensure homeless children and youth are identified by the school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- B. Ensure that homeless children and youth are immediately enrolled and properly placed in school and are provided full and equal opportunity to succeed;
- C. Ensure that homeless children and youth are provided full access to programs, early intervention services as provided under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., referrals to healthcare services, dental services, mental health services, housing, and substance abuse services;
- D. Ensure parents or guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and their right to participate in the education of their children;
- E. Ensure that admission disputes are mediated in a timely manner;
- F. Ensure that all public notices of educational rights of homeless children and youth are properly disseminated in school locations that are frequented by parents;
- G. Ensure that professional development programs, seminars, or in-house staff development are provided to address services to the homeless;
- H. Ensure the educational programs are providing equal access to academic standards and that all class work and assignments are properly credited;
- I. Ensure that unaccompanied youth are admitted to school and minimize any delays to their admission;
- J. Assist homeless students, families, and unaccompanied youth in obtaining records necessary for enrollment, including academic, medical, and immunization records;
- K. Coordinate with community agencies and service providers to connect homeless students and families with appropriate educational, health, housing, and support services;
- L. Ensure that homeless students are not stigmatized, segregated, or discriminated against based on their homeless status;

- M. Protect the confidentiality of records and information regarding a student's homeless status consistent with applicable federal and state law.

Admission

The school would admit a student even though documentation may be missing or if the student has missed application or admission deadlines during any period of homelessness. Whether or not the School receives funding under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the School shall comply with all applicable federal and state requirements relating to the enrollment, attendance, and educational rights of homeless children and youth. The School shall ensure that homeless children and youth have access to the same free and appropriate public education, including public preschool education when available through community programs, as provided to other children and youth.

Homeless students shall be immediately enrolled in the School even if they lack records or documentation normally required for enrollment.

Enrollment shall not be delayed due to a lack of:

- A. Proof of residency
- B. Academic records
- C. Birth certificates
- D. Immunization or health records
- E. Guardianship records
- F. Any other documentation typically required for enrollment

The School shall immediately contact the student's previous school, when applicable, to obtain relevant educational records and shall assist the student, parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth in obtaining any missing documentation.

Barrier Removal

The School shall review and revise policies, practices, and procedures as necessary to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, retention, attendance, participation, and academic success of homeless children and youth.

Homeless students shall not be segregated into separate programs or settings based on their homeless status.

The School shall ensure that homeless students have a full and fair opportunity to succeed academically and participate in all school programs and activities.

Comparable Services

Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other students in the School, including, as applicable:

- A. Educational programs
- B. Special education services
- C. English learner services
- D. Counseling and mental health services
- E. School nutrition programs
- F. Before-school, after-school, and enrichment opportunities
- G. Extracurricular activities and school-sponsored events
- H. Any other services for which the student is eligible

Admission Disputes

In the event of an admission dispute between the school and student, parent, or guardian, the school will develop a Dispute Resolution Process. The dispute process would include the following:

1. The student shall be immediately enrolled and allowed to fully participate in school activities pending resolution of the dispute;
2. Refer the student and parent/guardian to the Homeless Community Liaison to work out a dispute resolution. The Homeless Liaison shall assist the student, parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth throughout the dispute resolution process and ensure that all rights are explained and protected;
3. Provide a written explanation of the school's decision. The written explanation shall include information regarding appeal rights and dispute resolution procedures available under federal and California law;
4. If dispute is unresolved or is appealed, the school should forward the documentation to the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) homeless liaison;
5. The results from the MCOE homeless liaison will return a written response within 5 days of receipt of the dispute;
6. If the MCOE response is unresolved or is appealed, MCOE homeless liaison will forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the State Homeless Coordinator. Upon review, the California Department of Education (CDE) will notify the parents/guardians of the admission decision within 10 working days of receipt.

Transportation

When transportation is required under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Oasis Charter Public School shall collaborate with the student's district of residence, the Monterey County Office of Education, and other appropriate agencies to facilitate transportation arrangements consistent with applicable law.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to require the School to operate transportation services beyond those required by law.

Confidentiality

Information regarding a student's homeless status shall be treated as confidential and shall not be disclosed except as permitted or required by law.

Early Childhood Referrals

The Homeless Community Liaison shall provide information regarding available community preschool, Head Start, and other early childhood education opportunities when appropriate.

Nondiscrimination

Homeless students shall not be segregated, discriminated against, or stigmatized on the basis of their homeless status.