

Policy 6173: Education for Homeless Youth**Original Adopted Date: 03/09/20 | Last Revised Date:4/29/25 | Last Reviewed Date:4/29/25****EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY**

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy (“TPAA” or the “Academy”) Board of Directors desires to ensure that homeless children and youth are provided with equal access to its educational program, have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards, are provided a free and appropriate public education, and are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and to establish safeguards that protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.

When there are 15 students experiencing homelessness at the Academy, TPAA’s local control and accountability plan (LCAP) shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of students experiencing homelessness (Education Code 5202, 52060, 52604)

The Academy shall review and revise any policies that may act as barriers to the identification of homeless children and youths or the enrollment of homeless children and youths at TPAA at least once every three years. In reviewing and revising such policies, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records and other documentation, and guardianship. Special attention shall be given to ensuring the identification, enrollment, and attendance of homeless children and youths who are not currently attending school. TPAA’s review of its homeless education program policies shall use resources developed by the CDE and posted on the CDE’s internet website and resources developed by homeless education technical assistance centers established using funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The Superintendent or designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a liaison for homeless children and youth. The Academy liaison for homeless students shall fulfill the duties specified in 42 USC 11432 to assist in identifying and supporting students experiencing homelessness to succeed in school, and as specified in Education Code 48851.3 related to trainings for Academy staff providing assistance to students experiencing homelessness.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the Academy identifies all students experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youths enrolled at the school. (Education Code 48851)

TPAA shall administer a housing questionnaire for purposes of identifying homeless children and youth. TPAA shall ensure that the housing questionnaire is based on the best practices developed by the CDE. TPAA shall annually provide the housing questionnaire to all parents/guardians of students and to all unaccompanied youths at TPAA. The housing questionnaire shall include an explanation of the rights and protections a student has as a homeless child or youth or as an unaccompanied youth. The housing questionnaire shall be available in paper form. The housing questionnaire shall be available in the primary language other than English spoken by fifteen (15) percent or more of the students enrolled at TPAA and shall be translated into other languages upon request of a student’s parent/guardian or an unaccompanied youth. TPAA shall collect the completed housing questionnaires and annually report to the CDE the number of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths enrolled. (Education Code Section 48851.)

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TPAA shall report to the California Department of Education (“CDE”) annually on the number of pupils who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from the Academy’s graduation requirements that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements.

This data shall be reported for pupils graduating in the fourth year and fifth year cohorts, and shall be disaggregated by cohort, pupil category, race, and disability status. The CDE shall make this data publicly available on an annual basis aligned with other reporting timelines for the California dashboard graduation data.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the Academy liaison’s contact information and other information on homelessness, including, but not limited to, information regarding educational rights and resources available to persons experiencing homelessness, are posted on TPAA’s website as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48852.6)

Information about the living situation of a student experiencing homelessness shall be considered part of the student’s educational record, subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, shall not be deemed to be directory information as defined in 20 USC 1232g, and shall not be released without written consent. (42 USC 11432)

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that students experiencing homelessness are promptly identified, ensure that students experiencing homelessness have access to available education and related support service, and raise awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness. Toward these ends, the Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local service agencies, other agencies or entities providing services to students experiencing homelessness. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate transportation and transfer of records.

Each homeless child or youth shall promptly be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in TPAA such as (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(4)):

- Transportation services
- Educational services for which the child or youth meets eligibility criteria, such as educational programs for students with disabilities and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency
- Programs in vocational and technical education
- Programs for gifted and talented students
- Charter School nutrition programs

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that information and/or materials for the students experiencing homelessness are provided in a manner and form understandable to the student’s parents/guardians and to the unaccompanied youths.

All administrators, teachers and employees of TPAA, including the Charter School Liaison, will be provided professional development on the identification, services, and sensitivity necessary when dealing with homeless children and youth. The Charter School Liaison will verify that the

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Charter School is providing the required training to school personnel providing services to youth experiencing homelessness at least annually through the CDE's verification system. (Education Code Section 48852.5(c)(2).)

The Charter School Liaison shall offer training to TPAA certificated and classified employees providing services to students experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, teachers, support staff, and other school staff who work with pupils, at least annually relating to:

(1) TPAA's homeless education program policies; and

(2) Recognition of signs that pupils are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, homelessness.

The Charter School Liaison shall inform such employees of the availability of training and the services the Charter School Liaison provides to aid in the identification and provision of services to students who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, homelessness.