



EDUCATIONAL LIASION

Your local school district liaison is an advocate who works to address the educational issues involved with homeless/foster youth, and who ensures and facilitates the proper enrollment into appropriate educational programs (Ed Code 48853.5). Each school district must appoint a liaison to serve the foster and homeless students in the district.

District liaisons for homeless/foster youth have the following duties:

- Ensure proper school placement, enrollment and checkout from school
- Track and improve pupil academic achievement
- Provide resources and referrals
- Assist with transfer of grades, credits and records when youth transfers schools
- Ensure youth and children have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school
- Ensure foster and homeless students are provided with a free school lunch



Ventura County School District Enrollment Contacts

School District	Phone

Briggs Elementary	805-933-2254
Conejo Valley Unified	805-497-9511
Fillmore Unified	805-524-6034
Hueneme Elementary	05-488-3588
Mesa Union	805-485-1411
Moorpark Unified	805-378-6300
Mupu Elementary	805-525-0422
Oak Park Unified	818-735-3217
Ocean View Elementary	805-488-6421
Ojai Unified	805-640-4300
Oxnard Elementary	805-487-3918
Oxnard Union High	805-385-2801
Pleasant Valley Elementary	805-445-8675
Rio Elementary	805-485-3115
Santa Clara Elementary	805-525-4573
Santa Paula Elementary	805-933-8806
Santa Paula Union High	805-525-4406
Simi Valley Unified	805-306-4560
Somis Elementary	805-386-5711
Ventura Unified	805-641-5000
Ventura Co. Office of Ed.	805-437-1525

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Public School Enrollment Considerations for Homeless & Foster Youth



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Ventura County Office of Education

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County Superintendent of Schools*

Countywide Foster Youth Services (FYS) and Homeless Education Project (HEP)

FYS and HEP are part of the Special Populations Educational Support Department of the Ventura County Office of Education. The FYS and HEP programs help students enroll in public school. The Countywide Foster Youth Services Program and the Homeless Education Project have detailed information available about California Education Codes, and can assist in resolving enrollment problems and disputes.

Each school district is responsible for providing an appropriate, quality education for every child living within its boundaries.

The Public School Enrollment Considerations brochure was created to answer your questions about enrolling foster and homeless students in school. Our office wants to work with you to resolve any enrollment problems you may have so that every youth living in Ventura County receives a quality public education.

To assist in the enrollment of a foster or homeless youth, a list of telephone numbers for each of the twenty school districts in Ventura County is provided on the back of this brochure. Should you need information or assistance, call the district and ask to speak with the foster youth/homeless liaison.

Foster Youth Education Rights

Effective January 1, 2004, Assembly Bill 490 imposes new duties and rights related to the education of youth in foster care. The law provides for increased school placement stability and improved school transfer procedures. AB490 seeks to ensure that all of California's foster children experience stable school placements. Provisions include:

- Immediate enrollment in school, even if the youth owes fees to the previous school, and even if he or she is unable to produce the records or clothing normally required for enrollment, such as academic or medical records, immunizations, proof of residency or other documentation.
- The right to remain in the school of origin for the remainder of the academic year, if it is in the child's best interest to do so.
- The timely transfer of school records within two business days of request, even if the student has missing textbooks or owes fines to the previous school.
- Preference for a mainstream public school, unless the child has an IEP that requires another educational placement or the person holding educational rights decides it is best for the child to attend another school.
- If a dispute arises as to whether it is in the child's best interest to remain in the school of origin, the child has a right to remain in the school of origin until the dispute is resolved. All school districts must have a dispute resolution policy in place.

**AB490 covers foster youth who are supervised by either county probation or child welfare and are living in and out of home placement. **

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act

The McKinney-Vento law, originally passed in 1987 and revised in 2001, protects the rights of children and youth who are homeless and encourages school stability. A homeless child is one who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

District Responsibilities:

Equal Access: Districts must ensure that homeless children have equal access to the same free appropriate public education, including preschool education, as provided to other youth. Districts must strive to remove barriers to enrollment, attendance, or success of homeless youth in school.

Immediate Enrollment: Youth must be immediately enrolled in school, even if the child lacks the records normally required for enrollment, such as academic or medical records.

Placement: The district must make school placement determinations on the basis for the "best interest" of the homeless child or youth. A district must, to the extent feasible, keep a homeless child or youth in the student's "school of origin", unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian. If a disagreement arises regarding the enrollment of a homeless child, the district must allow the child to remain in the school of origin pending the outcome of the dispute.

Transportation: At a parent or guardian's request, homeless students must be provided with transportation to and from their school