

# RECENT BILLS RELATING TO HOMELESS STUDENTS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION



**AB 801 (EC §§66025.9, 69514.5, 69561, 76300, 67003.5): Bloom. Postsecondary education: Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act.**

This law will provide *parity* to homeless youth to what is already in place for foster youth.

The California State University and each community college district shall, and the University of California is requested to, with respect to each campus in their respective jurisdictions that administers a priority enrollment system, grant priority in that system for registration for enrollment to ***a homeless youth***.

For the purposes of this act, a “Homeless youth” means a student under 25 years of age, who has been verified at any time during the 24 months immediately preceding the receipt of his or her application for admission by a postsecondary educational institution as a homeless child or youth, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act by at least one of the following:

- **A homeless services provider – a homeless liaison is included in this group;**
- The director of a federal TRIO program or Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs program, or a designee of that director; or
- A financial aid administrator for an institution of higher education.

**A student who is verified as a homeless youth shall retain that status for a period of six years from the date of admission** to the postsecondary educational institution.

A postsecondary educational institution that is a “qualifying institution,” – community colleges and state schools - shall:

- Designate a staff member who is employed within the financial aid office, or another appropriate office or department, of the institution to serve as the Homeless and Foster Student Liaison and shall be responsible for:
  - understand the provisions of the federal Higher Education Act pertaining to financial aid eligibility of current and former foster youth and homeless youth, including unaccompanied homeless youth, and
  - identify services available and appropriate for enrolled students who fall under one or more of these categories.
  - Assist these students in applying for and receiving federal and state financial aid and available services.
  - Inform current and prospective students of the institution about student financial aid and other assistance available to homeless youth and current and former foster youth, including their eligibility as independent students.

Please note: The Regents of the University of California are requested to adopt these same policies.

The Community College Student Financial Aid Outreach shall develop and administer a program to provide financial aid training to high school and community college counselors and advisers who work with students

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planning to attend or attending a community college. This training shall include financial aid workshops and technical assistance to fill out the FAFSA forms – **this now includes *homeless youth***.

The Student Aid Commission may apportion funds on a progress payment schedule for the support of projects designed to increase the accessibility of postsecondary educational opportunities for elementary and secondary school pupils, ***including homeless youth***.

These projects shall primarily do all of the following:

- Increase the availability of information for these pupils on the existence of postsecondary schooling and work opportunities.
- Raise the achievement levels of these pupils so as to increase the number of high school graduates eligible to pursue postsecondary learning opportunities.

There are several criteria related to these projects (too lengthy to mention here) however, be aware that each project shall:

- include the direct involvement of secondary school staff in the daily operations of the project, with preference in funding to those projects that effectively integrate the objectives of the Student Opportunity and Access Program with those of the school district in providing services that are essential to preparing pupils for postsecondary education.
- maintain within the project headquarters a comprehensive pupil-specific information system on pupils receiving services through the program in grades 11 and 12 at secondary schools within the participating districts. This information shall be maintained in a manner consistent with the law relating to pupil records

Community college charges each student a per unit fee each semester. **The fee requirements shall be waived for any student who, at the time of enrollment, is a *homeless youth***.

**AB 1228 (EC §§66019.3, 76010, 90001.5, 92660): Gipson. Public postsecondary education: campus housing: priority for homeless youth.**

- Establishes a priority for campus housing for homeless or formerly homeless youth attending California community colleges, CSU, or UC campuses.
- Subject to agreement by resolution, if a CC, CSU or UC campus maintains student housing facilities, the CC/CSU/UC will provide housing in facilities that are open for uninterrupted year-round occupation to current/former homeless youth at no extra cost during breaks.
- Requests a plan from CC/CSU/UC to be developed to ensure current and former homeless (and foster) youth can access housing resources *during and between* academic terms.

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## **AB 1733 (H&S §103577, VC §14902): Public records: fee waiver**

Requires each local registrar or county recorder to issue, without a fee, a certified record of live birth to any person who can verify his or her status as a homeless person or a homeless child or youth *as of July 1, 2015*.

- Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue, without a fee, an original or replacement identification card to a person who can verify his or her status as a homeless person or homeless child or youth *as of January 1, 2016*.
- Require the State Department of Public Health to develop an affidavit attesting to an applicant's status as a homeless person or homeless child or youth.
- Require a homeless services provider, as described that has knowledge of a person's housing status to verify the person's status as a homeless person or homeless child or youth for purposes of this provision.

## **AB 1995 (EC §§76011): Williams. Community colleges: homeless students: access to shower facilities**

If a community college campus has shower facilities for student use on campus, the governing board of the community college district shall grant access to those facilities to any homeless student who is enrolled in coursework, has paid enrollment fees, and is in good standing with the community college district without requiring the student to enroll in additional courses.

- The governing board shall determine a plan of action to implement subdivision (a) that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
- Hours of operation for the shower facilities, consistent with subdivision (c).
- The minimum number of units a student must be enrolled in to use the facilities.
- A plan of action if hours of operation conflict with an intercollegiate athletic program.
- A definition of homeless student that is based on the definition of homeless youth specified in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11434a(2)), but also reflects the age of the homeless student population at the community college campus.
- Hours of operation shall be consistent with hours of operation of the facilities in which the showers are located, shall be set at a minimum of two hours per weekday, and shall not conflict with the intercollegiate athletic program of the campus.

## **SB 252 (EC §§48412, 51421, 51421.5): Pupils: diploma alternatives: fees.**

- Prohibits charging a fee to homeless youth under 25 years of age who can verify his/her status as a homeless youth for the high school proficiency exam and equivalency tests. This includes contractor or testing fees too.
- Allows a homeless services provider that has knowledge of the person's housing status to verify the homeless status.