



**TONY THURMOND**  
State Superintendent  
of Public Instruction

# Homeless Education and School Counselors

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JANUARY 2021



# Welcome...



- Thank you for being a part of this presentation.
- This PowerPoint presentation is available on the California Department of Education's web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/homelesssschoolcounselor.pptx>

# Housekeeping



Today's PowerPoint presentation sent via email this morning, if you did not receive it please send an email with your request to: [HomelessED@cde.ca.gov](mailto:HomelessED@cde.ca.gov)



**Into the Chat please enter:**

Name, Job title and school, district, county office of education or other agency.



We will pause for questions throughout the presentation, please make sure to enter them in chat.

# Welcome

Oxnard Union  
High School  
District  
(OUHSD)

**Shannon Houston Scott M.Ed.**

Director of Student Support Services

**Carlos Campos**

Categorical Counselor

Channel Islands High School

# Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (1 of 2)

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- Originally passed in 1987
- Reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
  - Amendments took effect October 1, 2016

# Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (2 of 2)

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- 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 11431 et seq.
- Sections 721 and 722 of the McKinney-Vento Act

# Homeless Definition (1 of 5)

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- Under the ESSA, the term awaiting foster care placement was eliminated on December 10, 2016.

# Homeless Definition (2 of 5)

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- Fixed, regular, and adequate are defined as:
  - A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
  - A regular residence is one that is used on a normal, standard, and consistent basis.
  - An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

# Homeless Definition (3 of 5)

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- Examples of homelessness include children and youth living in:
  - Shared housing due to economic hardship
  - Motels or hotels
  - Public or private places not designed for sleeping

# Homeless Definition (4 of 5)

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- Trailer parks or campgrounds
- Cars, parks, and abandoned buildings
- Shelters
- Emergency or transitional shelters

# Homeless Definition (5 of 5)

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- To determine if a homeless child or youth lives in substandard living conditions consider:
  - Health and safety concerns
  - Number of occupants per square foot
  - Age of occupants
  - State and local building codes

# Unaccompanied Youth Definition

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- Unaccompanied homeless youth is defined as a child or youth who meets the McKinney-Vento definition and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

# Higher Education Access (1 of 2)

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- Section 722(g)(1)(K) under ESSA states that all homeless high school students will receive information and individualized counseling regarding college readiness, college selection, the application process, financial aid, and the availability of on-campus supports from the liaison, school counselor, and other staff.

# Higher Education Access (2 of 2)

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- Homeless liaisons must ensure unaccompanied homeless youth are informed of their status as independent students and may obtain assistance from the liaison to receive verification of that status.

# Higher Education Barriers

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- Lack of access to parental financial information and support
- Lack of adult guidance and support
- Lack of information about available support systems
- Struggling to balance school and other responsibilities

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QUESTIONS



# Assembly Bill 1806

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- Went into effect January 1, 2015
- Changed California *Education Code (EC)* sections 48915.5, 48918.1, 51225.1, and 51225.2 regarding:
  - Notice of potential expulsions
  - Partial credits
  - Graduation requirements

# Partial Credits (1 of 6)

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- A local educational agency (LEA), including county offices of education (COEs), shall:
  - Accept completed coursework from a homeless student while the student was attending another public school, juvenile court school, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency

# Partial Credits (2 of 6)

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- Issue full or partial credit for the coursework completed, even if the homeless student did not complete the entire course
- Accept credits for the same or equivalent course

# Partial Credits (3 of 6)

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- An LEA, including COEs, shall not:
  - Require a homeless student to retake a course if the homeless student has satisfactorily completed the entire course

# Partial Credits (4 of 6)

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- Require the homeless student to retake the portion already completed, unless:
  - The LEA, in consultation with the educational rights' holder, finds that the student is able to complete the requirements in time to graduate

# Partial Credits (5 of 6)

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- When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, then the homeless student shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the homeless student may continue and complete the entire course.

# Partial Credits (6 of 6)

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- A homeless student shall not be prevented from retaking or taking a course to meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the California State University or the University of California.

# Graduation Requirements (1 of 8)

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- An LEA shall exempt a homeless student from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the LEA that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements, if:

# Graduation Requirements (2 of 8)

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- The LEA does not make a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the school district's graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the fourth year;

# Graduation Requirements (3 of 8)

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- The student transfers between schools any time after the completion of the second year of high school; and,
- The student must meet the definition of homeless at the time the student transfers schools

# Graduation Requirements (4 of 8)

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- An LEA can determine if the homeless student is in his/her third or fourth year of high school, by using one of the following:
  - The number of credits earned to the date of transfer; or,
  - The length of school enrollment by the homeless student

# Graduation Requirements (5 of 8)

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- The homeless student who is eligible for exemption and is entitled to remain in attendance at the school shall not be:
  - Required to accept the exemption, or

# Graduation Requirements (6 of 8)

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- Denied enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses that the homeless student is eligible for, including courses that are necessary to attend an institution of higher education, regardless of whether those courses are required for statewide graduation requirements

# Graduation Requirements (7 of 8)

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- If the homeless student qualifies for the exemption and requests it, then the LEA shall grant that exemption.
- Once exempted, an LEA cannot revoke the exemption.

# Graduation Requirements (8 of 8)

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- Within 30 days of the exemption, the LEA shall notify the following regarding the availability of the exemption and if the homeless student qualifies:
  - The homeless student,
  - The holder of the homeless student's educational rights; and,
  - The homeless liaison

# Once Exempted (1 of 2)

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- If the exempted, homeless student completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of his/her fourth year in high school, then the LEA cannot require or request the student to graduate before the end of his/her fourth year.

# Once Exempted (2 of 2)

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- An LEA shall notify the exempted, homeless student and the educational rights' holder regarding:
  - How any of the waived requirements will affect the ability for the homeless student to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institute, and;
  - Provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges

# Other Requirements (1 of 4)

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- An eligible student cannot be forced to take an exemption.
- An LEA cannot require or request a homeless student to transfer schools in order to qualify for an exemption under AB 1806.

# Other Requirements (2 of 4)

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- The educational rights' holder, or the homeless liaison, cannot request a transfer solely to qualify the homeless student for an exemption.
- If the student was not told about the exemption option when the student was homeless, the student can still be eligible even after the student is permanently housed.

# Other Requirements (3 of 4)

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- If the student was homeless and eligible for the exemption but declined it and, then later while still homeless decides to accept the exemption, the student would still be eligible for the exemption.

# Other Requirements (4 of 4)

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- If the student was homeless and eligible for the exemption, but declined it, and then later became housed and decides to accept the exemption, the student would no longer be eligible for the exemption.

# Fifth Year (1 of 3)

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- If an LEA determines that the homeless student is reasonably able to complete the LEA's graduation requirements within the student's fifth year of high school, then the LEA shall do all of the following:

# Fifth Year (2 of 3)

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- Inform the homeless student of his/her options to remain in school for a fifth year;
- Inform the homeless student and the person holding educational rights of how remaining in a school for a fifth year will affect the student's ability to gain admission to postsecondary;

# Fifth Year (3 of 3)

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- Provide information to the homeless student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges; and,
- Permit the homeless student to stay for a fifth year with the agreement from the homeless student, if the student is eighteen years of age or older or, from the educational rights' holder, if the homeless student is younger than eighteen years of age.

# Educational Rights Holder

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- Who might this be:
  - The student
  - Whoever enrolled the youth
  - Caregiver, especially if he/she enrolled the student using a caregiver affidavit
  - Possible caseworker



# QUESTIONS

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# Welcome

Oxnard Union  
High School  
District  
(OUHSD)

**Shannon Houston**

Director of Student Support Services

**Carlos Campos**

Categorical Counselor

Channel Islands High School

# OUHSD

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- Identification
  - Consult with Special Populations Counselor
- Eligibility
  - Review any credits- partial or complete
- Notification
- Student Conference
- Application

# OUHSD Credit Review



**Academic Review (AB-216/365/1806/2121 Placement)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

To earn AB-216 diploma and be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony, students must meet the following requirements:  
Earn 130 credits in specific content area as shown below.

**Credit Summary:** Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Deficient \_\_\_\_\_ Needed \_\_\_\_\_

| Subject Area                | Credits |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |           |  |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|--|
| P.E.                        | 20      |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |           |  |
| English                     | 30      |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |           |  |
| Math                        | 20      |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |           |  |
| Science                     | 20      | Physical Science | Physical Science | Life Science  | Life Science  |               |                |           |  |
| World Lang. / Fine Art/ CTE | 10      |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |           |  |
| Health                      | 0       |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |           |  |
| Social Science              | 30      | Geography        | World Civ. S1    | World Civ. S2 | US History S1 | US History S2 | American Govt. | Economics |  |
| Electives                   | 0       |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |           |  |

**Proficiency Requirements:**

Math Proficiency Requirement  Y  N

**Opportunities for credit deficient students:**

ROP Class(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Community College Class(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Edgenuity or Cyber High: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- Review of current graduation requirements
  - Transcript Evaluation
  - Facilitates a “plan”
- Available for Class of 2024 NEW grad requirements (OUHSD District)
- What does this mean for the student post high school?
- Fifth Year\*

# OUHSD

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- Cover Letter - aka explanation
  - Context
  - Graduation Plan
- Enrollment background
- Application with signatures
- Credit Review/Transcript
- Any other documentation...



# QUESTIONS

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# Strategies (1 of 11)

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- Include homeless education information on the LEA's websites and include:
  - Definition
  - Resources and support
  - Financial aid opportunities

# Strategies (2 of 11)

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- Provide individual college and career counseling for homeless students
  - One size doesn't fit all
- Coordinate with financial aid offices, campus support services, and housing

# Strategies (3 of 11)

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- Work closely with the homeless liaison to identify and support these homeless youth
  - You don't have to do this alone
- Beginning freshman year of high school, ensure that homeless students have both short- and long-term goals

# Strategies (4 of 11)

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- Assist with completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - Verification of eligibility of independent student status is required for unaccompanied homeless youth.
  - The following people can verify a student's status as independent and no further action is required:

# Strategies (5 of 11)

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- The homeless liaison
- A director or designee of an emergency shelter, basic center, or transitional living program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- A staff member with the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) program

# Strategies (6 of 11)

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- According to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), the definition of independent student includes youth who are:
  - Unaccompanied and homeless, or
  - Unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at-risk of homelessness.

# Strategies (7 of 11)

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- The HEA uses the McKinney-Vento Act's definitions of *homeless*, which includes:
  - Youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and,
  - *Unaccompanied*, which includes youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
  - *At-risk of homelessness* to refer to students whose housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate.

# Strategies (8 of 11)

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- Reach out to the Single Points of Contact in colleges and universities
- Research the California Community College's Support Services website at <https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-Services>
- Provide information about college resources such as voucher, grants, etc.

# Strategies (9 of 11)

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- Convene monthly/quarterly meetings with local stakeholders such as foster youth, higher education, etc.
- Be proactive in reaching out to students who may need assistance with fee waivers for tests or applications.

# Strategies (10 of 11)

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- Talk to students about the fears and anxieties they may have related to going to college.
  - Teach them soft skills such as how to reach out to their professors.

# Strategies (11 of 11)

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- Assess students' needs for employment, housing, counseling, etc., and then offer them resources.
- Advise them to apply to colleges that can easily meet their needs.
- Organize visits to local college campuses, including community colleges.



# QUESTIONS

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# Resources (1 of 3)

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- National Center for Homeless Education's (NCHHE) *Access to Higher Education for Students Experiencing Homelessness* website at <https://nche.ed.gov/higher-education/>
  - This page also includes a website with an eligibility tool for financial aid administrators (FAA)

# Resources (2 of 3)

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- California Department of Education's Homeless Education web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/>
- NCHE's general website at <http://nche.ed.gov/>
- SchoolHouse Connection Higher Education website at <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/higher-education/>
- Newly Updated: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/New-FAFSA-Policies-for-Homeless-and-Foster-Youth-.pdf>

# Resources (3 of 3)

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Homeless Education Program  
California Department of Education  
Toll-free Number 1-866-856-8214  
Email: [HomelessED@cde.ca.gov](mailto:HomelessED@cde.ca.gov)

# Certificate of Completion

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## Homeless Education and School Counselor

“I have fully reviewed the contents of this training and agree to implement the provisions of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act.”

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Participant Name

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Participant Signature

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Date of Completion

Please print out this slide of the PowerPoint, complete, and retain a copy for your records.