

Displaced Families/Homeless Youth due to California Fires

General Information:

- Students, who are displaced, and therefore homeless, should be enrolled immediately in the relocated district of residence, without requirement of school records, immunization records, etc.
- Enroll students in classes and similar programs as their previous school placement – this is particularly important for high school students;
- Homeless youth qualify for free and reduced lunch (see attached document from CDE, entitled, “*NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (NSLP) APPLICATION for MEAL REIMBURSEMENT DURING DISASTER*”)
- Schools may become inundated with supplies and materials – It may be necessary for districts to create a plan for how to get these out to families.
- Title I, Part A reservation funds for homeless education can assist these students with additional services, including transportation.

Data Collection:

- Districts should keep track of students who are displaced and it was suggested that systems be developed to track. It is possible that student data systems already have a way to track these enrollments.

Key Take Points:

- Keep education as stable as possible
- Schools are considered safe places for our students
- Students who are homeless should be enrolled immediately without typically required enrollment records

Comments from Past Experiences:

- There will be a huge amount of community support on donated items – it was almost too much to keep organized and then we were charged with what to do with what was not used. Get community organizations taking the lead on this, schools will be too busy.
- There was a large “hidden” population that didn’t want help or to be identified. That made helping kids challenging. Schools really worked on being a “safe place” for families and students.
- If there is a housing shortage in the area, there might not be enough rental homes to absorb the number of homeless families. FEMA trailers were slow and could not be placed on ground with ash on it. It was considered toxic, thus the lot had to be cleared first. Some families were in tents and personal RV’s. You are going into winter so students will need clothes, shoes, etc.