

AB 1806: PUPIL SERVICES-HOMELESS CHILDREN OR YOUTH

This Assembly Bill was signed into law on September 29th, 2014 and goes into effect on January 1, 2015. It extends some of the protections that apply to foster youth, to homeless high school students as well. There are new mandates with regards to partial credit, exemption from Nevada Joint Union High School (NJUHSD) graduation requirements, and expulsion recommendations for homeless youth. Below are some important highlights of this new law.

Partial Credit Issuance

If a homeless student moves during the middle of the semester, the student shall be issued partial credit for coursework completed.

When partial credit is issued for a specific course, the student shall be enrolled in the same/equivalent course, so they may continue and complete the entire course.

Prohibits requiring students to retake a course if it was satisfactorily completed.

However, homeless students cannot be *prevented* from retaking a course in order to meet CSU or UC eligibility requirements.

Prohibits requiring students to retake the portion of the course that they already completed, unless the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. (This determination shall be made in consultation with the student and the person who maintains educational rights, generally the parent/guardian.)

Exemption from Graduation Requirements

Exempts a homeless student ***who transfers schools any time after the completion of the student's 2nd year*** of high school, from coursework/requirements that are *in addition to* statewide requirements (unless the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements by the end of their 4th year of high school).

To determine eligibility for this exemption, for students in their 3rd or 4th year of high school, the district may use *either* the number of credits the student has earned by the date they transferred high schools, *or* the length of time the student has been enrolled in high school.

Within 30 days of the date that the student may qualify for this exemption, the school site shall notify the student and the parent/guardian (if the student is under 18) verbally and in writing, along with the Homeless Liaison for your school.

If a homeless student is exempt from NJUHSD graduation requirements before the end of his/her 4th year in high school, and the student would otherwise be entitled to remain in school, NJUHSD cannot *require or request* that the student graduate before the end of 4th year of high school.

If the student graduates with reduced requirements, NJUHSD shall inform the student of how this will affect admission to postsecondary schools.

The district shall take specified actions if the student is reasonably able to complete NJUHSD's graduation requirements within the student's 5th year of high school. These actions include:

- Notifying the student of their option to remain in school for a 5th year.
- How staying the 5th year will affect postsecondary school admission.
- Informing the student of transfer opportunities through the CA Community Colleges.

Students who are eligible for the exemption *shall not be required* to accept the exemption or be denied enrollment.

If a student previously declined the exemption, the student can request the exemption at a *later time*.

Once accepted, the exemption cannot be revoked.

NJUHSD cannot require a homeless student to transfer high schools in order to qualify for the exemption. Students and/or parent/guardians cannot request to transfer high schools in order to qualify for the exemption.

Expulsion Recommendations

In cases where an expulsion recommendation is at the *discretion of the principal*, the NJUHSD Homeless Liaison shall be notified by the NJUHSD Central Review office at least 10 days prior to the expulsion hearing.

In cases where an expulsion recommendation is *mandatory*, the NJUHSD Homeless Liaison must be notified by the NJUHSD Central Review office at least 10 days prior to the expulsion hearing.

In cases where an expulsion recommendation is at the *discretion of the principal* and the student has an IEP, the Homeless Liaison shall be invited to the IEP where a manifestation determination is made.