

CALPADS Update Flash # 325



Date: June 2, 2026

To: Local Educational Agency (LEA) Representatives

From: California Department of Education (CDE)
California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Team

Business Rule Change to Homeless Program Records

Background and reason for change

Identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness is an important first step to ensure that these students have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, as provided to other children and youth. The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) and California *Education Code (EC)* require that LEAs ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] § 11432[g][6][A][i]; *EC* Section 48851.5).

In keeping with longstanding best practice, Assembly Bill (AB) 2375 (Chapter 912, Statutes of 2022) was enacted, requiring all California Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)—defined as county offices of education (COEs), school districts, and charter schools—to administer a housing questionnaire to families, at least annually (*EC* Section 48851[b]) for purposes of identifying homeless children and youth, and unaccompanied youth. Furthermore, LEAs are required to annually report this data to the CDE through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS).

To support LEAs in their efforts, as required by *EC* Section 48852.5(g), the CDE has posted:

- Best practices for identifying and obtaining accurate data on all homeless children, youths, and unaccompanied youths enrolled in schools of the LEA. The information can be found on the CDE Homeless Education web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/>
- A model housing questionnaire for families to complete each year. The model housing questionnaire can be downloaded at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/housingquestionnaire.pdf>

Additional resources are provided under “*Resources*” at the end of this Flash.

Consistent with programmatic requirements and practice, beginning in the 2025–26 CALPADS End-of-Year (EOY) 1 submission, LEAs will be required to close CALPADS homeless program records for all students at the end of the school year. LEAs should then upload new CALPADS homeless program records based on the annual Housing Questionnaire administered for the 2026–27 school year. This process will help ensure that the homeless program data in CALPADS reflects the most current information obtained from the annual Housing Questionnaire administered by LEAs.

Homeless data used for reporting and federal funding for homeless

The information that families provide on the annual Housing Questionnaire should be populated in LEA student information systems (SIS) and uploaded to CALPADS on the Student Program (SPRG) file at the beginning of each school year. LEAs should update these data throughout the year as circumstances change for families. LEAs certify cumulative homeless data as part of the EOY 1 submission. Aggregate counts of homeless students by dwelling type are reported on DataQuest and through ED*Facts* to meet federal reporting requirements. Additionally, the total count of homeless students is used to determine how much federal funding California receives.

New validations requiring annual closing of homeless program records

Table 1 in this document displays two new Certification Data Discrepancies (CDDs) that are now in effect for the 2025–26 CALPADS EOY 1 submission to ensure that homeless program records are closed annually. In addition, two new validations that trigger on input will be implemented after July 1, 2026 to ensure that any historical updates to Homeless Education Program records have appropriate end dates.

The two CDDs that require the Reporting LEA to close all open homeless records for students enrolled in that LEA during the current academic year are:

- **SPRG0746E1** requires LEAs to close out homeless records that have start dates in the current academic year (2025–26). This validation will trigger when a homeless record has a Membership Start Date on or after 7/1/2025 and the Membership End Date is either missing or not within the same academic year. LEAs are expected to ensure that any homeless program record started in 2025–26 is end-dated no later than June 30, 2026.
- **SPRG0747E1** requires LEAs to end-date prior academic year homeless program records as of June 30, 2025, or earlier. Although these records were not required to be closed during the same academic year in which they began, they must be closed before a new 2025–26 homeless program record is created for the same student at the same LEA.

CALPADS will close all remaining open homeless program records after the close of the 2025–26 EOY 1 submission

On a one-time basis, CALPADS will close out open homeless records with start dates in a prior Academic Year for students who, in 2025–26, were not enrolled at all, or were not enrolled at the LEA that originally submitted the open homeless record. After the close of the 2025–26 EOY 1 submission, the CDE will close these records with an *Education Program Membership End Date* of June 30, 2025. If these students re-enroll at a school in the LEA in future Academic Years and are determined by the LEA to be homeless through the administration of a subsequent annual Housing Questionnaire, the LEA will submit a new homeless program record for these students for the applicable Academic Year.

Table 1: New Homeless Program Record Validations

Error Number	Error Name	Error Description	Comments
SPRG0746E1 <i>Fatal CDD</i>	Invalid Homeless Education Program Membership End Date	Homeless records (Education Program Code 191) started after 7/1/2025 must be closed each Academic Year (July 1– June 30).	Applies to SPRG records with start dates >= 7/1/2025.
SPRG0747E1 <i>Fatal CDD</i>	Invalid Homeless Education Program Membership End Date is Missing	Homeless records (Education Program Code 191) started prior to 7/1/2025 must be closed on or before 06/30/2025.	Applies to SPRG records that start in a prior year AND students are currently enrolled at the SAME LEA in 2025–26.
SPRG0746 <i>Fatal upon input</i>	Invalid Homeless Education Program Membership End Date for historical SPRG update	Historical Homeless records submitted for Academic Years 2025–26 and later must have a membership end date within the same AY as the start date.	Will be implemented in 2026–27, after July 1, 2026.
SPRG0747 <i>Fatal upon input</i>	Invalid Homeless Education Program Membership End Date for historical SPRG update	Historical Homeless records submitted for Academic Years 2024–25 and prior must have a membership end date on or before 6/30/2025.	Will be implemented in 2026–27, after July 1, 2026.

Updates to Homeless Dwelling Type Code definitions to better align with homeless questionnaire

The names and definitions of the four CALPADS Homeless Dwelling Type codes are also being updated to better align with the housing options provided on the Housing Questionnaire. There are no changes to the codes themselves, and the updates to the code names and definitions do not constitute new dwelling types. The changes are detailed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Updates to Homeless Dwelling Type Code Names and Definitions

Code (No change)	Current Name	Current Definition	Updated Name	Updated Definition
100	Temporary Shelters	A temporary residence provided for homeless individuals who would otherwise sleep on the street or a temporary residence provided to individuals in emergency situations. This should not be used for children who are in temporary residences awaiting permanent placement in foster care.	Shelters	A residence, such as a shelter, provided for homeless individuals who would otherwise sleep on the street or a temporary residence provided to individuals in emergency situations. This should not be used for children who are in temporary residences awaiting permanent placement in foster care.
110	Hotels/motels	A temporary residence for homeless individuals usually requiring payment or vouchers for lodging and services on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.	No change	A temporary residence such as a hotel or motel, that usually requires payment or vouchers for lodging and services on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis, due to loss of housing, economic hardship, natural disaster, or similar reason.

Code (No change)	Current Name	Current Definition	Updated Name	Updated Definition
120	Temporarily Doubled-up	A temporary residence where a homeless family is sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or other similar reasons.	Doubled-up	A residence where a homeless individual or family is sharing the housing of other(s) due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, natural disaster, lack of adequate housing or other similar reasons.
130	Temporarily Unsheltered	A type of residence for homeless individuals that is not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, campgrounds, trailer parks, bus and train stations, or persons abandoned in the hospital (on the street). A rule of thumb would be to see the dwelling as comparable to an automobile in that it shelters but is not adequate housing.	Unsheltered	A type of residence that is not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, campgrounds, trailers, bus and train stations, or other inadequate accommodations (i.e. lack of water, electricity, or heat).

Reminder for District and County Homeless Liaisons to Review 2025–26 EOY 1 Homeless Counts

It is critical that both school districts and COEs ensure that their homeless liaisons have access to the detailed, student-level report, Report 5.5 - *Homeless Students Enrolled - Student List*, in CALPADS. Access to these reports will enable homeless liaisons to review the reports to ensure that the homeless students they are serving are identified correctly in the local student information system and in CALPADS.

For *both* the county and district homeless liaison to view Report 5.5 - *Homeless Students Enrolled - Student List*, each must be assigned the EOY Report role. For *county* homeless liaisons to view Report 5.5, the *LEA CALPADS Administrator* must add the *county homeless liaison* to their organization and assign the EOY Report role. This will allow the county homeless liaison to view Report 5.5. If you do not know who your district or county homeless liaison is, a list of homeless liaisons can be accessed from the CDE Homeless Education web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/>.

Additionally, all COE homeless liaisons are reminded that they may view C/A Report 5.4 - *Homeless Students Enrolled throughout the entire submission window*, even before the LEA has certified any data. This enables the COE to monitor homeless counts for each LEA within the county throughout the submission window.

Resources

General Homeless Education Information – CDE Homeless Education web page:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/>

Homeless Program Data – CDE Homeless Youth in California Schools web page:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sg/homelessyouth.asp>

For Homeless Innovative Programs best practices and toolkits – CDE Homeless Innovative Program Toolkits web page: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/hiptoolkits.asp>

Model housing questionnaire:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/housingquestionnaire.pdf>

National Center for Homeless Education. (2021). *Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services*: https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/det_elig.pdf

National Center for Homeless Education – Unaccompanied Youth Eligibility Flowchart:

<https://nche.ed.gov/tag/flowchart/>