



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 12, 2016

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

NO COST ASSESSMENTS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Senate Bill (SB) 252 (Leno) was signed by Governor Brown on September 30, 2015. This law prohibits the California Department of Education (CDE) from charging fees to administer the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) and the High School Equivalency (HSE) Tests to a homeless child or youth who is under 25 years of age and can verify his or her status as a homeless child or youth. The law authorizes a homeless services provider that has knowledge of the examinee's housing status to verify the examinee's status and authorizes the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) to adopt emergency regulations for purposes of these provisions.

Though the law goes into effect on January 1, 2016, the fee waivers for homeless youth will not be immediately available. The CDE is in the process of drafting and submitting emergency regulations to the State Board of Education for public comment. This rulemaking process is required to be able to implement and manage the program and to meet reporting requirements mandated in the law. Once this rulemaking process is complete, the CDE will negotiate contracts with the three HSE Test vendors and the CHSPE test vendor. The rulemaking process and contract negotiations usually take nine to twelve months to complete.

Information on the progress of these processes will be posted to the CDE HSE Test and CHSPE Web sites at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tq/gd/> and <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tq/sp/> respectively. If you have any questions regarding this information as it relates to the HSE Tests, please contact the High School and Physical Fitness Assessments Office by phone at 916-445-9438 or by e-mail at HSEOffice@cde.ca.gov. If you have any questions regarding this information as it relates to the CHSPE, please contact the High School and Physical Fitness Assessments Office by phone at 916-445-9449 or by e-mail at CHSPE@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Keric Ashley, Deputy Superintendent
District, School, and Innovation Branch

KA:jb

cc: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaisons
California High School Proficiency Test Centers
California High School Equivalency Test Centers

