



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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GOVERNOR

March 23, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *SV*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Regulatory Compliance of Education for Homeless Children and Youth
Programs - School District Self-Assessment Tool

In our current economic climate, many students and their families are facing financial situations which may lead them to become eligible for homeless assistance services, as are required of all public school districts, under Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Improvements Act (Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act [NCLB] of 2002). As you are preparing for the 2008-2009 school year, you will need to ensure that your district Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is responsive to these needs.

The statutes for district EHCY programs are designed to ensure that all homeless children and youth have access to public school education, and that state and local education agencies remove any barriers to their enrollment, attendance, participation, and academic success. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is responsible for the administration and supervision of all EHCY programs, whether or not such programs are funded by McKinney-Vento subgrants.

To assist in planning for effective EHCY programs, the MDE Homeless Education Program has provided a district self-assessment tool to aid local education agencies (LEAs), intermediate school districts (ISDs), and Public School Academies (PSAs) in understanding requirements and determining compliance status with the McKinney-Vento law. The attached tool lists specific responsibilities of non-grantee districts, referenced to the law, in addition to suggestions for compliance documentation. (Grant-funded districts have additional compliance and reporting requirements.) Space is provided for districts to include details and comments on each element of the EHCY program requirements. District Homeless Liaisons should be most familiar with these regulations and able to provide the necessary supporting documentation.

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Public school districts are required to complete this self-assessment, attach any pertinent documentation, and submit this information to the MDE Homeless Education Program office no later than April 30, 2009. Collection of this information is a requirement of the NCLB Act, Title X, Part C.

Experienced EHCY staff has been contracted by the MDE to provide technical assistance and monitoring for each of the five field service regions in the state. The regional staff will review the district self-assessments to determine technical assistance needs within each region and assess whether districts are in compliance with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act. Districts with high risk or high need will participate in monitoring site visits and technical assistance with regional staff. Off-site technical assistance will be offered to other non-funded districts.

The MDE will be receiving additional funding for homeless education programs and services through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), to be distributed in the upcoming McKinney-Vento competitive grant cycle. The three-year grant cycle has been revised to a two-year grant cycle to align with this funding opportunity. The new grant criteria will be announced in March 2009 and will encourage districts to apply as consortia, so that a greater number of LEAs, PSAs, and ISDs may receive funding to serve the anticipated increase of homeless students throughout Michigan.

The 2009 – 2011 EHCY Grants will take on two forms:

1. Projects among LEAs/PSAs/ISDs, prioritized to serve underserved or unserved areas of the state, consortia projects, and those focusing on academic achievement of homeless students.
2. Regional projects to address and promote
 - o Parent/family involvement and engagement in education among homeless families
 - o Technical assistance for LEAs/PSAs/ISDs in facilitating the enrollment, attendance, participation, and academic success of homeless children and youth (needs determined by results of the McKinney-Vento School District Self-Assessment)
 - o Engagement of unaccompanied youth in education, education programs, and/or ed-related work programs.

If you have any questions about the EHCY program requirements or the self-assessment tool, please contact Pam Kies-Lowe, Homeless Education Consultant, in the Office of School Improvement at 517-241-1162.

Attachment

c: District Homeless Liaisons