



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 5, 2018

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors  
Local Education Agency Principals

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent   
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports (DESSS)

**SUBJECT:** UPDATE: Regulatory Compliance of McKinney-Vento (MV) Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Programs – MV Liaison Professional Learning Training Modules

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has received many questions regarding the completion of the MV Liaison Professional Learning courses. This memo will serve to provide clarification on the available courses and requirements.

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 (MV) Homeless Assistance Act ([Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015](#)) and the [USED MV Guidance of March 2017](#).

The statutes for district MV-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 MDE is responsible for the administration and supervision of all EHCY programs, whether or not such programs are funded by McKinney-Vento subgrants or participate in regional McKinney-Vento Grant Consortia.

As noted in the February 28<sup>th</sup> module, the MDE MV Homeless Education program has developed a [Beginning Level Online M-V Liaison Course](#). The course is provided to ensure that MV Liaisons can accurately identify children and youth who are

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experiencing homelessness in a range of contexts regardless of the complexity of the situation. Additionally, the course ensures that MV Liaisons are aware of and have the capacity to respond to the unique needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

There are three course levels – Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced. Only the first level (Beginning) is **required** and has an 80% mastery level to ensure a minimum level of understanding in accordance with the law. *[Reduced from the previous 100% requirement in March 2018.]* The additional two levels of courses are available to districts who are striving to increase their effectiveness. The Beginning course includes 11 modules aligned to the national MV program standards with short 8-12 question performance assessments. Module topics align with national program standards.

To align with ESSA legislation, changes were implemented in 2017-18 to the Beginning course. These changes included a “short cut” option such that MV liaisons would not be required to repeat the information included in the original Beginning course.

To note, an added benefit for local education agencies (LEAs) is that MV Liaisons who complete the Beginning course activities as recommended will have compiled all the documents and evidence in support of the MV Self-Assessment Compliance Monitoring Indicators.

The following chart assists in clarifying the timeline of the MV Liaison courses and the separate Self-Assessment Monitoring Indicators.

Beginning Date	Fall 2015 – Initial Pilot of Beginning Course
Completion Period	Ongoing - Opened Fall 2016 to all Liaisons
Special Note	36 SCHECHs made available for completion of ESSA Updated Beginning Level Modules for 2017-18
Separately – The Self-Assessment Monitoring Indicators	The Self-Assessment Monitoring Indicators for the current cycle 2017-2020 were released in 2017-18 and the expected due date was the end of the first year of the cycle (6/29/2018) as stated in the February 8th Memo. <b>However, this due date is extended to December 2018.</b>

To demonstrate mastery of the required MV Liaison Beginning Course, LEAs may utilize one of the following options:

Option 1: Complete Beginning course modules and performance assessment with 80% mastery within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the district. SCECHs will be earned during the school year in which training is completed. [*This reduces the current mastery rate of 100% for new participants to 80% which is the mastery level expected for the updates.*]

Option 2: Based on background and experience, a MV liaison may choose to use the "short cut" option to jump to the performance assessment to demonstrate mastery within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the district. [*The system was changed to allow this in March 2018.*]

Option 3: Consult with a fellow MV Grant Coordinator or MV Liaison who has successfully completed the training course and agreed to be a resource for other districts. After discussing the program requirements, choose option 1 and complete the module or choose option 2 to use the "short cut" to jump to the performance assessment to demonstrate mastery within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the district.

The Contact List of MV Grant Coordinators and MV Liaisons may be accessed here: [Regional MV Grant Coordinators](#).

If you have any questions about the MV-EHCY program, please contact Pam Kies-Lowe, Homeless Education Consultant, at 517-373-6066, or your local MV Grant Coordinator.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance