

McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act Local Educational Agency Requirements

Designate an appropriate staff person as a local education agency liaison for homeless children and youth. The liaison may also be a coordinator for other state or federal programs.

Continue the homeless child in his/her school of origin for the duration of homelessness or enroll the student in a public school in the attendance area in which the student is living while homeless according to the best interest of the student.

In determining “best interest” consider the following:

- Keep the student in the school of origin unless parent or guardian wishes otherwise
- Provide the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation if the student is assigned to a school other than the one requested; include information on the right to appeal the decision
- In the case of unaccompanied youth, the LEA liaison must assist in placement and enrollment decisions

Immediately enroll the homeless student even if standard documents are missing (i.e., academic records, medical records, proof of residency).

Contact the school last attended by the homeless student to obtain academic and other records.

LEA liaison must assist in obtaining necessary immunization or medical records if needed.

Keep records of homeless children readily available so the information can be transferred to a new school when needed.

Resolve enrollment disputes including the following procedures:

- Immediately enroll the student in the preferred school until the dispute is settled
- Provide a written explanation of LEA decision to parent or guardian; include rights to appeal the decision
- Designate LEA liaison to carry out dispute resolution expeditiously
- Liaison must ensure that homeless, unaccompanied youth be immediately enrolled

Provide to homeless students services that are comparable to those offered to non-homeless students in the selected school, including:

Transportation

Title I services and other educational services for which the student is eligible

Vocational and technical education

Gifted and talented program

School nutrition program

McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act LEA Liaison Duties

The designated liaison shall ensure that:

- ☛ Homeless children and youth are identified
- ☛ Homeless children and youth are enrolled in and have an opportunity to succeed in school
- ☛ Homeless families and students receive educational services for which they are eligible
- ☛ Parents or guardians of homeless students are provided meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children
- ☛ Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is disseminated
- ☛ Enrollment disputes are mediated
- ☛ Parent or guardian of a homeless student is fully informed of transportation services
- ☛ Liaisons collaborate with state coordinators and community and school personnel that provide educational and other services to homeless children and youth

LEAs must share information about the duties of the LEA liaison with school personnel, service providers and advocates.