

HOMELESS & MIGRANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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McKINNEY-VENTO PROGRAM

Donna Cash

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

The McKinney-Vento Act ensures children and youth who are experiencing homelessness have access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth.

LEAs must remove barriers to enrollment, attendance, and must ensure school success for homeless children and youth.



DEFINITION

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act,
homelessness is described as...

“Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”

A student’s nighttime living arrangement must meet
all three criteria.



DEFINING HOMELESSNESS

The most common types of homelessness:

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Awaiting foster care placement

Each determination for homeless eligibility should be done on a case-by-case basis. While making a determination of eligibility a LEA cannot delay immediate enrollment and the prompt provision of services for MV eligible students.



WHAT DO FIXED, REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE MEAN?

Fixed

A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and is not subject to change.

Regular

A regular residence is one which is used on a predictable or routine basis.

Adequate

An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

AN UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH IS...

An unaccompanied youth is someone who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and who meets the criteria for homelessness.

Remember!

A youth can be eligible regardless of whether he/she was asked to leave the home or chose to leave; remember that sometimes there is “more than meets the eye” for youth’s home life situations. This includes runaways.



EXAMPLES OF *POSSIBLE* UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH SCENARIOS

- Youth asked to leave home by their parent(s).
- Youth forced to leave home by parent(s) runaways.
- Youth who choose to leave home to live with a friend.
- Immigrant youth whose parents have been deported or parents send children to live in the U.S.
- Youth whose parent(s) are in jail, in the hospital, etc. and are living doubled-up with friends or relatives

DO UY NEED GUARDIANSHIP PAPERS OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION?

No, school districts must enroll youth in school even if they do not have guardianship documents or POA papers/documents.

The decision to seek legal guardianship or power of attorney does not impact whether or not a school should enroll a youth.

WHAT IF AN UY HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FOR MISBEHAVIOR FROM HIS/HER FORMER SCHOOL?

MUST THE SCHOOL ENROLL THIS STUDENT?

The McKinney-Vento Act does not overrule state or local discipline policies. If a youth is suspended for behavior unrelated to his or her homelessness, regular enrollment procedures apply.

If discipline action was taken against a youth for reasons related to homelessness (for example, excessive absences caused by homelessness), the youth should not be penalized or denied enrollment and the policy should be revised.

QUESTIONS YOU MAY NEED TO ASK

- Does the student have any legal rights to be in that home? In other words, can he/she be asked to leave at any time with no legal recourse?
- Is the living situation intended to be temporary or long-term?
- Did the student move into the home as an urgent measure to avoid being on the street or in another precarious situation?

UPDATE YOUR STUDENT RESIDENCY FORM.

AN EXAMPLE...

1. Where does the student stay at night?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> in a shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> in another location that is not appropriate for people (e.g., an abandoned building) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in a motel/hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> temporarily with more than one family in a house, mobile home, or apartment (because the family does not have a place of its own) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in a car | <input type="checkbox"/> other (in an arrangement that is not fixed, regular, and adequate and is not described by the other choices) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> at a campsite | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these apply |

2. With whom does the student live?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 parent | <input type="checkbox"/> a relative , friend(s), or other adult(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 parents | <input type="checkbox"/> an adult that is not the parent or the legal guardian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 parent and another adult | <input type="checkbox"/> alone with no adults |

IDENTIFICATION

Step 1 – Student Identification

Ensure that school personnel know how to identify and refer students to the Homeless Education Liaison by using a referral flag on the Student Enrollment Form

Step 2 – Gather Information

Input data in the Student Management System;
Determine special needs (if any)

Step 3 – Disseminate Information

Notify school personnel if special needs have been identified;
Conduct workshops, PD with School District personnel;
Display posters-in school buildings and throughout community.



SCHOOL SELECTION

School of origin or school of residence

- The school of origin is the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
- The school of residence is the current physical dwelling where the homeless child or youth is sleeping.

SCHOOL SELECTION continued...

- Students can continue attending their school of origin the entire time they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing.
- If a student is sent to a school other than the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, the LEA must provide the parent or guardian with a written explanation of its decision and the right to appeal.



EVERY LEA MUST...

- Designate an appropriate staff person as a local homeless education liaison
- The homeless liaison **must** work to ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free public education as is provided to other children and youth.



DUTIES OF THE LOCAL LIAISON

Must collaborate and coordinate with—

- The State Coordinators for Homeless Education
 - Community personnel
 - Other school personnel
- Ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified.
- Ensure that homeless students enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school.
- Use enrollment and withdrawal forms to inquire about living situations.
- Resolve disputes

DUTIES OF THE LOCAL LIAISON

continued...

- Inform parents, guardians, or youth of education and parent involvement opportunities.
- Link students with educational services, including preschool and health services.
- Inform parents, guardians, or youth of transportation services, including the school of origin.
- Post public notice of educational rights.
- Make special efforts to identify preschool children, including asking about the siblings of school-age children.

DUTIES OF THE LOCAL LIAISON

continued...

- Provide awareness activities for school staff.
- Provide outreach materials and posters where there is a frequent influx of low-income families and youth in high-risk situations.
- Educate school staff about “warning signs” that may indicate an enrolled child or youth may be experiencing homelessness.
- Develop relationships with truancy officials and/or other attendance officers.

TRANSPORTATION

- If the student is living outside the school of origin, the LEA where the student is living and the school of origin must determine how to divide the cost of providing transportation.



- Transportation must also be provided for homeless students when comparable services are provided to other students.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- Every school district in Missouri must establish dispute resolution procedures.
- When a dispute over enrollment arises, the student must be admitted immediately to the school of choice while the dispute is being resolved.
- Liaisons must ensure unaccompanied youth are enrolled immediately while the dispute is being resolved.



DISPUTE RESOLUTION continued...

- If a dispute arises, refer the child, youth, parent, or guardian to the liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible.
- Because Missouri's Dispute Resolution Process is governed by a strict timeline, it is imperative that the local liaison act on disputes in a timely manner.
- Documentation should be kept for all local liaison interventions with parents—not just formal disputes (NCLB).



TITLE I AND MCKINNEY-VENTO

- A child or youth who is homeless and is attending any school in the district is automatically eligible for Title IA services.
- LEAs must reserve (or set aside) funds.
- Title I funds **may not** be used to transport homeless children and youth.

USE OF TITLE I FUNDS

- Before/after school, and/or summer programs
- Outreach services
- Basic needs
- Counseling services
- Supplemental instruction
- Local liaison
- Parental involvement programs
- Research-based programs
- Data collection



TITLE I AND HOMELESS SET ASIDE

Method #1—

Reserve the set aside amount on what you would be eligible for if you were applying for a McKinney-Vento subgrant.

Method #2—

Reserve the set aside amount based on a percentage.

Method #3—

Reserve the set aside amount based on your homeless student count and Title I, Part A per-pupil allocation.



Method #4—

Reserve the set aside amount based on homeless student's needs.

ANOTHER METHOD ...

Statistically, 10% of children living in poverty will experience homelessness within any given year.*

Using your free/reduced lunch count, you could estimate the number of students in your district who may experience homelessness this school year.

For example:

Your free/reduced lunch count =100 students

10% of whom could become homeless =10 students

Your Title IA per pupil allocation is \$869

Using this method, your Title IA Homeless set-aside would be: \$8,690.00

*Burt, Martha and Laudan Aron. *American's Homeless II: Populations and Services*, The Urban Institute, 2000.



MIGRANT & ELL

Shawn Cockrum

MONITORING – MIGRANT REQUIREMENTS

English Language Learners (ELL)

The LEA has a board-adopted policy concerning the education of ELL students...

The LEA has adopted and uses a procedure to survey the enrolled student body and identify students whose first language, home language, or both, is other than English...



CORRECTLY IDENTIFYING ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

MSIP Requirements

- Written procedures
- Ask the questions
- Reporting to MELL
- Re-Certification
- Eligibility Validation



MONITORING

Migrant Education (*NCLB, 1304*)

The LEA provides documentation of a procedure to identify and recruit ...

The migrant education procedure addresses...



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QUESTIONS?