#### Supporting Students in Temporary Housing:



Roles and
Responsibilities of
McKinney-Vento
Liaisons



Presented By: NYS TEACHS

Thursday September 11, 2025

9:30am-11:00am



#### **Webinar Format**



Today's session will be recorded.



• Your microphone will be automatically muted.



Your camera will be automatically disabled.



 The in-webinar chat will allow you to communicate with the panelists and the host.







#### Housekeeping



- We will launch poll questions periodically throughout the session and ask you to respond to questions in the chat.
- We won't be able to answer questions about specific situations in the chat, but we welcome you to call the Help Line to discuss these issues at 800-388-2014.
- The Help Line is open 24 hours a day. Specialists are available from 9:00am – 5:00pm. If you leave a message, you will receive a call by the next business day.
- Following today's webinar, today's recorded session, attachments and Q&As will be posted/accessible.





#### Who Is In The Room?

#### Are you a...

- New McKinney-Vento Liaison (1st Year)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (2-4 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (5 9 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (10 + years)
- Other School/District Staff
- BOCES liaison
- BOCES staff



#### Which region are you from?

\* Western

- \* Capital
- \* Finger Lakes
- \* Hudson Valley

\* Central

- \* New York City
- \* Southern Tier
- \* Long Island
- \* Mohawk Valley \* North Country





#### Session Outcomes



By the end of today's webinar, participants will be able to:

- Provide information about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of a McKinney-Vento liaison.
- Fulfill the responsibilities of a McKinney-Vento liaison as the primary point of contact for families.
- Utilize resources to support families, children and youth experiencing temporary housing.







Welcome! Who is in the Room?



McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act



Responsibilities of a McKinney-Vento Liaison



Checks for Understanding



Summary, Resources and Survey



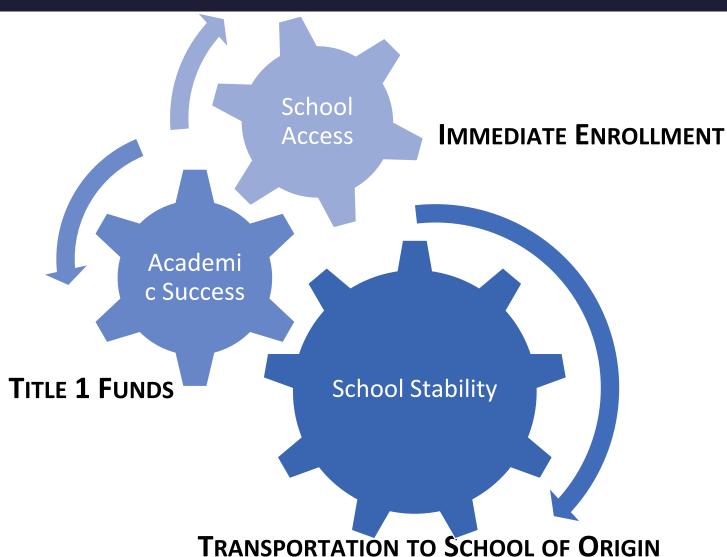
Today's

Agenda



#### McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Federal law established in 1987
- Reauthorized in 2015 as part of ESSA







#### McKinney-Vento Liaison

The McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to designate an appropriate staff person, who also may be a coordinator for other federal programs, as a local homeless education liaison.

The local liaison assists families and district staff with the identification and enrollment of students experiencing temporary housing.

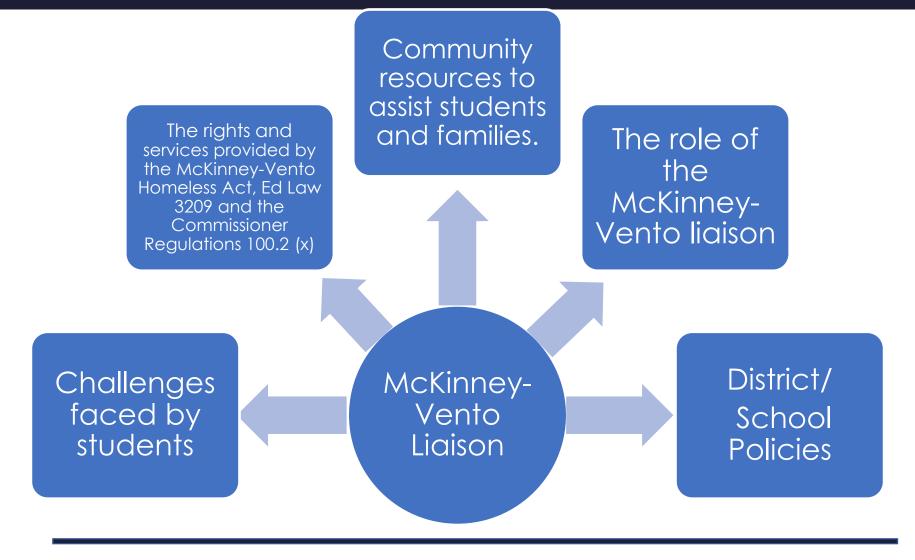








#### McKinney-Vento Liaison has Knowledge of...





#### McKinney-Vento Liaison Skills

Skill in explaining Ability to provide the provisions of professional the McKinneylearning and Vento Act to technical assistance to administrators and staff specific situations Non-judgmental Clear oral and and diplomatic written when working communications with families McKinney-Vento Liaison





#### Congratulations!

As you think about your role as the McKinney-Vento Liaison, what thoughts come to mind?

Please respond in the chat



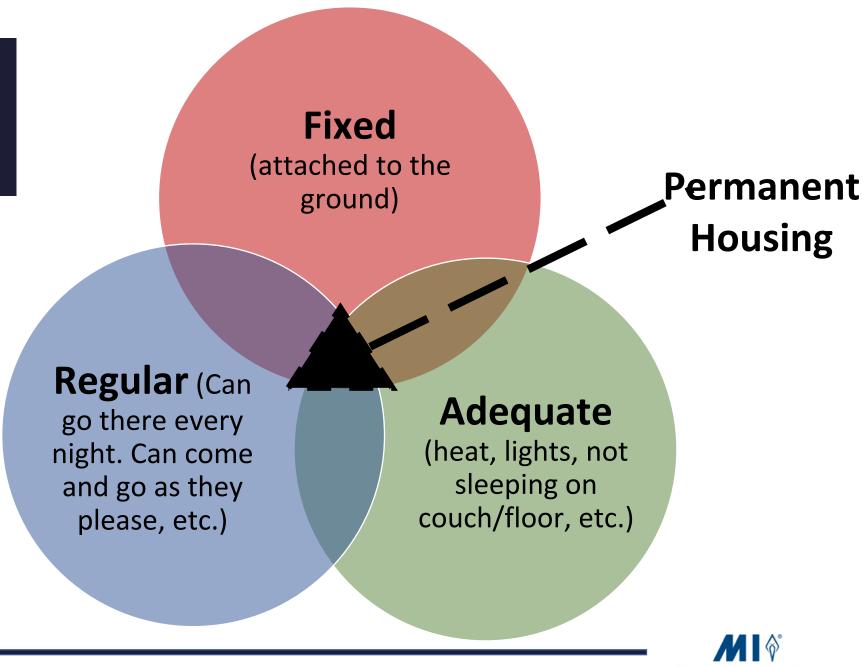






## McKinney-Vento's Definition of Homelessness

The term "homeless child or youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate primary nighttime residence.





# Possible Causes of Homelessness

Lack of Affordable Housing Family Insufficient Rejection/ Income Conflict Mental/ Domestic Physical Violence illness Natural Disasters





#### McKinney-Vento Liaison Responsibilities

- 1. Identification
- 2. Enrollment
- 3. Referrals for Early Childhood
- 4. Referrals for Health, Housing, and Other Needed Services
- 5. Parent Involvement

- 6. Posting Public Notices
- 7. Dispute Resolution
- 8. Transportation
- 9. Training for Colleagues
- 10. Meeting Needs of Unaccompanied Youth

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A); US Department of Education Non Regulatory Guidance, Section F, Questions L-3& Q2; 8NYCRR § 100.2 (x)(7)(iii)(a)





#### Responsibility #1

#### Identification









Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the local liaison is charged with ensuring that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies.

42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(6)(A)(i)

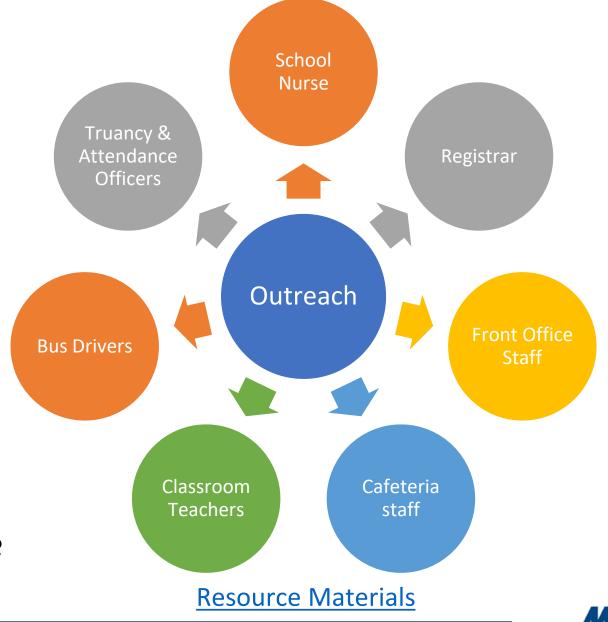




# Identification Through Outreach



What outreach efforts have you tried to identify students living in temporary housing?







#### Housing Questionnaire

- Screening tool is required for all students
- Required at time of enrollment and change of address

**Housing Questionnaire** 

of registration materials that the district shares with families. Do not simply include this form in the registration packet, because if the student qualifies as residing in temporary housing, the student is not required to submit proof of residency and other required documents that may be part of the registration packet. HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE Name of LEA: Name of School: Name of Student: Middle Last Gender: Female Date of Birth: Non-binary (preschool-12) (optional) Address: The answer you give below will help the district determine what services you or your child may be able to receive under the McKinney-Vento Act. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act are entitled to immediate enrollment in school even if they don't have the documents normally needed, such as proof of residency, school records, immunization records, or birth certificate. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act may also be entitled to free transportation and other services. Where is the student currently living? (Please check one box.) In a shelter With another family or other person because of loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up") □In a hotel/motel ☐In a car, park, bus, train, or campsite Other temporary living situation (Please describe): ☐In permanent housing

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or

NOTE TO SCHOOLS/LEAS: Please assist students and families filling out this form. The form should be included at the top page





Print name of Parent, Guardian, or

#### STAC-202: Designation Form

#### Two purposes:

- Official Designation form (complete for every M-V student enrolled in your district and send a copy to districts listed)
- 2. Eligibility form for homeless tuition reimbursement

If DSS places a child or youth in a temporary housing facility or RHY facility, DSS must complete the designation form within two days and submit it to the designated school district.

Education Law §3209(2)(e); 8 NYCRR

STAC Form



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### Responsibility #2

#### **Enrollment**









#### **Immediate Enrollment**

- Selected school must immediately enroll, even if the child/youth:
  - Does not have records normally needed for enrollment.
  - Has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
- Enrolling school should contact last school attended for records.
- Liaison must assist child/youth in obtaining any necessary immunizations or other required health records.

Education Law §3209(2)(f); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(4)(ii); see also 42 USC §11432(g)(3)(C); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions I-5 & I-6.







#### Remove Barriers to Immediate Enrollment

Missing records, immunizations, proof of residency, guardianship papers, or a birth certificate

Fees, fines, and all absences

Missed application or enrollment deadlines

All types of programs and activities

Credit accrual for full or partially completed coursework at prior school

1: 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][3][C][i]; U.S. Department of Education's Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question I-5. 2: 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][1][I], Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions A-4, I-5, I-6 3: 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][1][F][iii], Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question I-6 15 4: 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][1][F][iii], Non-Regulatory Guidance, Section o





#### Responsibility #3

## Referrals to Early Childhood







### Early Childhood Educational Programs



Ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to and receive educational services they are eligible for including early learning programs:

- Head Start programs
- Early intervention services
- Preschool programs administered by LEA
- Home-based early childhood educational services administered by LEA





#### **Preschool Programs**

- Preschool is now included in the definition of school of origin.
   Children experiencing homelessness have the right to maintain enrollment in their school of origin and receive transportation to school.
- In New York State, preschool means a publicly-funded education program provided to preschool children that is either administered by NYSED or an LEA, including a pre-kindergarten program administered by an LEA, Head Start program administered by an LEA, and/or preschool services under the IDEA.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(I); Non-Regulatory Guidance Section O, Questions I-1, N-4, N-5; N.Y. Ed Law §3209(1)(g); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1)(iv); NYS Field Memo #2-2017, item 5





## Responsibility #4

Referrals for Health, Housing, and Other Needed Services







#### Referrals

Ensure that homeless families, children, and youth receive referrals to housing and health care services.

- Dental services
- Mental health
- Substance abuse services
- Housing services







#### Referrals for Services



General Referral Template



Housing Referral Template



Health Referral Template



Youth Referral Template

Referral Templates for McKinney-Vento Liaisons





#### **Providing Title I Services**

### Students Experiencing Homelessness are Eligible for Title I Services

Allowable Expenditures Include (not limited to):

- Academic programs and educational support services
- Basic/emergency supplies
- Extended library hours/after school programs
- Counseling services
- Excess transportation costs
- The work of the liaison



#### TITLE I, Part A: Homeless Set-aside

#### Guidance on Allowable and Unallowable Expenditures

Title I, Part A funds may be used to provide a wide variety of services to homeless students. In addition to providing services to assist homeless students in meeting the State's challenging academic standards, Title I, Part A funds may be used to provide services to homeless children and youths, including those in Title I schools, that may not ordinarily be provided to other Title I students. To help homeless students effectively take advantage of educational opportunities, an LEA may use Title I, Part A funds to provide, where appropriate, items or services including, but not limited to the examples in the chart below.

#### Note: Two principles govern the use of Title I, Part A funds to provide services to homeless students.

- First, the services must be reasonable and necessary to assist homeless students to take advantage of educational opportunities.
- Second, Title I, Part A funds must be used only as a last resort when funds or services are not available from
  other public or private sources, such as public health clinics, or local discretionary funds (sometimes provided
  by the PTA) used to provide similar services for economically disadvantaged students.

Allowable Expenditures	Unallowable Expenditures		
Items of clothing and shoes necessary for participation in classes     Student fees that are necessary to participate in the general education program	Rent or temporary lodgings     Class ring     Cost of drivers' test fees		
<ul> <li>Personal school supplies such as backpacks, notebooks, and remote learning devices such as internet and/or laptop/tablet</li> </ul>	Prom gowns or tuxedos		
The acquisition of birth certificates     Immunizations			
Food			





#### Responsibility #5

#### Parent Involvement







#### Parent Involvement

- Ensure that parents of children and youth experiencing homelessness are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children.
- Provide parents with meaningful opportunities to participate in their children's education.
- Keep interactions positive, respectful and supportive using sensitive language when discussing the family's living situation.
- Make families feel safe by meeting privately in a quiet space.





#### Parent Involvement

How do you involve parents in the educational life of

their children?







## Responsibility #6

## Posting Public Notice







#### Outreach Materials

Post **outreach materials** in all schools and other community spaces such as:

- Motels, campgrounds, libraries, health centers, youth services centers, laundromats, soup kitchens and parks. Brochures are printed in English and Spanish.
- Order posters and brochures or view online PDFs <u>here</u>, free of charge.
- Posters are available in 10 languages: English, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Urdu.

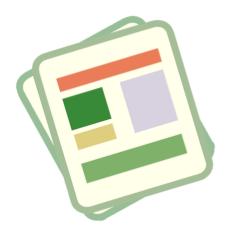






## Responsibility #7

## Dispute Resolution













The McKinney-Vento dispute resolution process is required to resolve any dispute that arises over eligibility, school selection, enrollment in a school, or transportation under the McKinney-Vento Act before a district interrupts services for the student.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(C) & 11432(g)(3)(E); U.S. DOE Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions K-1, K-2; N.Y. Education Law § 3209(5); 8 N.Y.C.R.R. § 100.2(x)(7)(ii)



## Dispute Resolution Process

Immediately enroll
the student in the
school requested by
the family or youth
and provide
transportation, if
requested

Provide the parent or youth a written notice of district's determination

Continue enrollment and transportation until all appeals are final

Assist the parent or youth to complete all of the appeal paperwork.





### Dispute Resolution Process

- Parents or unaccompanied youth can file a 310 Appeal with the New York State Commissioner if there is a disagreement with a district's decision about eligibility, enrollment, school selection, or transportation under the McKinney-Vento Act. <u>Dispute 310 Appeal Paperwork</u>
  - The child or youth must be immediately enrolled in their desired school and can maintain enrollment, transportation, and other services provided to students in the desired school district pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals.
  - The Commissioner issues a decision on the appeal.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(C) & 11432(g)(3)(E); U.S. DOE Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions K-1, K-2; N.Y. Education Law § 3209(5); 8 N.Y.C.R.R. § 100.2(x)(7)(ii)





### Liaison's Role in the Dispute Process

- ☐ Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act.
- ☐ Explain the appeal process to the parent/guardian/youth.
- ☐ Provide the appeal form ("Petition").
- ☐ Help the parent/guardian/youth fill out the appeal form ("Petition"), this includes explaining the definition of homeless to the parent/guardian/youth and giving examples of types of proof that a parent/guardian/youth could submit.
- ☐ Practice Tip: Give the parent/guardian or youth a copy of the Appeal Sample Evidence handout from NYS-TEACHS.

42 USC §11432(g)(3)(E)(i); Education Law §3209(5); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(7)(ii); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question J-4 & Section K





### Liaison's Role in the Dispute Process (continued)

- ☐ Make copies of the appeal forms and any supporting documents at no cost to the parent/guardian/youth.
- ☐ Accept service of the appeal form ("Affidavit of Service").
- ☐ Make sure the appeal is properly filed with NYSED within 5 days
- ☐ Give copies to the parent/guardian/youth with verification that s/he has properly filed and served the appeal ("Verification of Receipt").



42 USC §11432(g)(3)(E)(i); Education Law §3209(5); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(7)(ii); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question J-4 & Section K



# Responsibility #8

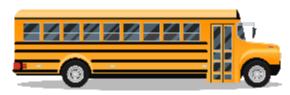
### **Transportation**







# Modes of Transportation











Reimbursement for gas/mileage



 Bus route shared with neighboring school district or BOCES

 Other types of transportation approved by district's transportation department





## Transportation for Students in Temporary Housing



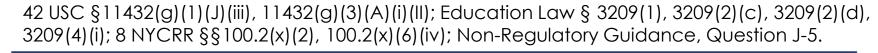
Students experiencing homelessness, including preschoolers, are entitled to transportation to school of origin.



Students who move into permanent housing are entitled to transportation throughout the remainder of the school year and an additional year if it is the child's terminal grade in the school.



Students who enroll locally are entitled to comparable transportation as their permanently housed peers receive, and elimination of barriers to enroll in and attend school.







### Transportation Guide

TEACHS Guide to transportation summarizes transportation obligations, funding sources, and legal authority for situations involving students in temporary housing



#### TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING IN NEW YORK STATE

Housing Situation	Transportation	Responsibility	Funding Sources	Legal Authority
Temporarily Housed <u>Within</u> the School District	Student is entitled to transportation to their school of origin¹, including public preschool (e.g., pre-k), even if the student is temporarily housed in a different school zone. If the student transfers to a local school zoned for where they are temporarily residing, they are entitled to transportation comparable to permanently housed students, unless the lack of transportation poses a barrier to the student's attendance in school.	The school district where the student is enrolled is responsible for transportation.	State transportation aid <sup>2</sup> (claimed by district where student is enrolled) AND If the student attends the school of origin, Title I, Part A set-aside funds for expenses not reimbursed by State transportation aid	20 U.S.C. § 6313(c)(3)(C)(ii)(II); 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)(I); 42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(4)(A); N.Y. Education Law § 3209(4)(c); N.Y. Education Law § 3209(4)(b); N.Y. Education Law § 3209(6)(b); N.Y. Education Law § 3622-a(1); 8 N.Y.C.R.R. § 100.2(x)(6)(iii)-(iv).
Temporarily Housed <u>Outside</u> of the School District, but not in Department of Social Services Emergency Housing Placement	Student is entitled to transportation to and from the school of origin, including public preschool (e.g., pre-k), up to 50 miles one way, unless the commissioner certifies that a distance greater than 50 miles is in the best interest of the student. Parent may also be entitled to transportation if student cannot travel alone.	The school district where the student is enrolled is responsible for transportation.	State transportation aid (claimed by district where student is enrolled) AND Title I, Part A set-aside funds for expenses not reimbursed by State transportation aid	20 U.S.C. § 6313(c)(3)(C)(ii)(II); 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii); N.Y. Education Law § 3209(4)(c); N.Y. Education Law § 3622-a(1); 8 N.Y.C.R.R. § 100.2(x)(6)(iv).
Temporarily Housed <u>Outside</u> of the School District in a <u>Department of</u> <u>Social Services</u> (DSS) <u>Emergency</u> <u>Housing Placement</u>	Student is entitled to transportation to and from the school of origin, including public school (e.g., pre-k), up to 50 miles one way, unless the commissioner certifies that a distance greater than 50 miles is in the best interest of the student. Parent may also be entitled to transportation if student cannot travel alone.	The local department of social services (DSS) is responsible for transportation if it places a student in emergency housing outside of the school district and the student is eligible for Emergency Assistance for Families (EAF). This includes children who attend pre-k and students who attend school at a BOCES. If DSS requests that the school district provide transportation, the school district must transport and the DSS must promptly reimburse the school district. If student is not eligible for EAF or if DSS places the family in emergency housing within the school district, the school district is responsible for transportation.	If school district transports, DSS reimburses the school district. School district cannot claim State transportation aid for expenses reimbursed by DSS.  DSS receives federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding for transportation expenses.	42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii); N.Y. Education Law § 3209(4)(a).



42 USC §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii), 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(II); Education Law § 3209(1), 3209(2)(c), 3209(2)(d), 3209(4)(i); 8 NYCRR §§100.2(x)(2), 100.2(x)(6)(iv); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question J-5.



## Responsibility #9

# Training for Colleagues







# Student Perspective



"They could have been more understanding of my situation and age and what it took for me to get up every day and pursue my education in spite of all the barriers I was up against. I felt scrutinized and ostracized, especially by the principal. She was not trying to be accommodating at all. There were emotional traumas, mental and physical effects. Teachers should have trainings to give them the tools so that they know the signs."

Quotes are from *Hidden in Plain Sight* (<a href="http://www.americaspromise.org/report/hidden-plain-sight">http://www.americaspromise.org/report/hidden-plain-sight</a>, from full report)





## Provide Professional Learning to Staff

- Train key staff (e.g., registrars, administrators, social workers, teachers) on McKinney-Vento eligibility, the impact of homelessness on students, and next steps once a student is identified.
- Set up regular meetings with district collaborators— e.g., registration head, transportation director, and data coordinator.
- Make appropriate staff aware of students living in a temporary housing situation as necessary so they can assist with supporting academic and social emotional learning.

Please note that a student's housing status is protected by FERPA and may only be shared within an educational context.





## McKinney-Vento Training Resources

### McKinney-Vento Liaison Responsibilities:

The local liaison in every school district is required to carry out the duties of the position as listed in the law [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)]. The McKinney-Vento Act requires local liaisons to ensure that: school personnel providing services to children and youth experiencing homelessness receive professional development and other support.

TEACHS has created training materials so liaisons can fulfil their responsibility to provide professional development to school personnel.

- Introduction to McKinney-Vento slide deck
- Facilitator Guide





## Responsibility #10

Meeting the Needs of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



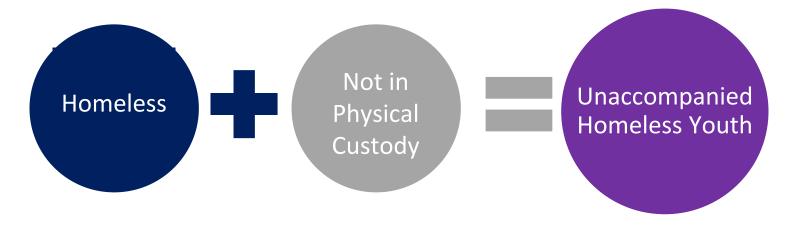


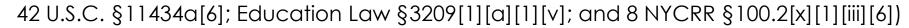


### Definition of an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

An unaccompanied youth is a child or youth that is not in the physical custody of/not living with a parent or guardian.

To be eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act, the youth must also meet the definition of homeless.









### Access to Higher Education

- Identify and remove barriers that prevent youth from receiving credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed at a prior school, in accordance with State, local, and school policies.
- Provide counselor assistance to advise youth and improve student readiness for college.
- Inform unaccompanied youth of their status as independent students when completing the <u>FAFSA</u> for college financial aid.
- More info on FAFSA and sample verification letters are available at: <a href="https://schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/higher-education/">https://schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/higher-education/</a>

8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(7)(iii)(a); see also 42 USC §11432(g)(6)(A); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Section F & Questions L- 3, Q-2









How long can a student be designated as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act?

- A. For one year
- B. For as long as specified in district policy
- C. For as long as the student meets the eligibility criteria (fixed, regular, and adequate housing)







A housing questionnaire should only be given to a family when there is evidence that the family is experiencing homelessness.

A. True

B. False

C. Not sure







# Which of the following are allowable uses of Title I, Part A set-aside funds?

- A. Emergency supplies, such as food and clothing
- B. Counseling services to address anxiety related to homelessness that is impeding learning
- C. Parental involvement specifically outreach programming to parents of students who are homeless
- D. All of the above





### If a student lacks required immunizations, who should assist the family in obtaining the necessary vaccinations?

- A. School nurse
- B. Guidance Counselor
- C. McKinney-Vento liaison
- D. Family's responsibility







The McKinney-Vento liaison works for the school district. When there is a dispute in determining eligibility, school selection or transportation, who assists the family with this process?

- A. McKinney-Vento liaison
- B. School attorney
- C. School principal
- D. Guidance counselor





When a student moves into permanent housing, they must transfer to the zoned school for the permanent address within two weeks of the move.

- A. True
- B. False
- c. Not sure







### Strategies for Success

- Participate in professional learning and technical assistance opportunities as required in the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Develop written procedures and protocols for identifying, enrolling and serving students living in temporary housing.
- Designate a school-level point of contact at each school who can assist with school-level tasks and refer issues that need further attention to the local liaison.
- Develop collaborative relationships with local service providers including shelters, soup kitchens, food banks, housing agencies, public preschool programs etc.



Source: NCHE Brief, Local Homeless Education Liaisons: Understanding Their Role



### **Key Points**

#### Liaisons must:

- Fulfill the specific responsibilities that are outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act as the primary point of contact for families.
- Ensure that students experiencing homelessness are identified, enrolled, and provided transportation services.
- 3. Assist the family/youth with the dispute resolution process and enroll and provide services until the dispute is resolved.
- 4. Ensure that students and families are given appropriate referrals.





## Key Ideas

What is a Key Idea to remember about your role as a McKinney-Vento Liaison?

Please respond in the chat







#### Resources

More Information



### <u>Liaison Responsibilities</u>

NCHE Brief: Local Homeless Education Liaisons: Understanding Their Role

NCHE Brief: Local Homeless Education Liaisons: Important Information for New Local liaisons

Referral Templates for McKinney-Vento Liaisons

NYS Memo: LEA Requirements for Implementing
McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Dispute Resolution
Process

Dispute 310 Appeal Paperwork





### Technical and Educational Assistance Center

- Help Line (800-388-2014)
- Website (https://nysteachs.org)
- Web-Based Trainings
- Outreach Materials
- Tales from the Field



Identification and Eligibility
Thursday, September 11, 2025

Enrollment and School Selection Thursday, September 25, 2025





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