

## **McKinney Vento Homeless Students Information**

**Students are designated homeless due to the following circumstances:**

### McKinney-Vento Educational Definition of Homelessness

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:
- Sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or 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, or are abandoned in hospitals McKinney-Vento Educational Definition of Homelessness
- Living in a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)]
- Unaccompanied youth includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian [42 U.S.C § 11434a(6)]

**A School District must designate a Homeless Liaison for identifying and serving students**

### Best Practice - District Homeless Liaison and Campus Liaisons to serve students better

#### **McKinney-Vento Liaison Duties:**

- Identify students experiencing homelessness in
  - collaboration with school personnel and other organizations
- Ensure students experiencing homelessness are enrolled and provided equitable access to succeed in school
- Ensure students experiencing homelessness and families have access to educational services for which they are eligible
- Provide referrals for medical, housing, and other appropriate services
- Inform parents or guardians of educational opportunities available to students and how they can participate in their student's education
- Post the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness in locations frequented by students, parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth
- Ensure enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines
- Inform parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth of all transportation services available, including school of origin transportation

- Provide school personnel professional development and supports to ensure identification of McKinney-Vento eligible students

**Ensure unaccompanied youth (UY)**

- are enrolled in school
- Have opportunities to meet the same state academic standards as housed students
- Are informed of their independent status for the purpose of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

**School Enrollment**

Students experiencing homelessness have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documentation normally required for enrollment

In Texas we have a state school selection provision (TEC § 25.001(b)(5))

- If a family is homeless, they can select to enroll in any LEA in the state
- The McKinney-Vento liaison will assist in selecting the campus that best meets the needs of students experiencing homelessness

**Best Practices for Identification Process Homeless Students**

Efficient Enrollment -- Use of Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ)

-----Individualized Intake Process

**Things to Remember:**

*Have a plan in place for identifying homeless students*

*TEA is monitoring districts with under identification and no homeless students*

*Identification and coding are for the current school year. It lasts the entire school year.*

*Eligibility determination should be made on a case-by-case basis*

*Ensure all McKinney-Vento eligible students are coded at the time of identification*

Resources: McKinney Vento 101 – TEHCY- Texas Education Agency 2021

McKinney Vento 201- TEHCY – Texas Education Agency 2021

**REGION 16 TEHCY Website** [www.esc16.net/apps/pages/TEHCY](http://www.esc16.net/apps/pages/TEHCY)



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**TEA TEHCY Website**

<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/support-for-at-risk-schools-and-students/texas-education-for-homeless-children-and-youth-tehcy-program>