



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

STUDENT INTERVENTION SERVICES
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For Information Only

TO: All Principals

FROM: Cheryl C. Alligood, Chief Academic Officer *CCA*

SUBJECT: 2013 HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK, NOVEMBER 16-24, 2013

The week of November 16-24, 2013, is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. To bring greater awareness to this important topic in our schools, the month of November will be designated as Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month, via proclamation at the November School Board Meeting. The Director of Student Intervention Services, Ellen Van Arsdale, serves as the District's Homeless Liaison and provides overall program guidance and leadership to the Homeless Education Assistance Resource Team (HEART). HEART coordinates services for homeless children and youth, as required by the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act, supports efforts to increase awareness and sensitivity to homelessness in our schools and community, and is available to assist homeless students and families across the District. In partnership with the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, Mrs. Van Arsdale will address the community regarding homeless students in our schools at the press conference covering the One-Year Anniversary Celebration of the Senator Philip D. Lewis Homeless Resource Center.

There are several meaningful ways to help acknowledge this week and focus attention on homelessness, as it impacts children and youth in our community. Schools are encouraged to consider a collection drive to benefit homeless students and their families. The collection of toiletries, socks, and nonperishable food items is always needed and appreciated. A HEART Case Manager is assigned to each school in the District and can be scheduled for classroom presentations, faculty meetings, parent involvement nights, etc. A HEART contact sheet and description of services is attached for your use. For thematic literature, movies, additional activity ideas, and lesson plan recommendations, please see the attached Hunger & Homelessness Bookshelf.

Please ensure that the Information for Parents and Information for Youth posters (attached) are prominently displayed at your school. The posters explain the definition of homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act and the rights of children to attend school.

Reminder: Bulletin #P-14702-SLE/SIS, HOMELESS STUDENT UPDATES (dated September 12, 2013) asked you, among other things, to designate a staff member, preferably a Data Processor or Guidance Counselor, to serve as your school's Homeless Contact. If you have not already done so, please ask your designee to send an email with his/her name, school, telephone number, and fax number to Beth.Lefler@palmbeachschools.org with "Homeless Contact" in the subject line.

The following resources are attached for your reference and convenience:

- HEART Contact Sheet and Description of Services
- Homeless Liaison Responsibilities
- Hunger & Homelessness Bookshelf
- Facts and Resources about the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
- McKinney-Vento Act at-a-Glance
- Posters for School Display and Information: Information for Parents; Information for Youth

Should you need assistance with a homeless student at your school, or have questions regarding the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act, please contact the HEART Case Manager for your area (see attachment).

Thank you for making National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week a meaningful experience at your school.

EWG/CCA/JML/EVA/BAL:dh/cy
Attachments

Approved: _____



E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent



Homeless Education Assistance Resource Team

<http://www.palmbeachschools.org/sis/heart>

Ellen Van Arsdale, Director, Homeless Liaison

Student Intervention Services

Ellen.VanArsdale@palmbeachschools.org

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Vernell Williams-Desrosier, MA, McKinney-Vento Case Manager

Area 3 – Glades Area PLUS: Binks Forest, Frontier, Osceola Creek, Seminole Ridge, and Wellington Landings

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Thyra Starr, McKinney-Vento Case Manager

Area 4, PLUS: Roosevelt Elementary and Roosevelt Middle Schools

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Judith McInnes, McKinney-Vento Case Manager

Area 5, PLUS: Acreage Pines, Emerald Cove, Equestrian Trails, Golden Grove, Palm Beach Central, Pierce Hammock, Polo Park, Wellington High, and Western Pines

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Beth A. Lefler, MSW, Specialist, Homeless Education

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Anax Pompilus, Homeless and Domestic Violence Shelter Coordinator

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Laura Shoemaker, MS, Specialist, Foster Care Liaison

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Donna Hartmann, Office Contact

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Homeless Liaison Responsibilities

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, the Homeless Liaison must ensure that:

1. Children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
2. Students experiencing homelessness enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in school.
3. Families, children and youth experiencing homelessness receive educational services for which they are eligible.
4. Parents or guardians of students experiencing homelessness are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
5. Public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services.
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the Enrollment Disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act.
7. Parents, guardians and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness are fully informed of all transportation services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act, including transportation to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing these services.

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

November 16-24, 2013

Hunger & Homelessness Bookshelf

Recommended Books, Movies, and Websites

BOOKS		
Non-Fiction	Grades	Author
<i>Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine</i>	6-10	Susan Campbell Bartoletti
<i>Changing Places: A Kid's View of Shelter Living</i>	4-8	Margie Chalofsky
<i>Feed the Children First: Irish Memories of the Great Hunger</i>	4-12	Mary E. Lyons
<i>Home is Where We Live: Life at a Shelter through a Young Girl's Eyes</i>	4-8	Bonnie Lee Groth
<i>Homeless Children</i>	4-8	Eleanor H. Ayer
<i>Homelessness</i>	7-12	Sara Dixon Criswell
<i>Homelessness: Can We Solve the Problem?</i>	4-6	Laurie Rozakis
<i>Homelessness: Whose Problem Is It?</i>	Young Adult	Ted Gottfried
<i>The Lost Boys of Natinga: A School for Sudan's Young Refugees</i>	5-8	Judy Walgren
<i>Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story</i>	4-8	Andrea Warren
<i>The Other America: Homeless Teens</i>	Young Adult	Gail B. Stewart
Fiction	Grades	Author
<i>Asphalt Angels</i> (mature themes)	10-12	Ineke Holtwijk
<i>Darnell Rock Reporting</i>	4-7	Walter Dean Myers
<i>Dew Drop Dead</i>	4-7	James Howe
<i>The Hundred Dresses</i>	3-7	Eleanor Estes
<i>The King of Dragons</i>	4-8	Carol Fenner
<i>Money Hungry</i>	5-8	Sharon G. Flake
<i>Rodzina</i>	4-7	Karen Cushman
<i>Soul Moon Soup</i>	7-10	Lindsay Lee Johnson
<i>Where I'd Like to Be</i>	4-7	Frances O'Roark Dowell
Picture Books (can be used successfully by all grades)		Author
<i>The Adventurous Chef: Alexis Soyer</i>		Ann Arnold
<i>The Can-Do Thanksgiving</i>		Marion Hess Pomeranc
<i>A Castle on Viola Street</i>		Dyanne DiSalvo-Ryan
<i>Fly Away Home</i>		Eve Bunting
<i>The Long March: The Choctaw's Gift to Irish Famine Relief</i>		Marie Louise Fitzpatrick
<i>Potato: A Tale from the Great Depression</i>		Kate Lied
<i>Saily's Journey</i>		Ralph da Costa Nunez
<i>Sam and the Lucky Money</i>		Karen Chinn
<i>The Teddy Bear</i>		David McPhail

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

<i>A Train to Somewhere</i>	Eve Bunting
<i>Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen</i>	Dyanne DiSalvo-Ryan
<u>MOVIES</u>	
<p>“Easy Street,” 2006. “Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story,” 2006. “Pursuit of Happyness,” 2006.</p>	
<u>WEBSITES</u>	
General	
www.nationalhomeless.org	www.endhomelessness.org
www.naehcy.org	www.secondharvest.org
www.bread.org	www.oxfam.org
<p>For the entire 2013 Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Manual, click below: http://www.nationalhomeless.org/projects/awareness/2013AwarenessWeekManual.pdf</p>	
Curriculum and Lesson Plans	
Elementary, K – 2 nd Grade	
Hunger and Homelessness	http://learningtogive.org/lessons/unit103/lesson5.html
Homelessness	http://learningtogive.org/lessons/unit103/lesson6.html
Elementary, 3 rd – 5 th Grade	
Hunger	http://learningtogive.org/lessons/unit449/lesson1.html
Middle School, 6 th – 8 th Grade	
“Homeless” by Anna Quindlen	http://www.miamisci.org/tec/mssindex.html
A unit on homelessness prepared by Anna Quindlen and appropriate for middle school students.	
High School, 9 th – 12 th Grade	
Homeless Education Planning Resource Guide, Chicago Public Schools	
http://www.scribd.com/doc/51137907/Homelessness-Education-Planning-Resource-Guide-Grades-9-12#download	
Additional K-12 Curriculum and Lesson Plans	
http://learningtogive.org/lessons/search/#subject	

For further information such as project ideas, additional resources, project planning guidance and assistance, or to register your project for school, student, and staff recognition:

Contact: Beth Lefler, Student Intervention Services
Telephone: 561.494.1547, PX 81547 FAX: 561.494.1470
Email: Beth.Lefler@palmbeachschools.org

PLEASE register your project.



FACTS AND RESOURCES ABOUT THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

How Many Children and Youth Experience Homelessness?

In the 2011-2012 school year, 1,166,339 homeless children and youth were enrolled in public schools.¹ This is a 71 percent increase since the 2006-2007 school year. It is important to note that this number is not an estimate of the prevalence of child and youth homelessness; in fact, it is an underestimate, because not all school districts reported data to the U.S. Department of Education, and because the data collected represents only those children identified and enrolled in school. Finally, the number does not include all preschool-age children, or any infants and toddlers.

Other research indicates that child homelessness may be more widespread than school data suggest. A study published in the August 2009 edition of the [American Journal of Public Health](#) found that 7 percent of fifth-graders and their families have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives, and that the occurrence is even higher - 11 percent - for African-American children and those from the poorest households. The study used a very narrow definition of homelessness, only including families living in shelters or on the streets. Yet even with this narrow definition, the study suggests that in a classroom of 28 fifth-graders, two students would have been homeless at some point in their lives.

How is Homelessness Defined?

The federal definition of homelessness used by all public schools in the United States includes children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition specifically includes children and youth living in shelters, transitional housing, cars, campgrounds, motels, and sharing the housing of others temporarily due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons. This is the same definition of homelessness used by Head Start, special education, child nutrition, and other federal family and youth programs.

The education definition of homelessness reflects the reality of family and youth homelessness. Emergency shelters in urban and suburban areas cannot meet demand, turning away requests for shelter. Many shelters place eligibility restrictions on families and youth; for example, many shelters do not admit families with adolescent boys, or do not allow unaccompanied minors. Rural and suburban areas may not have shelters at all. Families and youth may not have enough money to stay at a motel, or they may leave their homes in crisis, fleeing to the first available location.

¹ U.S. Department of Education, Federal Data Collection 2011-2012.

Youth who are homeless without an adult may be afraid to enter an adult shelter.

As a result of the lack of shelter, most students in homeless situations share housing with others temporarily, or stay in motels or other short-term facilities. These situations are precarious, damaging, crowded, unstable, and often unsafe, leading to extraordinary rates of mobility. According to the most recent federal data, of the children and youth identified as homeless and enrolled in public schools in the 2011-2012 school year, only 15 percent lived in shelters. Seventy-five percent lived with other people because they had nowhere else to go, 5 percent lived in motels, and the remainder lived in unsheltered locations.²

Why Are Children and Youth Homeless?

Homelessness is a lack of permanent housing resulting from extreme poverty and/or unsafe or unstable living environments (e.g., conditions of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, or natural or other disasters).

Two trends are largely responsible for the rise in family homelessness over the past several decades: a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in severe poverty. The mean income of families experiencing homelessness is less than half the poverty line.³ There is a rising gap between income and housing costs for low-income individuals. For example, a full-time minimum wage worker cannot afford the fair market rent for housing in every county and state within the United States.⁴ Domestic violence, health, and mental health problems also contribute to family homelessness.

Unaccompanied homeless youth include young people who have run away from or been thrown out of their home or been abandoned by their parents. The primary causes of homelessness among unaccompanied youth are physical and sexual abuse by a parent or guardian, neglect, parental substance abuse, and extreme family conflict. It is estimated that between 1.6 and 1.7 million youth run away or are forced to leave home each year.⁵

How Does Homelessness Affect Children and Youth's Education?

In a life filled with uncertainty, loss, and deprivation, school can be a place of safety, structure, and opportunity. Yet homeless children and youth face unique barriers to education. These barriers include:

² U.S. Department of Education, Federal Data Collection 2010-11.

³ Burt, Aron, Douglas, et al., Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve: Summary Report-Findings of the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients, The Urban Institute (1999).

⁴ National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach* (2009), at <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2009/>.

⁵ Toro, P., Dworsky, A. and Fowler, P. (2007). "Homeless Youth in the United States: Recent Research Findings and Intervention Approaches." *Toward Understanding Homelessness: The 2007 National Symposium on Homelessness Research*. Washington DC: U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.; National Runaway Switchboard, <http://www.1800runaway.org/>.

- Being unable to meet enrollment requirements (including requirements to provide proof of residency and legal guardianship, and school and health records)
- High mobility resulting in lack of school stability and educational continuity
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of school supplies and clothing
- Poor health, fatigue, and hunger
- Emotional crisis/mental health issues
- For unaccompanied homeless youth, lack of a parent or guardian

When these barriers are not addressed, homeless children and youth often are unable to attend, or even enroll in, school, which prevents them from obtaining the education that is both their legal right and their best hope of escaping poverty as adults.

What Educational Rights Do Homeless Children and Youth Have?

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (referred to as the McKinney-Vento Act) is a federal law designed to remove barriers to education created by homelessness, and thereby increase the enrollment, attendance, and success of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Act was passed in 1987 and most recently amended in 2001. The McKinney-Vento Act requires that state and local educational agencies provide students experiencing homelessness with access to school and support for their attendance and success. Key provisions of the 2001 reauthorized Act include:

- Students who are homeless can remain in one school, even if their temporary living situation is located in another school district or attendance area, if that is in their best interest. Schools must provide transportation.
- Children and youth who are homeless can enroll in school and begin attending immediately, even if they cannot produce normally required documents, such as birth certificates, proof of guardianship, immunization records, or proof of residency.
- Every school district must designate a homeless liaison to ensure the McKinney-Vento Act is implemented in the district. Homeless liaisons have many critical responsibilities, including identification, enrollment, and collaboration with community agencies.
- Every state must designate a state coordinator to ensure the McKinney-Vento Act is implemented in the state.
- Both state coordinators and homeless liaisons must collaborate with other agencies serving homeless children, youth, and families to enhance educational attendance and success.
- State departments of education and school districts must review and revise their policies and practices to eliminate barriers to the enrollment and retention in school of homeless children and youth.

The McKinney-Vento Act contains many other provisions designed to support the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. It is a critical tool in any effort to help these students meet their educational goals.

Web Resources

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth – www.naehcy.org
NAEH CY is a national grassroots membership association serving as the voice and the social conscience for the education of children and youth in homeless situations. NAEHCY connects educators, parents, advocates, researchers and service providers to ensure school enrollment and attendance, and overall success for children and youth whose lives have been disrupted by the lack of safe, permanent and adequate housing. NAEHCY accomplishes its goals through advocacy, partnerships, and education. An annual conference is held every year, bringing together 600-800 professionals for a unique professional development opportunity.

National Center on Homeless Education – www.serve.org/nche

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Center for Homeless Education is a national resource center of research and information enabling communities to successfully address the needs of homeless children and youth and their families. NCHE products include educational rights posters, parent brochures, the LEA Homeless Education Liaison Handbook, the State Coordinators' Handbook, and the NAEHCY listserv.

National Center on Family Homelessness – www.familyhomelessness.org

NCFH is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to developing long-term solutions to family homelessness. The Center is committed to: (1) building a rigorous knowledge base in the areas of family homelessness and poverty; (2) creating model programs, service demonstrations and technical assistance products; and (3) disseminating information to increase public awareness and improve national, state, and local policies and programs.

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty – www.nlchp.org

NLCHP monitors and enforces compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act, providing technical assistance to attorneys, service providers, parents and educators across the country to ensure that homeless children gain access to public school. The NLCHP website includes a self-advocacy kit, a flowchart for determining homelessness, reproducible Q&A booklets, and many other materials.

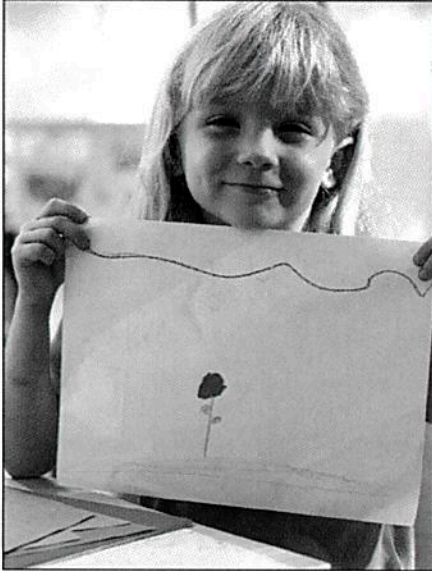
Horizons for Homeless Children – www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org

Horizons for Homeless Children is dedicated exclusively to serving young homeless children and their families. HHC provides direct services to young children and their families in Massachusetts. In addition to direct service, HHC advocates on behalf of young homeless children and their families with policy makers, and provides training and technical assistance to related service providers.

National Network for Youth – www.nn4youth.org

The National Network for Youth is dedicated to ensuring that young people can be safe and lead healthy and productive lives. In doing so, young people are championed, especially those who because of life circumstance, disadvantage, past abuse or community prejudice have less opportunity to become contributing members of their communities

The McKinney-Vento Act At a Glance



This summary provides a brief overview of the key provisions of Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized by Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act. The full text of the law can be found at <http://www.serve.org/nche/m-v.php>. In addition, a comprehensive series of issue briefs on various topics in the law can be found at <http://www.serve.org/nche/briefs.php>. Issue briefs, which explain key legislative provisions and offer strategies for implementation, are available on many topics, including those designated in this summary with an asterisk(*).

Who is homeless? (Sec. 725)

The term "homeless children and youth"—

- (A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence ...; and
- (B) includes—
- (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
 - (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings ...
 - (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - (iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

Definitions*

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act includes a definition of who is considered homeless for the purposes of this subtitle of the Act and, therefore, eligible for the rights and protections it provides.

The guiding phrase of the definition states that children and youth who "lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence" are considered homeless. The definition then specifies some living arrangements that would be considered a homeless situation due to not meeting the fixed, regular, and adequate standard. Examples include children and youth who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; children and youth who are staying in a motel or hotel due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations; children and youth who are living in an emergency or transitional shelter; and many other situations (see panel at left for full definition).

Academic Achievement

- States must describe in their state McKinney-Vento plan how students in homeless situations are or will be given the opportunity to meet the same challenging state academic achievement standards all students are expected to meet.
- Students in homeless situations must have access to the educational and other services they need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same challenging state student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

School Selection*

- Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), otherwise known as school districts, must, to the extent feasible, keep students in homeless situations in their school of origin (defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled), unless it is against the parent's or guardian's wishes. (See *Transportation*, this page, for information on

The McKinney-Vento Act At a Glance (continued)

transportation to the school of origin.)

- 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.
- Students may also choose to enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend. (See *Enrollment*, this page.)
- 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. (See *Dispute Resolution*, this page.)
- Local homeless education liaisons must help unaccompanied youth (youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youth's wishes, and must provide the youth with notice of his/her right to appeal an enrollment choice that goes against his/her wishes. (See *Local Liaisons*, next page, for the appointment and duties of the local liaison.)

Enrollment*

- LEAs must enroll students in homeless situations immediately, even if they do not have documents normally required for enrollment, such as previous school records, medical or immunization records, proof of residency,

birth certificate, proof of guardianship, or other documents. The term "enroll" is defined by the McKinney-Vento Act as "attending classes and participating fully in school activities".

- Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school, and students must be enrolled in school while records are obtained.
- If a student does not have immunizations or immunization or medical records, the liaison must immediately assist in obtaining them, and the student must be enrolled in school in the interim.
- Schools must maintain records for students experiencing homelessness so that they can be transferred promptly to future schools, as needed.
- States must address barriers resulting from enrollment delays caused by immunization and medical records requirements, residency requirements, lack of birth certificates, school records or other documentation, guardianship issues, or uniform or dress code requirements.
- States and LEAs must develop, review, and revise their policies to remove barriers to the school enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations.

Dispute Resolution*

- Every state must establish procedures to resolve disputes regarding the educational

placement of homeless students promptly.

- Whenever a dispute arises, the student must be admitted immediately to the requested school while the dispute is being resolved.
- 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. (See *Dispute Resolution*, this page.)
- The school must refer the student, parent, or guardian to the local liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. (See *Local Liaisons*, next page, for the duties of local liaisons.)
- Local liaisons must ensure that the same access to the dispute resolution process is provided to unaccompanied youth.

Transportation*

- At a parent or guardian's request, homeless students must be provided with transportation to and from their school of origin.
- For unaccompanied youth, transportation to and from the school of origin must be provided at the local liaison's request.
- If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same LEA, that LEA must provide transportation. If the student is living outside the school of origin's LEA, the LEA where

The McKinney-Vento Act At a Glance (continued)

the student is living and the school of origin's LEA must determine how to divide the responsibility and cost of providing transportation, or they must share the responsibility and cost equally.

- In addition to providing transportation to the school of origin, LEAs must provide students in homeless situations with transportation services comparable to those provided to other students.

Local Liaisons*

- Every LEA must designate an appropriate staff person as a local homeless education liaison.
- Local liaisons must ensure that:
 - Children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
 - Children and youth enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the schools of the LEA.
 - Families, children, and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start, and pre-school programs administered by the LEA; and referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services.
 - Parents or guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities

to participate in the education of their children.

- Public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the Act (such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens).
- Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act. (See *Dispute Resolution*, previous page.)
- Parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth are informed fully of all available transportation services, including to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing these services.
- Local liaisons must collaborate and coordinate with State Coordinators for Homeless Education and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to children and youth in homeless situations.
- State Coordinators and LEAs must inform school personnel, service providers, and advocates who work with families in homeless situations of the duties of the local liaison.

Segregation*

- Homelessness alone is not sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.

- States that receive McKinney-Vento funds are prohibited from segregating homeless students in separate schools, separate programs within schools, or separate settings within schools.¹
- If McKinney-Vento services are provided on school grounds, schools must not provide services in settings within a school that segregate homeless children and youth from other children and youth, except as is necessary for short periods of time for health and safety emergencies or to provide temporary, special, and supplementary services.
- SEAs and LEAs must adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youth are not segregated or stigmatized on the basis of their status as homeless.
- Services provided with McKinney-Vento Act funds must not replace the regular academic program and must be designed to expand upon or improve services provided as part of the school's regular academic program.

Local Subgrants

- States are required to award competitive subgrants to LEAs based on need and the quality of the application

¹ States that had separate schools operated in FY2000 in a "covered county" are excluded from the prohibition, and are eligible to receive McKinney funds, providing that the covered schools and the LEAs that the homeless children enrolled in the covered schools are eligible to attend meet the requirements specified for them in the Act. (Covered counties are Orange County, CA; San Diego County, CA; San Joaquin County, CA; and Maricopa County, AZ.)

The McKinney-Vento Act At a Glance (continued)

submitted.

- In determining the quality of an application, states must consider the applicant's needs assessment; the types, intensity, and coordination of services to be provided; the involvement of parents or guardians; the extent to which children and youth are integrated into regular education programs; the quality of the applicant's evaluation plan; the extent to which McKinney-Vento services will be coordinated with other available services; and such other measures as the state considers indicative of a high-quality program.

Statewide Activities

- The Office of the State Coordinator for Homeless Education must provide technical assistance, in coordination with local liaisons, to all LEAs in order to ensure compliance with the following LEA requirements: school choice/placement, best interest determination, enrollment, enrollment

disputes, records, comparable services, coordination, local liaison duties, review and revision of policies, and the prohibition on segregation.

- States must distribute at least 75% of their McKinney-Vento allocation to LEAs in the form of competitive subgrants, except that states funded at the minimum level must distribute at least 50% of their McKinney-Vento Act allocations to LEAs.

Federal Activities

- The U.S. Department of Education must periodically collect and disseminate data and information on the number and location of children and youth in homeless situations, the educational services they receive, the extent to which their educational needs are being met, and such other data and information as is determined to be necessary and relevant. The Department is required to coordinate data collection and dissemination with

the agencies and entities that receive McKinney-Vento funds and administer McKinney-Vento programs.

Funding

- The minimum amount of funding that any state can receive is \$150,000, one-quarter of one percent of the overall appropriation, or the amount the state received in FY2001. If there are insufficient funds available to allot the minimum amount to each state, the allotments to states will be reduced based on the proportionate share that each state received in the preceding fiscal year.
- \$70 million is authorized for FY2002 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2003 through 2007.²

² The authorized funding level is the ceiling, or maximum amount, that Congress sets for a program. The amount of funding that is actually provided is determined annually by the congressional appropriations process. In FY2008, Congress appropriated \$64 million for the EHCY program.

This brief was developed collaboratively by:

National Center for Homeless Education
800-308-2145 (Toll-free Helpline)
<http://www.serve.org/nche>

National Association for the Education of Children and Youth
<http://www.naehcy.org>

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
<http://www.nlchp.org>

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NCHE is supported by the U.S. Department of Education Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs.

Every state is required to have a State Coordinator for Homeless Education, and every school district is required to have a local homeless education liaison. These individuals will assist you with the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act. To find out who your State Coordinator is, visit the

NCHE website at http://www.serve.org/nche/states/state_resources.php.



For more information on the McKinney-Vento Act and resources for implementation, call the NCHE Helpline at 800-308-2145 or e-mail homeless@serve.org.



Local Contact Information:

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter



In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation



In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station



Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

*Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the
federal McKinney-Vento Act.*

Your eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.
 - * If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

If you believe your children may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.



Local Liaison
Ellen Van Arsdale, Director
Student Intervention Services
School District of Palm Beach County
(561)494-1569

State Coordinator
Lorraine Husun Allen, Director
State Homeless Education Program
Florida Department of Education
(850)245-0414

If you need further assistance with your children's educational needs,
contact the National Center for Homeless Education:

1-800-308-2145 * homeless@serve.org * www.serve.org/nche

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH



IF YOU LIVE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter



In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation



In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station



Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

You may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Eligible students have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is their preference and is feasible.
 - * If the school district believes that the school selected is not in his/her best interest, then the district must provide the student with a written explanation of its position and inform the student of his/her right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the students' needs.

If you believe you may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available.



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