



Overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

**National Association for the Education of
Homeless Children and Youth**

www.naehcy.org

National Center for Homeless Education

www.serve.org/nche



How many children and youth experience homelessness?

- **10% of all children living in poverty over the course of a year experience homelessness.**
- **7% of all fifth graders have lived in a shelter or car (11% for low-income and African American).**
- **1.6-1.7 million youth run away each year.**
- **51% of all children in HUD-funded shelters are under the age of 6.**
- **2007-08 school year: 794,617 homeless students were enrolled in public schools; that's a 17% increase over the previous year.**
- **2008-2009 school year: Nearly one million homeless children were enrolled in public schools; approximately 25% increase over the previous year.**



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- **Reauthorized 2002 by NCLB**
- **Main themes of McKinney-Vento:**
 - **Immediate enrollment**
 - **School stability**
 - **School and services access**
 - **Title I like support for academic success**
 - **Child-centered, best interest decision making**
 - **A timely and transparent dispute resolution process**





Local Homeless Education Liaisons

- **Every State/State Education Agency (SEA) must have a Homeless Coordinator**
- **Every LEA (school district) must designate a liaison for students in homeless situations**
- **Responsibilities**
 - **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**
 - **Link with educational services, including preschool and health services**



Title I and Homelessness— Key Provisions

- **A child or youth who is homeless and is attending any school in the district is automatically eligible for Title I A services**
- **LEAs must reserve (or set aside) funds as are necessary to provide services comparable to those provided to children in Title I A schools to serve homeless children who do not attend participating schools, including providing educational support services to children in shelters and other locations where homeless children may live**



Enrollment— Key Provisions (cont.)

- **Children and youth have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if they do not have required documents, such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documents**
- **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 the interim**





Enrollment— Key Provisions (cont.)

- **Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school, and students must be enrolled in school while records are being obtained**
- **Schools must maintain records for students who are homeless so they are available quickly**
- **Federal law supersedes state and local laws where there is a conflict [U.S. Constitution, Article VI]**
- **SEAs and LEAs must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations**



Access to Services

- **Students who experience homelessness must have access to educational services for which they are eligible, including special education, programs for English learners, gifted and talented programs, voc./tech. programs, and school nutrition programs (all eligible)**
- **Undocumented children and youth have the same right to attend public school as U.S. citizens and are covered by the McKinney-Vento Act to the same extent as other children and youth (Plyler v. Doe)**



Access to Services (cont.)

- **USDA policy permits liaisons and shelter directors to obtain free school meals for students by providing a list of names of students experiencing homelessness with effective dates**
- **The 2004 reauthorization of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) includes amendments that reinforce timely assessment, inclusion, and continuity of services for homeless children and youth who have disabilities**



Head Start reauthorized:

Requires Head Start agencies to coordinate and collaborate with the agencies responsible for programs under Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act - 42 U.S.C. 9837(e)

Requires each Head Start program to establish channels of communication between Head Start staff and McKinney-Vento liaisons to facilitate coordination of programs - 42 U.S.C. 9837a(a)

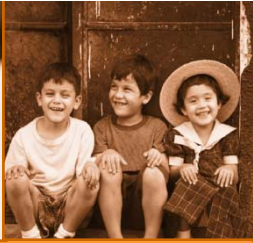
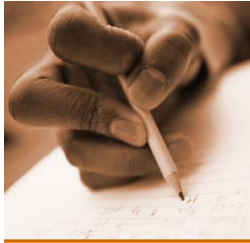
Requires Head Start programs to develop and implement a family outreach and support program in coordination with outreach efforts under the McKinney-Vento Act - 42 U.S.C. 9837a(a)



COMAR 13A.05.09.03 General Responsibilities

Each local school system in Maryland shall:

- (1.) Develop, review, and revise policies to eliminate barriers to the enrollment, retention, and success in school of homeless students...;**
- (2.) Coordinate with other local social service agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to homeless children and youth and their families;**



COMAR 13A.05.09.03, continued

- (3.) Coordinate with other local school systems on inter-district issues, such as transportation or transfer of school records;**
- (4.) Provide services to each eligible homeless student that are comparable to services offered to other students in the local school system;**
- (5.) Designate a homeless education coordinator responsible for: (a-f)...**



COMAR 13A.05.09.03, continued

(k) Coordinating and collaborating with the State coordinator and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services;

(l-m)....;

(n) Ensuring that enrollment disputes are mediated according to the local school system's appeal process consistent with regulation .07 of this chapter.



COMAR 13A.05.09.03, continued

- (g) Informing parents or guardians of homeless children and youth of the educational and related opportunities available to their children, ensuring they are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;**
- (h-i)...**
- (j) Working with Title I administrators to ensure that Title I services are provided in accordance with the reservation of funds required by the McKinney-Vento Act**



What We're All About

“...Through it all, school is probably the only thing that has kept me going. I know that every day that I walk in those doors, I can stop thinking about my problems for the next six hours and concentrate on what is most important to me. Without the support of my school system, I would not be as well off as I am today. School keeps me motivated to move on, and encourages me to find a better life for myself.”

Carrie Arnold, LeTendre Scholar, 2002





Resources

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

<http://www.naehcy.org>

National Center on Homeless Education

<http://www.serve.org/nche>

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

<http://www.nlchp.org>

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