



FEDERAL PROGRAMS MESSENGER

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Purpose of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The purpose of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is to remove educational barriers for homeless students and ensure enrollment in school. Educational barriers come in many forms, such as lack of stable housing, lack of parent/guardian, lack of transportation, lack of school supplies, and lack of school records/paperwork. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures that homeless students are provided with an education and other services as needed. Title I requires that a school district set aside 1% of their Title I funds (unless all sites are served with Title I funds) to provide assistance to homeless students. These funds can be used to provide clothing, school supplies, medical treatment, transportation cost, and other needed services. School districts are to provide free school meals to homeless students.

Defining and Identifying Homeless Students in Your District.

There is often a lot of confusion around who qualifies as a homeless student. Homeless students are any child or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, students who live in shelters, motels, camping grounds, students living in substandard housing or trailer parks (if the trailer does not provide adequate nighttime residence). Students who are doubling up are also considered homeless. Doubling up is defined as sharing housing due to loss of housing related to economic hardship, natural disaster, or similar situation. Students awaiting foster care placement qualify as homeless students. Unaccompanied youth are another category of homeless students. Unaccompanied youth are students who are living without a parent or guardian. An example of an unaccompanied youth is a runaway or youth living with a friend. Unaccompanied youth are to be enrolled in school without the proof of guardianship.

Districts are required to have in place ways to identify homeless students and promote awareness about services to homeless students. Attempts should

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Federal Q&A

Q. What are the responsibilities of the district homeless liaison?

A. Each district is required to appoint a homeless liaison. The responsibilities of the homeless liaison are to identify and enroll homeless students. The homeless liaison will provide assistance to the homeless student in obtaining school records and other documents needed after the student is enrolled. The homeless liaison will be the contact person for the homeless student and help with identifying and securing services and supplies. The homeless liaison will be in charge of notifying the appropriate staff in a confidential manner of the student status, collaborate with agencies to provide services to the student, be the contact person in the district for any homeless related questions, and inform students and parents of rights.

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be made to identify homeless students at the time of enrollment. School staff should be trained to identify homeless students and the available resources to meet their needs. Materials such as posters or fliers should be visible in the school and other public access areas for information to assist homeless students. Free materials can be found at <http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/erposter.php>

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, please contact Stacy Henson at 405-522-3260 or stacy.henson@sde.ok.gov

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