

## McKinney-Vento Education Guidance from DESE

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### **1- How are homeless liaisons informed of their position?**

This is done at the local level by school boards. School board minutes must reflect the adoption of homeless policies in addition to naming who their school district's homeless liaison is.

### **2- Are homeless liaisons required to attend trainings or regular meetings? How can agency staff in the communities assist with this?**

Yes, as per McKinney-Vento legislation, homeless liaisons are required to receive training and know what their job duties are in order to carry out the mandates under McKinney-Vento legislation. Currently, there are quarterly homeless liaison meetings across the state in seven different regions. At these meetings, local liaisons collaborate with others concerning their duties and issues unique to their area's homeless population. In addition, at least once a year the State Homeless Coordinator conducts new liaison training. Homeless Liaisons can also receive training at the Federal Programs Conference.

Agency staff in local communities can assist MV homeless liaisons by attending the quarterly local homeless liaison meetings. Once there, the two groups can share ideas, exchange strategies, and review policies to help them implement McKinney-Vento legislation and address areas of concern about homelessness that are unique to their areas of the state.

### **3- What is the school districts policy on mandated reporting?**

#### **a. If a client and their child are living a car, what actions would be taken while in the process of enrolling them?**

Schools are mandated reporters. If a district's homeless liaison felt the child(ren) were in danger they would report incidents to the proper authorities. However, under MV their main concern is enrolling the child(ren) in school. School districts across the state can determine how they would handle this situation.

#### **b. What is the policy for students that are currently enrolled and homeless; are they reported to DFS?**

Again, if school officials believed the child(ren) to be in danger--they would report this to the proper authorities.

### **4- What is the length of time after immediate enrollment that students have to produce required documents (i.e.- birth certificate or immunization records)?**

Once district officials have determined that an enrolling student is homeless, the district's homeless coordinator must assist in the student in obtaining his/her education, immunization, medical, and other records. According to McKinney-Vento, the student must be enrolled in the interim. If the homeless coordinator is unable to obtain prior immunization records within thirty (30) days of enrolling and the student is still eligible for services under the homeless education program; the student must begin the immunization series and demonstrate that satisfactory progress has been accomplished within (90) days. If the homeless student maintains that he/she is exempted from receiving immunizations, then after thirty (30) days the student must provide documentation in accordance with the exemption requirements provided for in § 167.181.3, RSMo. (See <http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/C100-199/1670000181.HTM>.)

**5- If a school denies enrollment, what action can the agency working with the client take?**

The agency and/or the homeless family or unaccompanied youth can contact the State's Homeless Coordinator. The Homeless Coordinator can act as a liaison between the two parties and can address the issue of enrollment with the school district.

**6- What is the local policy vs. the state policy...is there a limited number of days that you can have the child in your shelter but not enrolled in school? In Maryville there was discussion around 10 days.**

Homeless student should be enrolled without undue or unreasonable delay. While we do not have a state policy on the number of days the child can be in a shelter and not enrolled in school we have advised school district that children should be enrolled by three days.

The goal is to ensure that the district does not create a barrier to enrollment. The school of origin shall comply, to the extent feasible, with the request of a parent or guardian regarding school selection; however, the school district ultimately determines the school of best interest. If the school district elects to send a child or youth to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian, district officials shall provide a written explanation, including the right to appeal the decision, and a copy of the standard complaint resolution to the parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth. While the school of best interest is being determined the child must be enrolled in the school of the parents' choice until a final decision is made.

**7- What can agencies do when two schools are not agreeing on who is responsible for transportation of one of their clients?**

If the school of origin and the school of residence cannot agree upon providing transportation, then McKinney-Vento requires the school districts to share the responsibility and cost for transportation equally. Again, the State Homeless Coordinator can act as a liaison between the two districts in needed.

**8- For Domestic Violence victims, can a school request school records from the JC office as opposed to prior school of attendance so that abusers are not tipped off on where the client has their child and enrolled in school? By contacting the local/previous school of attendance, the offender could be tipped off (in Maryville the person answering the phone when the request was made was a friend of the abuser).** The State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Jefferson City does not maintain student level school records – these records are maintained at the local level. The State Homeless Coordinator, if contacted by the receiving school, could request that the records not be shared with staff known to be involved with the abuser.

**9- Can you assist us with getting School Homeless Coordinators/Liaisons to attend the Regional Housing Team Meetings?**

The Department can assist in this effort. When Regional Housing Team Meetings are scheduled, the State Homeless Coordinator can send this information out via the Homeless List serve to the state's school district's Homeless Liaisons.