



Assessing the Capacity of LEA McKinney-Vento Liaisons for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Under the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, every local educational agency (LEA) must designate a liaison for homeless children and youth. Liaisons must be “able to carry out” ten specific duties. 42 USC 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii).

The U.S. Department of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance states that LEAs “should allocate sufficient time for... liaisons to do their jobs effectively and should support them in fulfilling their duties as outlined in the law and in making timely decisions.” To determine the time needed to carry out the liaison’s duties, the Department directs LEA administrators to review the legal requirements for the position.

The chart below outlines the ten legal requirements of McKinney-Vento liaisons. 42 USC §11432(g)(6)(A).

It is intended to serve as a quick self-assessment of the extent to which of these duties currently are able to be carried out, and a plan for building the capacity to carry them out in the future. This chart is not intended to substitute for a comprehensive needs assessment. Rather, it is a simple tool to help LEAs quickly identify and prioritize areas where greater capacity is needed to carry out the law.

Legal Duty: McKinney-Vento liaisons <u>must</u> ensure that...	Quick Self-Assessment: 0 = Not able to carry out 5 = Fully able to carry out DK = Don't Know	Plan for Liaison Capacity	
		What Needs to Happen?	Who Needs to be Involved?
1. Homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination with other entities and agencies.			

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2. Homeless children and youth are enrolled and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school.			
3. Homeless families, children and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, early intervention (IDEA Part C), and preschool programs administered by the LEA.			
4. Homeless families, children, and youth receive referrals to health, dental, mental health, housing, substance abuse, and other appropriate services.			
5. Parents and guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate.			

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6. Public notice of homeless students' rights is disseminated in locations frequented by parents, guardians and unaccompanied youth, including schools, shelters, libraries and soup kitchens, in an understandable manner and form.			
7. Enrollment disputes are mediated.			
8. Parents, guardians and unaccompanied youth are informed of and assisted in accessing transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin.			
9. School personnel providing McKinney-Vento services receive professional development and other support.			

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<p>10. Unaccompanied youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are enrolled in school; • have opportunities to meet the same challenging academic standards as other children and youth, including through receiving partial credits; • and are informed of their status as independent students for the FAFSA and receive verification of that status. 			