

**Every Student Succeeds Act  
Local Liaison  
Responsibilities**

October 19, 2016  
Storm Y. Camara, Office of the Coordinator



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Presentation Objective**

- Present and discuss in as explicit detail as possible the responsibilities of the local liaison for homeless children and youths



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Overview**

- Present the responsibilities of the local liaison for homeless children and youths
- Discuss how local liaisons avoid the stigmatization of homeless children and youths
- Explain local education agency's (LEA) responsibilities to provide comparable services
- List steps LEAs can take to ensure all homeless students are identified
- Other questions and comments



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ECYEH Local Liaison Responsibilities**

- Liaisons will perform outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies to assist school personnel in identifying homeless children and youths
- Liaisons will ensure that homeless children and youths are enrolled in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the school or schools of the LEA
- Liaisons will ensure homeless families and homeless children and youths have access to and receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs), early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA, and other preschool programs administered by the LEA



4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ECYEH Local Liaison Responsibilities**

- Liaisons will ensure that homeless families and children and youths receive referrals to health, dental, mental health, and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services
- Liaisons will ensure that parents or guardians of homeless children and youths 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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ECYEH Local Liaison Responsibilities**

- Liaisons will ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated in locations frequented by parents and guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians and unaccompanied youths
- Liaisons will ensure that any enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act



6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ECYEH Local Liaison Responsibilities**

- Liaisons will ensure that parents, guardians and unaccompanied youths are fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to and from the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation services
- Liaisons will provide school personnel professional development and other support



7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ECYEH Local Liaison Responsibilities**

- Liaisons will ensure that unaccompanied youths are enrolled in school, have opportunities to meet the same challenging state academic standards as the state establishes for other children and youths, are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) (20 U.S.C. 1087vv), and their right to receive verification of this status from the local liaison (Section 722(g)(6)(A))



8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Avoiding Stigmatization**

- Homeless children and youths are entitled to receive all of the services that are provided to their non-homeless counterparts and in the same setting as their non-homeless peers (Sections 721(1), 721(4))
- If a district does implement a supplemental program exclusively for homeless children, such as a shelter-based evening tutoring program, it should not be called, for example "the homeless tutoring program." Instead, an alternative name such as "Discovery Club" or "Homework Club" should be used to avoid stigmatization



9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Avoiding Stigmatization

- These practices also help the LEA comply with privacy requirements regarding a student's homeless status
- Terms such as "families in transition" and holding conversations about students' status as homeless in areas that offer privacy can further protect students' privacy



1  
0

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Comparable Services

- An LEA must provide services to each homeless child and youth that are comparable to services offered to other students in the LEA (Section 722(g)(4))
- These services include:
  - public preschool programs
  - programs for children with disabilities
  - English learner programs



1  
1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Comparable Services

- These services include:
  - Career and Technical Education programs
  - Gifted and Talented student programs
  - Before and after-school programs
  - School nutrition programs
  - Transportation



1  
2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Ensuring Identification of Homeless Students

- LEAs should include the identification of homeless students and their unique educational needs in any district needs assessment and school improvement plans that define a school's targeted work to raise achievement for all students



1  
3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Ensuring Identification of Homeless Students

- **Housing questionnaire:** Use a housing questionnaire to gather information about students registering in the district. Universal implementation of the questionnaire can prevent stigmatization of students and reduce defensiveness in adult caregivers by preventing students and families from feeling singled out
- **Referral forms.** Ensure that referral forms used to identify and support homeless students are readily available, simple, and easy to use



1  
4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Ensuring Identification of Homeless Students

- **Local liaison contact information:** Include the local liaison's contact information on LEA websites to facilitate referrals
- **Language access:** Provide materials for students and parents in a language easily understood by families and students. If students or their families are unable to read, additional support should be provided to explain student rights



1  
5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Ensuring Identification of Homeless Students

- **Ongoing outreach and training for school staff:** Provide professional development and training for school staff, including teachers, paraprofessionals and school support staff, at least once annually that focuses on the definition of homelessness, signs of homelessness, the impact of homelessness on students, and the steps that should be taken once a potentially homeless student is identified, including how to connect the student with appropriate housing and service providers



1  
6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Ensuring Identification of Homeless Students

- **Interagency collaboration:** Develop interagency partnerships. Some Federal programs are also required to identify and serve homeless children and youths who meet the eligibility criteria for those programs and to coordinate with LEAs. These programs include Head Start; the IDEA, which includes child find requirements for infants and toddlers with disabilities from birth through age two (Part C); and housing programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and programs and services funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.



1  
7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Identification Following Natural Disasters

- When children and their families are displaced from their housing as a result of a natural disaster, there is often a period of instability in which various private organizations and local, state, and federal agencies provide assistance. State agencies and LEAs should determine such children's eligibility for McKinney-Vento services on a case-by-case basis. In making this determination, they should take into consideration the services that are available through these other sources. It will be critical for local liaisons to work with the state coordinator to facilitate services to families and youths made homeless by natural disaster or other catastrophic events.



1  
8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Identification Following Natural Disasters

- When a disaster occurs, local liaisons should be proactive by preparing schools to enroll large numbers of displaced students and arranging for additional staff to assist with the identification and enrollment process as needed. Additionally, local liaisons should notify agencies working with the families of how schools will enroll and serve eligible students. Local liaisons should publicize the rights and services of homeless students directly to the impacted families and those who are assisting the families.



1  
9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Current Status

Where are we now?



2  
0

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Questions

ANY QUESTIONS?



2  
1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



For more information on the (ESSA Implementation and Guidelines)  
please visit PDE's website at [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov)

*The mission of the department is to academically prepare children and adults to succeed  
as productive citizens. The department seeks to ensure that the technical support,  
resources and opportunities are in place for all students, whether children or adults, to  
receive a high quality education.*

 **pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2  
2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**For further information on the ECYEH program  
or other resources, please visit:**

[www.education.pa.gov/homeless](http://www.education.pa.gov/homeless)  
or  
<http://homeless.center-school.org>

 **pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2  
3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---