



PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

680 Fourth Street
Palmerton, PA 18071

Telephone: (610) 826-7101

Fax: (610) 826-4958

www.palmerton.org

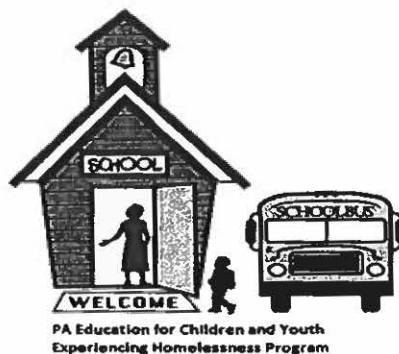
Procedures for Enrollment of Homeless Students

**The McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (ECYEH) was established to ensure homeless youth have access to a free and appropriate public education while removing barriers that homeless children face.*

When notification is given at any building or district office of a homeless situation, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The District Homeless Liaison will facilitate the student's immediate enrollment in school:
 - a. Building secretary will collect contact information (i.e., ECYEH Intake Form) from parent/guardian.
 - b. Building secretary will keep the original form on file and forward a copy immediately to the following individuals (as listed on the bottom of intake form):
 - Homeless Liaison
 - Child Accounting Coordinator
 - Building Principal
 - Guidance Counselor(s)
 - Transportation Coordinator
 - Food Service Director
 - c. Guidance counselors will follow up with families, offering community resources, assistance with attaining any missing documentation, and ensure access to educational programs and supports.
 - d. Parent/Guardians should provide any missing documentation within 30 days.
 - e. Guidance counselors will inform District Homeless Liaison of any additional needs and updates on a regular basis.
 - f. When a change in residence or withdrawal occurs, all of the individuals listed above shall be notified.
2. When necessary, the Regional Homeless Coordinator will be contacted to determine if other services are required, i.e., medical, vouchers for clothing, food/supplies, housing, etc.
3. The following will be completed by the District Homeless Liaison in collaboration with the Child Accounting Coordinator:
 - a. Include student information on District Homeless List;
 - b. Submit student listing with Federal Programs Coordinator;
 - c. Provide annual training to school personnel;
 - d. Submit reports as requested to the Regional Homeless Coordinator and annual reports.

ECYEH Intake Form



This form is intended to address the McKinney-Vento Act 42 U.S.C. 11435. The confidential information in this form will determine the services that the student may be eligible to receive.

Student/Contact Information

Student's Last Name	First	M.I.
Temporary Address	Phone Number	Alt Phone Number
Date of Birth	Gender	Grade Level
School District/Building	Parent/Guardian Enrolling Student	Relationship to Student

Precipitating Event

Place an **X** indicating the appropriate precipitating event resulting in loss of housing

Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left Home	<input type="checkbox"/>
Act of Nature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent/Guardian Hospitalized	<input type="checkbox"/>
Death of Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent/Guardian Incarcerated	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parental Job Loss/Loss of Income	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eviction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Poverty-related Situation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Living Arrangement

Place an **X** in the box indicating the appropriate living arrangements

Shelter	
Transitional Housing	
Hotel/Motel	
Unsheltered (Campgrounds, car, abandoned building, park, temporary trailer, street)	
Doubled-up (living with another family)	

Name of Shelter, Transitional Housing or Hotel/Motel (if applicable)

I, _____ affirm that the information is true and accurate.
(Parent/Guardian's Name)

I, _____ have been advised of my rights and child's rights
(Parent/Guardian's Name) under the McKinney-Vento Federal Homeless Assistance Act.

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

(Student's Name)

(Date)

(District Personnel Receiving Form)

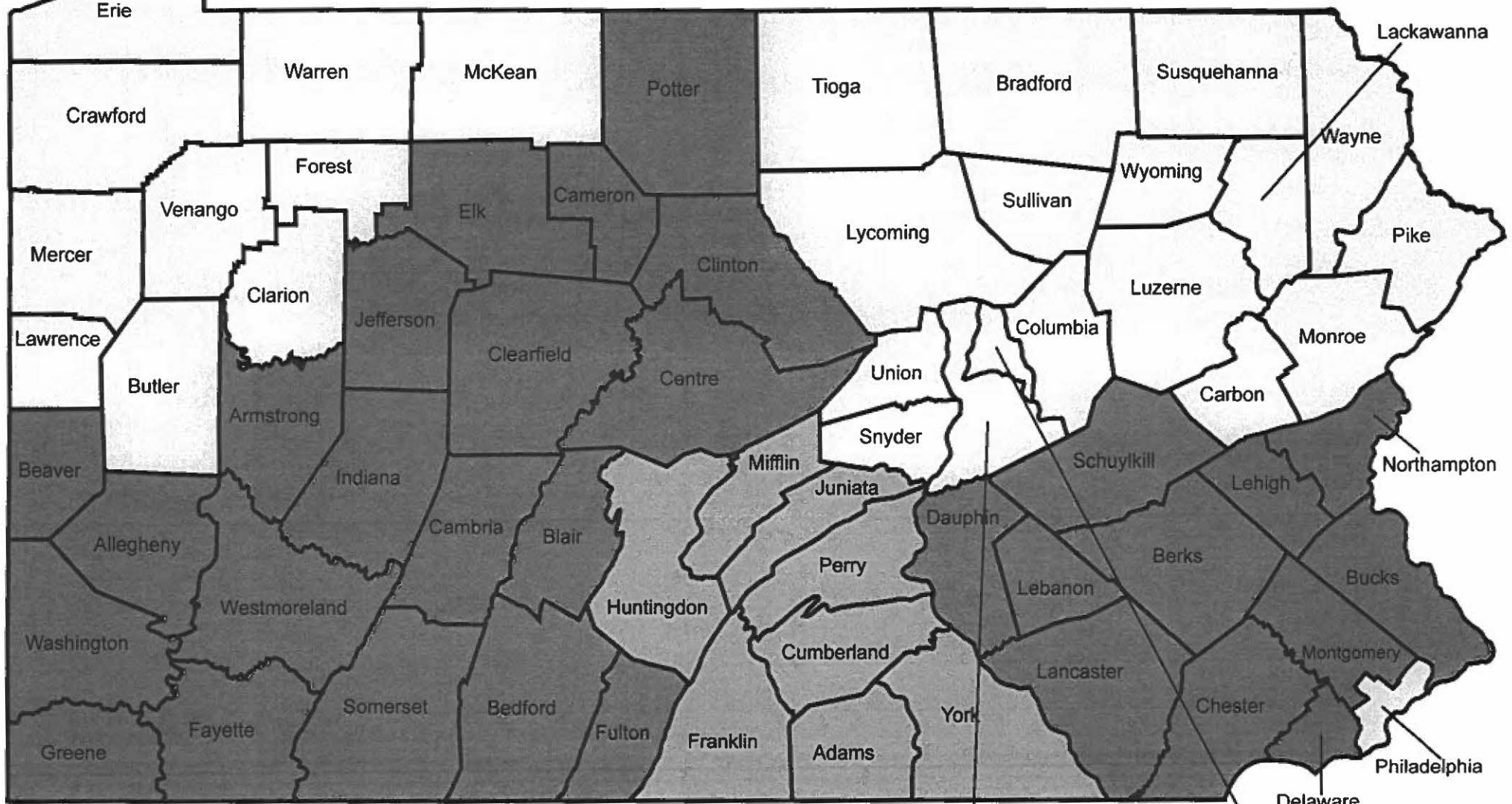
(Title)

(Date)

District and Liaison
Information

Jeff Zimmerman
PA ECYEH Region 7 Coordinator
Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18
368 Tioga Avenue
Kingston, PA 18704
570-718-4613
570-287-5721 (fax)
<http://www.liu18.org/index.php/ecyeh>

Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program Regional Map



Region 1

Philadelphia



Region 2

Berks, Chester, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Schuylkill



Region 3

Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, York



Region 4



Region 5

Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, McKean, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren



Region 6

Armstrong, Blair, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Indiana, Jefferson, Potter



Region 7

Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Wyoming



Region 8

Bucks, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton

Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

2017-18 Regional & Site Coordinators

Region 1

School District of Philadelphia
Al Quarles, Regional Coordinator
(215) 400-6045
(267) 784-9956 cell
abquarles@philasd.org

Region 2

Berks County IU 14
Kristen Hoffa, Regional Coordinator
(610) 987-8509 or (800) 510-2741
krihof@berksiu.org

Melissa DeMotta, Site Coordinator
(484) 955-9920
meldem@berksiu.org

Tabitha Kramer, Program Specialist
(610) 987-8464
tabkra@berksiu.org

Region 3

Lincoln IU 12
Sonia Pitzi, Regional Coordinator
(717) 718-5924
slpitz@iu12.org

Missy Gosnell, Program Liaison
(717) 718-5944
magosnell@iu12.org

Region 4

Allegheny IU 3
Nicole Anderson, Regional Coordinator
(412) 394-5894
(412) 295-5718 cell
nicole.anderson@aiu3.net

Tracey Finn, Community Liaison
(412) 394-1351
(412) 848-5467 cell
tracey.finn@aiu3.net

Region 5

Midwestern IU 4
Wendy Kinnear, Regional Coordinator
(724) 458-6700 ext. 1289
(724) 730-4859 cell
wendy.kinnear@miu4.org

Butler, Lawrence, Mercer Counties
Bryda Drumm, Intermediate Unit Liaison
(724) 458-6700 ext. 1218
bryda.drumm@miu4.org

Erie School District
Crawford, Erie, Warren Counties
Neal Brokman, Site Coordinator
(814) 636-7804
nbrokman@eriesd.org

Northwest Tri-County IU 5
Crawford, Erie, Warren Counties
Jerry Gill, Site Coordinator
(814) 490-1367 cell
jerry_gill@iu5.org

Riverview IU 6
Clarion, Forest, Venango Counties
Mary Miller, Intermediate Unit Liaison
(814) 226-7103
mmiller@riu6.org

Region 6

ARIN IU 28
Andrea Sheesley, Regional Coordinator
(724) 463-5300 ext. 1235
asheesley@iu28.org

Region 7

Luzerne IU 18
Jeff Zimmerman, Regional Coordinator
(570) 718-4613
(570) 301-4990 cell
jzimmerman@liu18.org

Region 8

Bucks County IU 22
Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery Counties
Shane Burroughs, Regional Coordinator
(800) 770-4822 ext. 1360
sburroughs@bucksiu.org

Michelle Connor, Support Coordinator
(800) 770-4822 ext. 1361
mconnor@bucksiu.org

Allentown School District
Lehigh, Northampton Counties
Russell A. Valentini, Site Coordinator
(484) 765-4037
valentinir@allentownsd.org

Statewide Contacts

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Storm Camara, State Coordinator
(717) 772-2066
scamara@pa.gov

Center for Schools and Communities
Lynda Becker, Youth Development Coordinator
(717) 763-1661 ext. 156
lbecker@csc.csiu.org

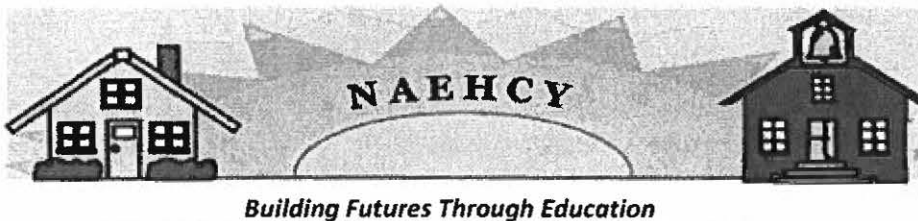
Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

275 Grandview Ave, Suite 200
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 763-1661

For a full listing of school district liaisons, shelters for children and families, and state and regional contacts, visit:

homeless.center-school.org/homelessdirectory





NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE EDUCATION OF
HOMELESS CHILDREN
AND YOUTH

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

FERPA and Homelessness A Technical Assistance Tool for NAEHCY Members

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. 20 USC §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99. Specifically, it prohibits a school from disclosing personally identifiable information from students' education records without the consent of a parent or eligible student, unless an exception to FERPA's general consent rule applies.

Often, questions arise as to FERPA's requirements and how they affect the sharing of educational information about children and youth experiencing homelessness. Common challenges include protecting survivors of domestic violence, appropriate handling of directory information, and how to access the education records of unaccompanied youth. This document seeks to explain FERPA's basic provisions and how schools can protect children and youth who are homeless while appropriately sharing educational information.

Basics

1. How does FERPA define "education records"?

Education records are those records that are: (1) directly related to a student; and (2) maintained by or for an educational agency or institution. 34 CFR §99.3. Therefore, under FERPA all records directly related to a student and maintained by a school are "education records", including records indicating eligibility for services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

However, FERPA specifically exempts certain information from the definition of "education records". Among others, the exemptions include "records that are kept in the sole possession of the maker, are used only as a personal memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to another person except a temporary substitute for the maker" (such as notes made and kept by a teacher or counselor). 34 CFR §99.3.

2. Who can have access to a student's education records and provide consent for disclosures?

The rights to access education records and consent for their disclosure belong to the student's "parent". Those rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. 34 CFR §§99.3, 99.5. FERPA refers to these students as "eligible students."

3. How does FERPA define “parent”?

Parent means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian. 34 CFR §99.3. This definition is discussed further in question 12, below.

4. In general, what does FERPA say about the disclosure of education records?

Under FERPA, a parent or eligible student must provide a signed and dated written consent before a school discloses personally identifiable information from the student’s education records, unless an exception to the consent requirement applies. 34 CFR §99.30.

Exceptions to the Consent Requirement

5. In general, what are the exceptions to the consent requirement?

FERPA includes 16 exceptions to the consent requirement. 34 CFR §99.31. The exceptions most likely to be relevant for McKinney-Vento liaisons and others working with students experiencing homelessness are detailed below.

6. Under what circumstances can a student’s previous school release education records to the student’s new school without consent?

A school district can release education records to officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student’s enrollment or transfer. 34 CFR §99.31(a)(2).

The district must make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent of the disclosure, unless the district’s annual FERPA notification informs parents that school records will be forwarded to enrolling schools. 34 CFR §99.34. Most school districts include this information in their annual FERPA notification as a matter of course.

7. Under what circumstances can education records be released to other school officials without consent?

A school district or school can release education records to other school officials, including teachers, within the district or school whom the district or school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. The district or school must use reasonable methods to ensure that school officials obtain access only to those education records in which they have legitimate educational interests. 34 CFR §99.31(a)(1).

8. Under what circumstances can education records be released to financial aid providers without consent?

Schools can release education records in connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine

A McKinney-Vento liaison can verify an unaccompanied youth’s status as it relates to completing the FAFSA or obtaining other financial aid, without parental consent.

eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, or determine or enforce the terms and condition of the aid. 34 CFR §99.31(a)(4).

9. What is “directory information”?

Directory information is information a school may maintain about a student, but that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Examples of directory information may include: name, address¹, telephone listing, email, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, participation in extracurricular activities, honors and awards, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended. Directory information does not include a student’s social security number or student identification number. 34 CFR §99.3.

10. Can schools disclose directory information without consent?

Yes. Under FERPA, directory information can be disclosed without consent. 34 CFR §99.31(a)(11). However, there are limits to the disclosure. First, the school must have informed parents of what directory information is and that it can be released. Second, the school must give parents the opportunity to opt out of the release of directory information.

34 CFR §99.37. Most schools accomplish both of these notices by publishing the information in the student handbook or providing a FERPA notification along with other school enrollment paperwork.

Parents experiencing homelessness may not read the FERPA notification carefully, may not understand what directory information is, and may not consider the potential harmful effects of its release (see footnote 1). School district McKinney-Vento liaisons may want to discuss this issue with parents as a matter of course and specifically offer them the opportunity to opt out of the release of directory information.

¹ In the case of students experiencing homelessness, the student’s address should not be considered directory information. Unlike most students, the temporary address of homeless children and youth is not generally known, does not appear in public directories, and in fact, is something most families and youth desperately wish to remain private. In the case of homeless students, disclosing the student’s address has produced extremely harmful results:

- Many homeless students are survivors of domestic violence. Disclosing their address to a third party who may pass it on to an abusive adult can result in physical injury.
- Disclosure of address information has resulted in stigmatization of homeless students. For example, an elementary school sent home a directory of all students’ names and addresses, including homeless students. Everyone knew the address of the shelter in town, and the homeless students were ridiculed when their peers realized they were living in the shelter.
- Disclosure of homeless students’ address can put the family’s well-being at risk. If it becomes known in the community that a child is living in a shelter, motel, campground, car or other homeless situation, the family may be subjected to harassment by law enforcement, child welfare or social services due to their homelessness. A parent may be put at risk of losing a job or custody of his or her children.

11. Does the ability to disclose directory information without consent give schools the right to contact landlords, public housing agencies, or law enforcement to share that students may be doubled-up with others in violation of lease terms or occupancy limits²?

No. Information about a student's homelessness is part of the student's education record and cannot be disclosed without consent.³ While a student's address may be considered directory information, in the context of a homeless student, disclosing the student's address would be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy. Therefore, homeless students' addresses do not meet the definition of directory information. 34 CFR §99.3. Children have been forced from temporary housing when schools have disclosed their address to third parties. Families have been harassed and stigmatized by such disclosures. Further, disclosing a family's address to landlords or authorities provides the school with no useful information and has no relation to promoting the children's academic achievement.

Unaccompanied Youth⁴

12. Based on FERPA's definition of "parent", if a youth is separated from his or her parent or guardian and is in the care of another individual who is acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian, can that individual have access to the student's education records and provide consent for disclosures?

Yes. In that situation, the caregiver would meet FERPA's definition of parent and would have the rights afforded to parents under FERPA. U.S. Department of Education, "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Disclosure of Student Information Related to Emergencies and Disasters", June 2010. Many unaccompanied youth have caring adults in their lives who meet this definition. Further, many states and school districts have policies that permit such adult caregivers to enroll unaccompanied youth in school under the McKinney-Vento Act, and the U.S. Department of Education has endorsed this practice.⁵

Can a school district McKinney-Vento liaison qualify as a "parent" under FERPA?

Unlike IDEA, FERPA does not prohibit a school district employee from serving as a parent. Therefore, if a McKinney-Vento liaison is acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian, nothing in the law prevents the liaison from accessing education records and consenting for their disclosure.

² In some cases, having a second family stay in an apartment may violate a lease or public housing regulation. However, the intent behind allowing schools to release directory information was not to make them enforcers of private lease agreements or city ordinances.

³ The Legal Department of the Illinois State Board of Education published a legal opinion explaining this issue on August 10, 2000.

⁴ Unaccompanied youth means a youth who is considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento act and who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. 42 USC §11434a(6). The McKinney-Vento Act removes barriers that might otherwise keep unaccompanied youth out of school. Recognizing the unique needs of unaccompanied youth, the Act requires schools to enroll them without a parent or legal guardian and requires homeless liaisons to assist unaccompanied youth with school enrollment and attendance. 42 USC §§11432(g)(1)(H)(iv), (g)(3)(C), (g)(E)(iv). Liaisons also must identify unaccompanied homeless youth (distinguishing between those who meet the Act's eligibility criteria and those who do not). 42 USC §11432(g)(6)(A)(i).

⁵ See, e.g., CAL. FAM. CODE §6550; National Center for Homeless Education (2007). "Caregiver Authorization Form." *Local Homeless Education Liaison Toolkit, Appendix D*. Greensboro, NC: SERVE Center (available at

13. Based on FERPA's definition of "parent", if a youth is separated from his or her parent or guardian, and is in the care of another individual who is acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian, can that individual enroll the youth in school and speak with teachers and other school staff about the student and the student's education?

Yes. In that situation, the caregiver would meet FERPA's definition of parent and would have the rights afforded to parents under FERPA.

14. If a caregiver enrolls a youth in school pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Act, can that adult qualify as a "parent" under FERPA's definition of "parent"?

Yes. When a caregiver enrolls a student in school under the McKinney-Vento Act and is acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian, that caregiver meets the definition of parent.

15. Can elementary and secondary schools provide FERPA rights to students under age 18?

Yes. Although FERPA does not specifically guarantee the rights of unaccompanied youth under 18, the law permits schools to allow students under age 18 to have access to their education records and provide consent for disclosures, as long as those rights do not supersede the rights of their parents. For example, a school may permit a minor student to inspect and review his or her education records. U.S. Department of Education, "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Disclosure of Student Information Related to Emergencies and Disasters", June 2010; 34 CFR §99.5(b).

Domestic violence

16. Since both parents have the right to access education records, how can we protect students who have a parent who has been violent toward the student or the other parent?

FERPA requires schools to give full rights to either parent, unless there is a court order, State statute, or legally binding document relating to such matters as divorce, separation, or custody that specifically revokes these rights. 34 CFR §99.4. When sharing education information with one of the student's parents may be dangerous, McKinney-Vento liaisons may want to discuss the following options with the parent or youth:

- Collaborate with local domestic violence shelters to develop a shared protocol to ensure the safety of survivors of domestic violence.
- Suggest that parents opt out of the release of directory information.
- Ensure appropriate school officials are aware of the risks so they can exercise care when speaking with the student or other adults.
- Work with legal services to obtain a restraining order against the abusive parent and present that order to the school.
- Do not provide information from education records over the phone, as there is no way to verify the caller's identity or right to access the records. Schools should require the parent to come to the district office to present photo identification and review the records.

http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/toolkit/app_d.pdf. See also, U.S. Department of Education (2004). *Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program Non-Regulatory Guidance, Section G-8*. Washington, DC: Author.

- If the student changes schools, consider routing records to the new school through the state department of education, so an abuser cannot follow the records to find the student.
- Keep in mind that the time frame for complying with a request to review an education record is up to 45 days (34 CFR §99.10(b)), so if a parent is in the process of obtaining a restraining order or fleeing an abuser, the school may allow victims time to seek help and safety prior to releasing the records.

Many states have address confidentiality programs, which allow people to receive mail at a confidential address. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence has a list of such programs at <http://www.ncadv.org/files/AddressConfidentialityProgramsintheUnitedStatesforwebsite.doc>.

For more information about FERPA, please visit:

U.S. Department of Education, FERPA information
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/index.html>

U.S. Department of Education, 2010 Guidance on FERPA and Disclosures Related to Emergencies and Disasters
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/pdf/ferpa-disaster-guidance.pdf>

For more information about the McKinney-Vento Act, homelessness and education, please visit:

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)
<http://www.naehcy.org>

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)
<http://center.serve.org/nche/>

Your NAEHCY Membership at work – Join Us!

**Summary of Major Amendments on Homelessness and Foster Care in
“The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015”**

The “Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015,” (ESSA), includes nearly all of NAEHCY’s recommendations to strengthen and improve the education of over 1.3 million children and youth experiencing homelessness, from early childhood through high school graduation. It incorporates best practices from states and school districts across the country to increase the identification, enrollment, stability, and school success of children and youth experiencing homelessness. ESSA increases resources for homeless students by expanding the availability and use of Title IA funds, and by raising the authorized funding level for the McKinney-Vento Act’s Education for Homeless Children and Youth program.

ESSA also includes nearly all of NAEHCY’s recommendations to provide children and youth in foster care with core protections for school stability and school access through a statutory vehicle that is separate from the McKinney-Vento Act, and that outlines clear, distinct and appropriate responsibilities for both the education and child welfare agencies.

Taken together, these amendments will assist students experiencing homelessness to enroll in and attend school, complete their high school education, and continue on to higher education—their best hope of avoiding poverty and homelessness as adults.

For more information, please contact Barbara Duffield, Director of Policy and Programs, at bduffield@naehcy.org or 202.364.7392, or visit the NAEHCY website at www.naehcy.org.

Unless otherwise noted, the amendments made to Title I, Part A and the McKinney-Vento Act go into effect on July 1, 2016.¹

Title I Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

- State Title I plans must describe how the state educational agency (SEA) will provide support to local educational agencies to ensure the identification, enrollment, attendance, and school stability of homeless children and youth.
- Local Title I plans must describe the services the local educational agency (LEA) will provide to support the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth, including services provided with the Title I homeless reservation, in coordination with the services the LEA provides under the McKinney-Vento Act.
- All LEAs that receive Title I Part A funds must reserve funds to support homeless students.

¹ While the bill currently includes conflicting effective dates for the McKinney-Vento Act, this conflict will be rectified as a technical amendment clarifying the July 1 effective date.

- The amount of Title I funds reserved for homeless children and youth may be determined based on a needs assessment, and must be based on the total allocation received by the LEA and reserved prior to any allowable expenditure of transfers by the LEA.
- Title I funds reserved for homeless children and youth may be used for services not ordinarily provided by Title I, including local liaisons and transportation to the school of origin.
- State report cards must include disaggregated information on the graduation rates and academic achievement of homeless children and youth, and children and youth in foster care.

McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

State Coordinators and Local Liaisons

- States must designate State Coordinators who can sufficiently carry out their duties.
- State Coordinators must:
 - Inform school personnel, service providers and advocates of the contact information and duties of liaisons, including publishing an annually updated list of liaisons on the SEA website.
 - Respond to inquiries from homeless parents and unaccompanied youth, to ensure they receive the full protections and services provided by the law.
 - Post the number of homeless children and youth on the SEA website annually.
 - Develop and implement professional development programs for liaisons and other LEA personnel to improve their identification of homeless children and youth and heighten their awareness of, and capacity to respond to, specific needs in the education of homeless children and youth. Such training must include information on certain specified federal definitions of homelessness.
 - Conduct monitoring of LEAs.
- Local liaisons must:
 - Be able to carry out their duties described in the law.
 - Disseminate public notice of McKinney-Vento rights in locations frequented by parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth, in a manner and form understandable to parents, guardians, and youth.
 - Ensure that school personnel providing McKinney-Vento services receive professional development and other support.
- SEAs and LEAs must adopt policies and practices to ensure that liaisons participate in professional development and other technical assistance activities, as determined appropriate by the State Coordinator.

School Stability

- In determining the school that is in a child or youth's best interest to attend, LEAs must:
 - Make a best interest determination, with a presumption that staying in the school of origin is in the child or youth's best interest, unless it is against the wishes of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth.
 - Consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on the achievement, education, health, and safety

- of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the wishes of the parent or guardian, or the unaccompanied youth.
- Provide a written explanation including the right to appeal the decision, if after conducting the best interest determination, the LEA determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth. The explanation must be in a manner and form understandable to the parent, guardian or youth.
- Give priority to the views of unaccompanied youth in best interest determinations.
- The definition of school of origin includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools, when a student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin. The determination of whether it is in a student's best interest to follow the feeder school pattern is subject to the same process as other best interest determinations.
- When a student obtains permanent housing, transportation to the school of origin must be provided until the end of the academic year, if it is in the student's best interest to remain in that school.

Enrollment and Full Participation

- Homeless children and youth must be enrolled in school immediately, even if they have missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
- SEAs and LEAs must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless students in school, including barriers due to fees, fines, and absences.
- States must have procedures to ensure that homeless children and youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria do not face barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet school, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, online learning, and charter school programs, if such programs are available at the State or local levels.
- If a dispute arises over eligibility, school selection or enrollment, the child or youth must be immediately admitted to the school in which the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth seeks enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals.
- In the case of a dispute, written explanations must be provided of decisions related to school selection or enrollment made by the school, LEA or SEA, including the right to appeal.

Credit Accrual and College Readiness

- States must have procedures to identify and remove barriers that prevent youth from receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school, in accordance with State, local, and school policies.
- Local liaisons must ensure that unaccompanied homeless youth have opportunities to meet the same State academic achievement standards as the State establishes for other children and youth, including by implementing procedures to remove barriers that prevent homeless youth from receiving credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed at a prior school.
- State plans must describe how homeless youth will receive assistance from school counselors to advise, prepare, and improve their readiness for college.

- Local liaisons must ensure that unaccompanied homeless youth informed of their status as independent students for college financial aid and may obtain assistance to receive verification for the FAFSA.

Preschool Children

- State plans must include procedures that ensure that homeless children have access to public preschool programs, administered by the SEA or LEA, as provided to other children.
- Liaisons must ensure homeless families and children can access early intervention services under IDEA Part C, if eligible.
- The definition of school of origin includes preschools.

Identification of Homeless Children and Youth

- Identification of homeless children and youth is added to:
 - The activities and services for which state grants must be used.
 - The professional development activities for liaisons and other school personnel that States must provide.
 - The list of barriers that SEAs and LEAs must regularly review and revise.
 - The purpose of coordination among liaisons and community and housing agencies.
 - The purpose of LEA subgrants.

Homeless Children and Youth with Disabilities

- LEAs must coordinate McKinney-Vento and special education services within the LEA, and with other involved LEAs.

Privacy

- Schools must treat information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation as a student education record, subject to all the protections of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Access to HUD Homeless Assistance

- Local liaisons are authorized to affirm whether children and youth meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness, to qualify them for HUD homeless assistance programs.
- Liaisons must refer homeless families and students to housing services, in addition to other services.

McKinney-Vento Subgrants

- In addition to existing quality criteria, subgrant applications will be judged on the extent to which the LEA uses the subgrant to leverage resources, including maximizing nonsubgrant funds for the position of the liaison and the provision of transportation, and how the LEA uses Title IA set-aside funds to serve homeless children and youth.
- McKinney-Vento subgrant funds may be used to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youth who are not enrolled in school.

- McKinney-Vento subgrant funds may be used for extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

U.S. Department of Education

- The Secretary must:
 - Disseminate public notice about the educational rights of homeless children and youth nationwide to all Federal agencies and grant recipients serving homeless families, children or youth.
 - Provide support and technical assistance to SEAs concerning areas in which documented barriers to a free appropriate public education persist.
 - Issue guidelines concerning how a State may assist LEAs to implement the amendments and may revise state policies and procedures to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school.

Funding Level

- The bill authorizes \$85 million for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020. This represents a 21% increase over the previously authorized level of \$70 million, and a 31% increase over the currently appropriated level of \$65 million.

Definitions

- On December 10, 2016,² the phrase “awaiting foster care placement” will be deleted from the definition of homelessness in the McKinney-Vento Act.

Summary of Amendments on Foster Care in Title I Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

State Title I Plans must describe the steps the SEA will take to ensure collaboration with the State child welfare agency to ensure the educational stability of children or youth in foster care, including assurances that:

- Foster youth are enrolled or remain in their school of origin, unless a determination is made that it is not in their best interest.
- The determination will be based on best interest factors, including consideration of the appropriateness of the current educational setting, and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.
- When a determination is made that it is not in the child’s best interest to remain in the school of origin, the child will be immediately enrolled in a new school.
- The SEA will designate a point of contact for child welfare agencies, who will oversee implementation of the SEA responsibilities.
- The SEA point of contact may not be the same person as the State Coordinator for homeless children and youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

² In Delaware and Nevada only, children “awaiting foster care placement” will be deleted from the McKinney-Vento Act on December 10, 2017 (two years after enactment, instead of one year).

Local Title I plans must contain an assurance that LEAs receiving Title I funds will:

- Collaborate with the state or local child welfare agency to:
 - Within one year of enactment, develop and implement procedures for how transportation to maintain foster youth in their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged and funded. These procedures must:
 - Ensure that foster youth who need transportation to the school of origin promptly receive it in a cost-effective manner, and in accordance with the child welfare agency's authority to use child welfare funding available under section 475(4)(A) of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide transportation.
 - Ensure that if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, LEAs will provide it if:
 - They are reimbursed by the child welfare agency;
 - The LEA agrees to pay the costs; or
 - The LEA and the child welfare agency agree to share the costs.
 - Designate a point of contact for the local child welfare agency, if the local child welfare agency notifies the LEA, in writing, that it has designated a point of contact for the LEA.

Charter Schools and Other Programs in Title IV (21st Century Schools)

- States receiving charter school grants under Title IV Part C of the Every Student Succeeds Act must work with charter schools on recruitment and enrollment practices to promote inclusion of all students, including by eliminating any barriers to enrollment for foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth.
- Unaccompanied homeless youth age 14 and older are exempted from the parental consent requirement to receive mental health assessments and services, if the provider has actively sought consent but cannot reasonably obtain it, under Title IV programs, including Safe and Healthy Students, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, charter schools, and magnet schools.

Homeless Shelter Information

Peaceful Knights

Lehighton, PA 18235

7.67 miles from city center Jim Thorpe

610-340-4786

We currently assist qualified single adult homeless individuals with shelter, food, clothing and referral services. Clients must work or look for work 30 hrs per week and volunteer 10 hrs per week until they become employed. We are a Christian organization and weekly church attendance is mandatory.

CARBON Carbon County Area on Aging

Palmerton, PA 18071

8.25 miles from city center Jim Thorpe

(610)824-7830

This is not a homeless shelter, This is an area homeless resource. If you are in the area of CARBON Carbon County Area on Aging, call them for help regarding their Homeless Assistance Programs.

The Beall and Linny Fowler Hospitality House For Women And Children

Allentown, PA 18102

22.94 miles from city center Jim Thorpe

610-432-0128

Emergency homeless shelter for women and children. Also provides transitional housing for women and children. Services provided by the Salvation Army.

Full Information:

Provides shelter on an emergency basis to women and women with children. The HHESP, a 24-hour secure facility,

Sixth Street Family Shelter

Allentown, PA 18102

23.11 miles from city center Jim Thorpe

610-435-1490

Shelter (non-emergency) for homeless families. Transitional Housing Program up to 2 years for families pursuing educational/vocational goals: Turner Street Apartments.

Transitional shelter (non-emergency) for homeless women and children. Transitional shelter (non-emergency) for homeless adults. Supportive housing program for men (Single Room Occupancy),