

Stuart Public Schools
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DUTIES OF THE LOCAL HOMELESS/UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH LIAISON

The McKinney-Vento Act includes a “job description” for the local liaison in the form of a list of duties. According to the Act [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)], local liaisons must ensure that

- (i) children and youth experiencing homelessness are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- (ii) children and youth experiencing homelessness are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools within the district;
- (iii) children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Early Head Start and Head Start programs, early intervention services under Part C of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, and other preschool programs administered by the school district;
- (iv) children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness receive referrals to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing, and other appropriate services;
- (v) the parents or guardians of students experiencing homelessness are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
- (vi) public notice of the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness is disseminated in locations frequented by families and youth experiencing homelessness, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth;
- (vii) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the provisions of the Act;
- (viii) parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness are fully informed of all transportation services available to McKinneyVento students,

including transportation to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation;

(ix) school personnel providing services to students experiencing homelessness receive professional development and other support; and

(x) unaccompanied youth

(A) are enrolled in school;

(B) have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youth; and

(C) are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 1087vv), and receive assistance verifying this status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The McKinney-Vento Act also states the following regarding the role of the local liaison:

- !1) State Coordinators for Homeless Education (hereafter State Coordinators) and school districts must inform school personnel, service providers, advocates working with families experiencing homelessness, parents and guardians of students experiencing homelessness, and students experiencing homelessness of the duties of the local liaison, and publish an annually updated list of local liaisons on the State education department's website [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(B)].
- (2) Local liaisons must coordinate and collaborate with State Coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to students experiencing homelessness. This coordination must include collecting and providing the State Coordinator with reliable, valid, and comprehensive data on students experiencing homelessness per the requirements of the Act [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(C)].
- (3) Local liaisons who receive training on the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definitions of homeless may affirm, without further agency action by HUD, that a child or youth receiving McKinney-Vento services in their school district, or the immediate family of such a child or youth, who meets the HUD definition of homeless is eligible for services through HUD's Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants Programs [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(D)].