

TO: McKinney-Vento District Liaisons
FROM: Paula Gumina, State Coordinator, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program
DATE: August 17, 2022

As a new school year begins, schools and districts have the opportunity to connect with parents, families and students in ways that we haven't had the opportunity to do in the past couple of years. Connecting with students and families who are experiencing homelessness is more vital now than ever. With a 30% drop in identified McKinney-Vento eligible students from the 2019-2020 school-year to the 2020-21 school year across Colorado, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is committed to supporting McKinney-Vento Liaisons in training, technical assistance and strategies for leveraging partnerships to identify and enroll students experiencing homelessness.

The following email outlines important resources for McKinney-Vento Liaisons to review. If you are a new to the role of McKinney-Vento Liaison, please contact the Office of Student Support Program Assistant, Susanna Spear (spear_s@cde.state.co.us) with your name, phone number and email address, and consider [registering for the New Liaison Webinar](#) on September 15th from 2:30 -4pm.

The CDE website provides additional information and links regarding Colorado's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education programs, https://www.cde.state.co.us/studentsupport/homeless_index, as well as statewide contact information for each district's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison, https://www.cde.state.co.us/studentsupport/homeless_liaisons. Please browse the website at your convenience to access all of the great resources we have available.

Liaison and Back-to-School Information

Linked below are several documents that may prove helpful during back-to-school time. These documents include:

- A federal brief on the [role of the liaison](#);
- A ["Determining Eligibility"](#) document that is highly recommended. It provides insights on how to assess McKinney eligibility;
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) of McKinney-Vento;
- [Common signs of homelessness flyer](#);
- [Tips for Teachers & Staff: How to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- August 11, 2022 Back-to-School Webinar [Recording](#) and [Slides](#)

US Department of Education's Year End Data Submission for School Year 2021-22

At the end of September, a personalized URL link to an online data submission instrument will be sent via email to each homeless liaison. This is a mandatory report required by the U.S.



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Department of Education. Please contact me if you do not receive your link by September 30, 2022. The due date for this report will be Friday, November 10, 2022.

Additional Resources for Your School District

- LEA Homeless Liaison Toolkit: this document is an excellent resource for all district homeless liaisons. Download a copy at: <https://nche.ed.gov/homeless-liaison-toolkit/>

- Educational Rights for Homeless Children and Youth Posters: available in both English and Spanish, these posters can help LEAs comply with federal posting requirements. Posters can be downloaded to print or ordered online at <https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/>
 - Of note, by federal law a responsibility of all local educational agency liaisons is to assure that “public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated where such children and youths receive services under this Act, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;” Section 722(g)(6)(A)(v)

- The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Annual Conference is October 29 – November 1, 2022 in San Diego, CA. Please look for more information at, <https://web.cvent.com/event/c7e36ba2-78cf-449c-8bc7-7f3b89fd83c3/summary>

As always, thank you for your passion and commitment in helping our most vulnerable students access educational opportunities and reach academic success.

Best,

Paula

