



## The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The education provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act were designed to protect the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness. If your current address is a temporary living arrangement and it is due to loss of housing or economic hardship, you may meet the definition of displaced or homeless status. Please contact the registrar at your child's school to fill out a ***Student Residency Questionnaire*** or contact the school's homeless liaison.

### The Act's Key Provisions

The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) specifies and protects the rights of children and youth in homeless situations. Highlights include:

- ***Immediate Enrollment*** - The right to be enrolled immediately in school without medical or academic records, regardless of district policy.
- ***Choice of Schools*** - A student who is displaced or experiencing homelessness has two choices in deciding which school to attend:
  - The school of origin (the school the student attended when he/she became homeless).
  - ***or*** -----
  - The school in the zone where the student is currently residing.
- ***Transportation*** - Students who are displaced or in homeless situations are entitled to transportation to and from the school of origin, if it is feasible, in the student's best interest, and requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.
- ***Services*** - Students experiencing homelessness are entitled to the same programs and services that are available to other children in the District such as gifted and talented education, special education, vocational education, English Language Learner services, and tutoring. They are also automatically eligible for Title I services and TEXSHEP services. Districts must set aside funds as necessary to provide services.
- ***Dispute Resolution*** - If problems arise between the school and parents or between districts, the parent shall be referred to the school's homeless liaison. In the meantime, the student must be immediately enrolled or if enrolled, remain in school and receive transportation pending the outcome of the dispute resolution process.

San Elizario Independent School District is committed to identifying and serving all displaced students or those experiencing homelessness. SEISD may also offer additional assistance to students and their families experiencing homelessness. For further information contact the District Homeless Liaison ***Ruben Cervantes, Assistant Superintendent*** at 872-3900.



## San Elizario Independent School District McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

### Transportation Process

Students experiencing homelessness have the right to receive transportation to and from their school of origin. If the student's school of origin and temporary residence are in the same school district, this transportation is to be provided or arranged by the school district of origin. If the student is residing in one district and attending the school of origin in another, this transportation is to be provided or arranged as a joint effort between school districts.

#### Steps in the Transportation Process

- STEP 1.** Identification of homeless student in need of Transportation
- STEP 2.** The student is referred to the District Social Worker by submitting a copy of the *Student Residency Questionnaire*. If the SRQ has not been completed the District Social Worker will initiate the form.
- STEP 3.** Once the SRQ is initiated the District Social Worker will coordinate with Administration, Ruben Cervantes - Assistant Superintendent and SEISD Transportation Department.
- STEP 4.** SEISD Transportation Department will make arrangements with the student's temporary residence in that school district.
- STEP 5.** SEISD Transportation Department will contact and inform the District Social Worker about the arrangements of the transportation services for the student.
- STEP 6.** Once transportation services have been put into place the District Social Worker will contact the campus homeless liaison and the register clerk.



## Medical and Dental Process

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, students experiencing homelessness are eligible to receive services so they can enroll, attend, and succeed in school. This includes, but not limited to medical and dental services.

### Steps in the Medical and Dental Process

- STEP 1** The District Social Worker will provide a list to the **campus nurse** of the **“Homeless/Unaccompanied Youth”** after the **Snapshot Date** (last Friday in October) to screen and evaluate each student for vision and dental. The nurse will use the District approved **“Medical Referral”** form under the Federal and Special Programs, **Beatriz Apodaca**. The nurse will indicate on the referral whether or not the student wears glasses, and if the referral is a priority.
- STEP 2** The **nurse** will submit all **medical referrals** to the District Social Worker. The District Social Worker will review and prioritize referrals according to the student’s needs. **Referrals** of students who **passed** the screening tests will be archived in the **Families In Transition** binder, and a copy will be sent to the nurse to place in the student’s health record.
- STEP 3** The District Social Worker will contact the parent and/or guardian to coordinate medical services with the districts approved health care providers. If the student is enrolled in a health plan such as Medicaid, CHIP or another health insurance; the referral will be **returned** to the **nurse**, and a copy will be archived in the **Families in Transition** binder. The nurse will then initiate the referral and follow through with the parent and/or guardian.
- STEP 4** The District Social Worker will initiate the referral of students not enrolled in a health plan. Parents will be contacted and scheduled to come by the office to pick-up the referral. A copy of the referral will be on file with the District Social Worker. Parents will be encouraged to contact the campus nurse if they have any questions about the referral.
- STEP 5** The District Social Worker will follow-up to determine if the parent and/or legal guardian obtained medical services for the student. Information will be logged to verify services. A copy will be sent to the nurse to be filed in the student’s health record, and a copy will be placed behind the *Student’s Residency Questionnaire* in the **Families In Transition** binder.