Sec. 1. DEFINITIONS

"Homeless" – This term has the meaning assigned to the term "homeless children and youths" under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11434a.

"Substitute Care" – This term means the placement of a child who is in the conservatorship of the Department of Family Protective Services ("DFPS") in care outside the child's home. The term includes foster care, institutional care, pre-adoptive homes, placement with a relative of the child, or commitment to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department under Texas Family Code § 263.001(a)(4).

Sec. 2. LIAISON FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS

As a condition of receiving funds under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ("McKinney-Vento"), Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. (AAL) has designated the following staff person(s) as a McKinney-Vento Liaison, who is responsible to ensure that homeless children and youth are identified and enrolled, with a full and equal opportunity to succeed in schools:

Name: Maira Henriquez
Position: District PEIMS/Database Administrator
Address: 6711 Bellfort Ave., Houston, TX 77087
Telephone: 713-668-8237

Name: Jeri Brown
Position: Student Support Specialist
Address: 6711 Bellfort Ave., Houston, TX 77087
Telephone: 713-668-8237

a) *Notice*

AAL shall provide notice of the McKinney-Vento Liaison's duties to school personnel, service providers, advocates working with homeless families, parents and guardians of homeless children and youth, and homeless children and youth.

AAL shall also notify the Texas Education Agency of each designated McKinney-Vento Liaison.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(B).

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b) ***Duties of McKinney-Vento Liaison***

Each McKinney-Vento Liaison shall ensure that:

1. Homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies;

2. Homeless children and youths are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, AAL;

3. 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 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and other preschool programs administered by AAL, to the extent such programs are offered by AAL;

4. Homeless families and homeless children and youths receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services;

5. The parents or guardians of homeless children and youths 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;

6. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or 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 of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths;

7. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act;

8. The parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services available under the McKinney-Vento Act, including transportation to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school of enrollment;

9. School personnel providing services under the McKinney-Vento Act receive professional development and other support; and

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10. Unaccompanied youths—

    a. Are enrolled in school;
    b. Have opportunities to meet the same challenging state academic standards as the state establishes for other children and youth; and
    c. Are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the local educational agency liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A).

The McKinney-Vento Liaison may affirm, without further action by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, that a child who is eligible for and participating in a program, or the immediate family of such a child, who meets the eligibility requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act for an authorized program or service under Title IV of the Act, is eligible for such program or service. *42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(D)*.

Sec. 3. LIAISON FOR CHILDREN IN STATE CONSERVATORSHIP

The Superintendent shall designate at least one employee to act as a liaison officer to facilitate the enrollment in or transfer to a public school of a child in AAL who is in the conservatorship of the state and submit the liaison's name and contact information to the Texas Education Agency in a format and under the schedule determined by the Commissioner of Education. *Tex. Educ. Code § 33.904*.

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