

The 2009 Annual McKinney-Vento Workshops

About the Workshops in New York City

Each workshop lasts one hour, except for “Introduction to the McKinney-Vento Act,” which lasts two hours. Some workshops will be repeated and therefore have multiple sessions listed.

Introduction to the McKinney-Vento Act

Presenter: Michelle Frank, NYS-TEACHS

Sessions 1 and 2 (this workshop is 2 hours long and will not be repeated)

This workshop will offer an overview of the McKinney-Vento Act, with a particular emphasis on the responsibilities of school districts and district liaisons. We will discuss the legal protections available for students in temporary housing, and successful strategies to meet students’ needs. This workshop is designed for professionals and liaisons who are new to the field as well as seasoned staff who need a basic refresher about the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act and NYS Education Law § 3209. Topics will include:

- 1) Who is protected by the McKinney-Vento Act
- 2) Identification strategies
- 3) Students’ school selection choices
- 4) Enrollment rights
- 5) Transportation strategies
- 6) The dispute resolution process
- 7) The role of the Liaison

McKinney-Vento: Questions and Answers for the Experienced

Presenters: Patricia McGuirk, NYS Education Department

Jennifer Pringle, NYS-TEACHS

Sessions 1, 2, and 4

This workshop is intended for those with a solid grasp of the McKinney-Vento Act who would like to discuss difficult or ambiguous scenarios. The workshop will be in Q&A format, so come prepared with your questions.. Topics may include:

- 1) Eligibility of students living doubled up
- 2) Enrollment and problems related to documentation
- 3) Identification strategies (including the new enrollment form)
- 4) Unaccompanied homeless youth
- 5) Transportation – timeliness, appropriate arrangements
- 6) Potentially competing mandates faced by liaisons
- 7) Dispute resolution process

Engaging the Hard to Engage: A Program that Works for Students in Temporary Housing

Presenters: Wayne Harris, NYC Department of Education
Jean Regnier, NYC Department of Education
Aruna Sukhu
McKinney Williams
Nakia Wright
Naya Wright
James Curtis
Luvecia Reneau
Rosemarie Osadebe
Starasia Ringer
Zane Smith

Sessions 1 and 3

In this workshop, students who have direct experience with temporary housing will share their stories and offer thoughts about the benefits of membership in a Students in Temporary Housing (STH) Youth Organization. The students will discuss their prior perceptions of group memberships, will describe the mission, goals and activities of their organization, and will talk about the group's impact on their educational and social development. With participant input, panelists will analyze the advantages of developing support groups with other homeless youth and will have a frank discussion about the characteristics of staff that promote participation. There will also be an opportunity for Q&A with the students.

This workshop will benefit new and experienced liaisons, after-school and weekend STH Activity Coordinators, school-based staff and social service providers.

Head Start Reauthorization: Improving Access to Head Start for Young Children in Temporary Housing

Presenters: Barbara Duffield, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
Carolyn Jarvis, Head Start of New York State Training and Technical Assistance Office

Sessions 2 and 3

The reauthorized Head Start Act contains many new provisions that protect young children in temporary housing. McKinney-Vento also protects pre-school aged children and requires liaisons to ensure that families and children have access to Head Start, Even Start, Pre-K, and other preschool programs sponsored by the LEA. However, many Head Start program staff may be unfamiliar with the implications of these provisions, including the definition of homelessness,

strategies to identify and serve homeless children and their families, and existing networks of collaborative partners. The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth has a long history of working with school district homeless liaisons, state homeless education coordinators, community service providers, parents and youth in temporary housing, and NYC Head Start programs have begun implementing these important changes. In this workshop, we will offer an overview of the changes in the law, as well as useful information and strategies to help Head Start providers and liaisons connect young children with crucial programs.. Head Start Reauthorization gives liaisons and Head Start Agencies a great opportunity to build collaborative networks, to better coordinate programs and implement family outreach and support strategies.

This workshop will examine the new requirements that Head Start organizations face, and will explore strategies and opportunities for collaboration. The workshop is geared toward Head Start staff, new and experienced liaisons, and social service providers from community based organizations.

The Southern Westchester BOCES Homeless Student Program – Building Effective Partnerships

Presenters: Jeanne Kennedy, Southern Westchester BOCES
Maria McGinty, Southern Westchester BOCES
Ann Rouchaud, Southern Westchester BOCES

Sessions 3 and 4

This workshop will highlight the benefits of inter-organizational partnerships. Participants will have a chance to see how collaborations serve students in temporary housing by taking a closer look at the partnership between the Southern Westchester BOCES Homeless Student Program, local school districts, community service organizations and local Departments of Social Services. With its McKinney-Vento subgrant award, SWBOCES built a successful partnership with 5 school districts and has co-authored grants with community based organizations to:

- (a) expand after-school literacy programs in three sites,
- (b) provide after-school math, science and reading programs at 15 licensed and registered Day Care sites, serving 600 school aged children,
- (c) maintain a computer tracking system to track student attendance and performance in cooperation with the Westchester County DSS, and
- (d) fund a part-time social worker, educational consultant and clerical support for the Homeless Student Program.

The workshop will examine the structure of these programs and discuss how financial resources for students in temporary housing can be identified and grown through successful collaborations.

You Think You Know? An Inside Look at Domestic Violence and Vulnerable Youth

Presenter: Robyn Causey, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

Session 3

Why do so many of our young people runaway from home? Is home that bad for some of our youth? The world of domestic violence affects so many of us. This workshop will discuss how prevalent abuse is in our society. It will look at the most subtle signs of abuse in its most secretive forms. Why do people abuse others? Do abusers have a conscience?

Participants will leave this workshop with an understanding of the issue and motivation to make a change. Hard core issues that are difficult to address or ask about will be discussed in this workshop. Participants will feel more comfortable dealing with issues related to why youth runaway from home.

Serving the Youngest Homeless with the Parent-Child Home Program

Presenters: Sarah Benjamin, Eastern Suffolk BOCES
Andre Eaton, The Parent-Child Home Program

Session 4

Most homeless families have little or no access to any preschool education for their children age 0-5. Research shows the early years are crucial for later school success. The Parent-Child Home Program is a nationally recognized and research-based early literacy and parent support home visiting program that has been successful in addressing this need. In this workshop, enthusiasm, passion and extensive supportive materials will be presented for those interested in this model.

The Parent-Child Home Program brings new books and toys to families each week, for two to three years, wherever they are residing at the time. The program mentors the parent(s) to increase verbal communication through reading, conversation and play with their child, building the literacy and language skills that are the hallmark of preparation for school readiness. For seven years, Eastern Suffolk BOCES has used this program model in its Mobile Outreach Parent-Child Home Program, which targets homeless families in Long Island, New York. It has brought positive results educationally, social-emotionally and relationally to hundreds of homeless children and their families.

This workshop is for all who are interested in Early Education and reaching homeless children. Participants will walk away with a clear understanding of how to replicate this program model. Practical theory for why, demonstrations of how, and inspiration for the urgency of now will be key components and outcomes.

New York's Older Homeless Students: Who Are They?

Presenters: Carol Ascher, Annenberg Institute for School Reform
Carolyn Jarvis, Head Start of New York State Training and
Technical Assistance Office

Session 4

The goals of this workshop are to uncover facts about older homeless students and their needs, and to educate homeless liaisons and social service providers about what is being done (and might be done) to better assist this group of students. As a starting point, the workshop will present findings from the New York 2006-2007 National Homeless Education (NCHE) Survey. Participants will gain a state-wide perspective on the different types of students who experienced homelessness in 2006-07, where they are concentrated across the state and the services provided to them in different types of school districts.

Since our analyses showed larger than expected numbers of ninth and tenth grade students, students who were unsheltered and unaccompanied youth, the workshop will include a discussion focused on 1) high school students experiencing homelessness; 2) what has caused their increase; and 3) how their needs might be better met.

This workshop will be of interest to experienced homeless liaisons, other school district representatives and social service providers.

NYC Department of Education Track: Introduction to McKinney-Vento for School-Based Liaisons

Presenters: Susana Vilardell, NYC Department of Education

All Sessions

The NYC Department of Education's Students in Temporary Housing Program will lead four sessions for NYC DOE school-based staff working with students living in temporary housing. These sessions will provide a basic overview of the educational rights of students who are homeless in the New York City school system. Each workshop will provide detailed information about student rights and city protocols for school-based staff who are designated to work with students in temporary housing as part of the NYC DOE's School and Youth Development Consolidated Plan.