

McKinney-Vento Workshop

New York City

October 26, 2009

Please note, each breakout session will last one hour, except for “Introduction to the McKinney-Vento Act,” which lasts two hours. Some sessions will be repeated. The NYC-DOE Track will focus on issues of special relevance within NYC. All other sessions are designed for NYC and Statewide audiences.

NYC Department of Education Track – FOR NYC-DOE STAFF

Eligibility & Enrollment (NYC Department of Education Track)

Presenter: Susana Vilardell, Senior Program Manager, Students in Temporary Housing, NYC DOE

Session 1

The McKinney-Vento Act protects a broad group of students in temporary housing, and determining eligibility for services is a crucial first step. Immediate enrollment of students in temporary housing is the foundation of the Students in Temporary Housing (STH) Program. This workshop will provide strategies to make identification and enrollment go smoothly, including: distribution and submission of the Residency Questionnaire, identification of doubled-up and unaccompanied students, discussing eligibility with students and parents in a sensitive way, and entering and revising housing status in ATS.

Transportation Services (NYC Department of Education Track)

Presenter: Robert Carney, Director of General Education Transportation, Office of Pupil Transportation, NYC DOE

Session 2

Students in temporary housing have important transportation rights, and the NYC DOE Office of Pupil Transportation provides transportation services to temporarily housed NYC Public School students via provision of MetroCards or yellow bus services. This session will provide an overview of eligibility for bus service and for MetroCards, and will discuss available resources, protocols and procedures for setting up transportation promptly. We will share important contact information for those helping students with transportation and will review how to locate and submit transportation forms.

Title I, Part A Set-Aside for Students in Temporary Housing (NYC Department of Education Track)

Presenter: Susana Vilardell, Senior Program Manager, Students in Temporary Housing, NYC DOE

Session 3

Students in Temporary Housing (STH) face unique circumstances and barriers that can influence their success in school. Therefore, funding is set aside to help students overcome these potential barriers. Participants will learn appropriate strategies to identify the specific needs of the STH population, ideas to address students’ needs, and ways Title I, Part A resources can be used to promote effective program services. In addition, participants will learn how to complete

Appendix 9 of the School Comprehensive Educational Plan and will have access to many other helpful resources.

McKinney-Vento for NYC DOE Network Leaders

Presenters: Lois Herrera, Director of Student Support Services, Office of School & Youth Development, NYC DOE, and
Susana Vilardell, Senior Program Manager, Students in
Temporary Housing, NYC DOE

Session 4

This special session for NYC DOE Network Leaders will provide an overview of the Students in Temporary Housing (STH) program and compliance responsibilities. Topics will include: identification of STH students, Appendix 9 CEP planning, and the STH section of the Youth Development Consolidated Plan. The focus of the session will be to provide information that will enable Network Leaders to provide support to their schools relating to mandates involved in helping Students in Temporary Housing succeed in school.

General Track – FOR ALL AUDIENCES

Introduction to the McKinney-Vento Act

Presenter: Michelle Frank, NYS-TEACHS

Sessions 1 & 2

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 and Fostering Connections: Overview and New Developments for Superintendents and School Attorneys

Presenters: Kathleen DeCataldo, Esq., Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice
for Children
Jennifer Pringle, Esq., NYS-TEACHS

Session is pending CLE approval.

Session 1

This session will offer an overview of the key education stability provisions for students who are homeless and those who are in foster care. It will touch on who is covered as homeless under

McKinney-Vento, including a discussion of which students sharing the housing of others are protected, and a review of the definition of unaccompanied youth. It will discuss entitlements for eligible students and the dispute resolution process. The session will also review the education provisions of the recently enacted “Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act,” which requires that local districts of social services coordinate with school districts to ensure continued enrollment in the same school, where appropriate, for children and youth in foster care.

Title I and McKinney-Vento: Maximizing Resources to Serve Vulnerable Students

Presenters: Melanie Faby, State Education Department
George Hagans, White Plains City School District

Sessions 1 & 4

Coordination between McKinney-Vento and Title I is key to the successful delivery of services to students who are homeless. This session will explore strategies that districts can use to coordinate these services, review the mandatory Title I set-aside for homeless students, examine methods for determining the set-aside, and provide examples of programs for homeless students funded with Title I.

Transportation: How, When, and Who’s Responsible?

Presenters: Frank Assaf, NYS-TEACHS
Jan Ward, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Session 2

Transportation is one of the most significant challenges to students’ full participation in school when experiencing homelessness. This workshop provides detailed information about transportation obligations, including an overview of who is fiscally responsible for a student’s transportation in a variety of situations. Join us to learn more about transportation for students in temporary housing, including strategies to help school districts and social service districts meet their transportation obligations, and a discussion of the funding streams available to help districts pay for their transportation costs.

Identifying and Serving Unaccompanied Youth: Rights and Responsibilities of Students and Schools

Presenter: Omshanti Parnes, Esq., Empire State Coalition

Sessions 2 & 3

Though unaccompanied homeless youth have important legal protections, many service providers can attest to the challenges involved in identifying and serving this population. This workshop will provide an up-to-date overview of the rights and duties of youth and adults, as well as a forum to discuss some of the most frequently asked youth-law questions. We will discuss common school district concerns regarding the rights of minors, including:

- Due process rights of unaccompanied youth;
- When minors can petition and/or give consent independently of their legal guardians;
- How to handle permission slips, excused absences, and medical care for unaccompanied homeless students; and
- What to do to address school concerns about liability, child welfare, parental authority and privacy.

Discussion with Youth who have Experienced Homelessness

Moderated by: Robyn Causey, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

Sessions 3 & 4

In this session, participants will hear from youth who have been homeless and learn about their struggles to succeed in school. This will be an informal discussion where participants will be able to ask questions about the services and strategies that helped the youth overcome the barriers they have faced.

Improving Access to Head Start for Young Children in Temporary Housing

Presenter: Aurelia Tantao-Thompson, STG International - Region II Head Start
Sessions 3 & 4

The Head Start Act contains many provisions that protect young children in temporary housing. However, many Head Start program staff may be unfamiliar with these provisions, including the definition of homelessness, strategies to identify and serve homeless children and their families, and existing networks of collaborative partners. This workshop will offer an overview of the Head Start provisions dealing with homeless children and strategies to help Head Start providers and liaisons connect young children with crucial programs.

McKinney-Vento and Domestic Violence: Planning for Safety and Educational Stability

Presenters: Natalie Thomas, Sanctuary for Families
Andrea Yeriazarian, Sanctuary for Families

Sessions 3 & 4

In this session, we will discuss domestic violence and the challenges that can result for children and youth who witness it. We will examine the impact of domestic violence on child well-being and education, discuss the dynamics of violence, and review the rights of students whose loss of housing has been compounded by the experience of violence in their homes. We will share several case studies that required a careful balance between the competing goals of educational stability and safety planning, and we will discuss resources that are available when barriers arise regarding transportation and access to school.