

McKinney-Vento Workshop

About the Workshop in Albany

Each breakout session lasts one hour, except for “Introduction to the McKinney-Vento Act,” which lasts two hours. Some sessions will be repeated.

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: Overview and New Developments for Superintendents and School Attorneys

Presenters: Karen A. Halaco, Esq., Girvin & Ferlazzo, P.C.

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. 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.

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

Presenters: Melanie Faby, State Education Department

Ann Marie Di Bella, Kingston City School District

Sessions 2 & 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

Sessions 3 & 4

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.

The Rural Homeless: Special Needs and Solutions

Presenter: Gregory Hardy, Cuba-Rushford Central School

Sessions 2 & 3

This workshop will explore a lesser-known aspect of McKinney-Vento: the special needs of rural homeless students and families. The workshop will provide a brief review of the research about student mobility in rural New York as well as some of the problems confronting small, rural districts. Participants will discuss and exchange tips that small districts can use to efficiently and effectively serve their McKinney-Vento students. Participants are encouraged to bring questions and comments about services for rural homeless families in their districts. This workshop is appropriate for new or experienced liaisons, social service providers, and for community-based organizations who serve rural families.

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

Presenter: Omshanti Parnes, Esq., Empire State Coalition

Sessions 1 & 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.

The Real Story: Discussion with Youth Who Have Experienced Homelessness

Moderated by: Duane Vaughn, W.A.I.T. House

Sessions 1 & 2

In this session, participants will hear from youth who have been homeless and will 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 youth to overcome the barriers they have faced.

Improving Access to Head Start for Young Children in Temporary Housing

Presenter: Bernadette L. Skotarczak , 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 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. In this workshop, 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 will be offered.

McKinney-Vento Questions and Answers for the Experienced

Presenter: Jared Stein, Esq., NYS-TEACHS

Sessions 3 & 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: eligibility of students living doubled up; enrollment and problems related to documentation; unaccompanied homeless youth; transportation – timeliness, appropriate arrangements; potentially competing mandates faced by liaisons; and the dispute resolution process.