


McKinney-Vento and The Texas Education Code: Working Together to Educate Children and Youth in Homeless Situations



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How Many Children and Youth Experience Homelessness in TX?

95,868
2011-2012

101,000
2012-2013

111,996
2013-2014

likely:
116,000+
2014-2015



Impact of Homelessness

- Higher rates of acute and chronic illness, depression and anxiety; experiences of trauma and loss
- Lack of consistent advocacy, as parents and guardians are focused on survival
- For unaccompanied youth, lack of support from any caring adult
- Unaccompanied youth are frequently victimized. As many as half have been assaulted or robbed; are vulnerable to trafficking
- High mobility = difficulty with attendance & academics
- Poor grades and perform lower on academic assessments
- 50% of homeless youth, 75% of unaccompanied homeless youth & 49% of foster youth do not graduate
- LGBTQ youth comprise 5% of the youth population, but 40% of the homeless youth population



Barriers to Education

Lack of affordable housing

Lack of access to health care/mental health care

Lack of needed documentation

Lack of access to needed services

Lack of helpful community relationships

Lack of information regarding rights/services

Lack of advocacy



Barriers to Enrollment & Attendance

Lack of school records/birth certificates

Lack of immunizations/immunization records

Lack of transportation

Lack of information regarding rights

Lack of proof of residency

Lack of school supplies

Lack school clothing



Barriers to Attendance & Success

- Frequent school changes – sets child back academically 4-6 months with each change
- Misses school due to:
 - extreme mobility
 - lack of transportation
 - poor health – due to crowded living and lack of access to preventive health care
 - system requirements = hours to access
- Lack of consistent advocacy for educational needs



More Barriers to School Success

Place to do homework

Ability to concentrate

Resources to do extracurricular and
enrichment activities



Barriers to Enrollment, Attendance and School Success – UHY

Unaccompanied Youth face additional barriers:

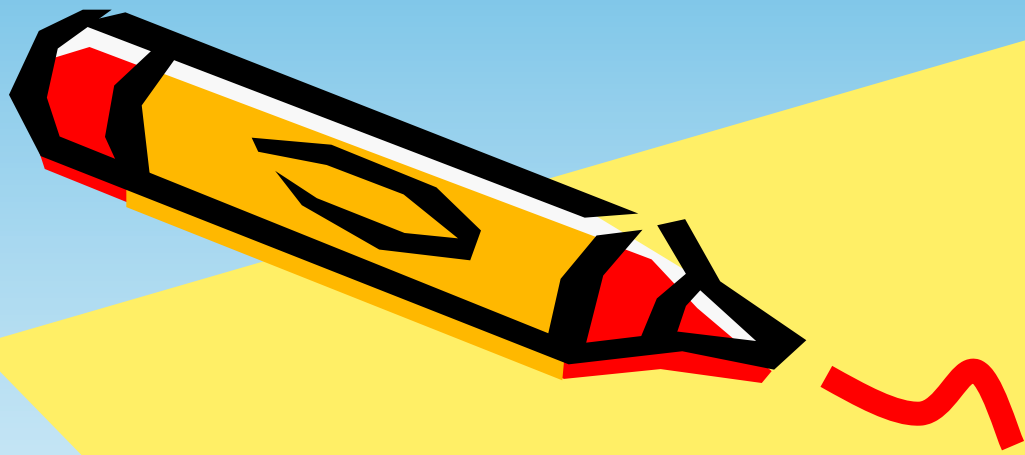
Lack of parent or guardian's signature



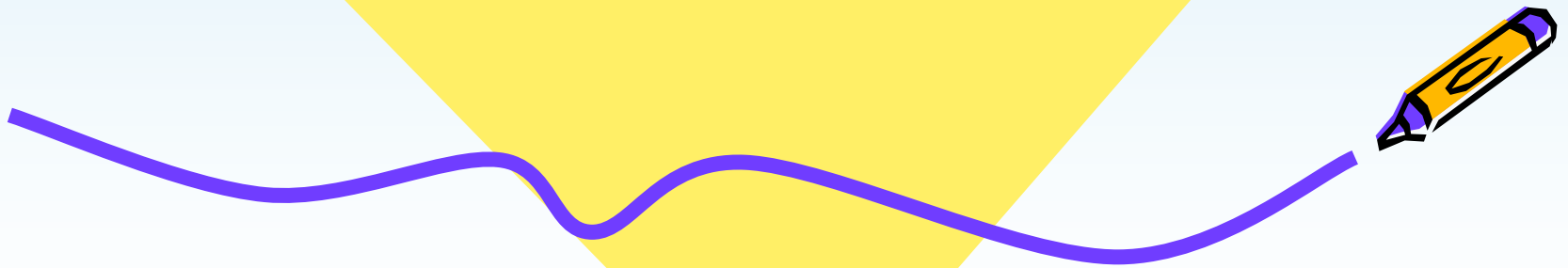
Attendance policies

Credit accrual policies





Understanding what services
schools **must** provide



The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

defines and protects the rights
of homeless students to **enroll** in,
attend, and **succeed** in our
public schools

Services last the **duration** of the
school year even if the student
becomes permanently housed



What Schools **Must** Do:

Appoint a Homeless Liaison

Homeless Liaison duties:

Outreach and Identification of homeless students

Ensure immediate enrollment without records,
proof of residency, parent or guardian signature

Advocate for students and families

Assist with school selection

Settle enrollment disputes

Connect students to district services

Connect students and families to community
services

Collaborate with district and community



What Schools **Must** Do:

Outreach and identification/definitions - SRQ

Posters and brochures on campus and in
community - hotels/motels, convenience
stores, fast food, Laundromats

Use of a student residency questionnaire for all
students every year, including returning students
USDE Definition includes HUD definition plus:
doubled-up, couch surfing and hotel/motel living



Is your residence or housing uncertain? **Do you lack a permanent physical address?** **Do you live at a temporary address?**

You Can Still Enroll in School!

The Federal McKinney-Vento Act and Texas State Law guarantee that you can enroll in school if you live:

- in a shelter family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter, or transitional living program;
- in a hotel, motel, or weekly care housing;
- in a house or an apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship or loss;
- in an abandoned building or a car, or a campground, or on the street;
- in temporary foster care or with an adult who is not your parent or legal guardian;

If you live in one of these situations, you do not need to provide:

- proof of residency;
- immunization records or a T-200 test result;
- birth certificate;
- school records;
- legal guardianship papers.

You may also:

- be substituted housing for electrically, no water and/or no heat, or with family or family because you are a runaway or unaccompanied youth;
- continue to attend the school in which you were last enrolled, even if you have moved away from that school's attendance zone or district;
- request transportation from your current residence back to your school of origin;
- qualify automatically for Child Nutrition Programs (Free and Reduced-Price Lunch) and other district-level programs;
- participate fully in all school activities and programs for which you are eligible; and
- contact the district's liaison to resolve any disputes that arise during the enrollment process.

800.446.3142

THEO TEXAS HOMELESS EDUCATION OFFICE
The Division of Homeless Education
200 North 10th Street, Suite 1200, Austin, Texas 78701
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Sponsored by the Charles A. Davis Center at The University of Texas at Austin, the Region 10 Education Service Center, and the Texas Education Agency.



Eligibility—Who is Covered by the McKinney-Vento Act?



- Undocumented children and youth have the same right to attend public school as U.S. citizens (Plyler vs. Doe 1982) and are covered by the McKinney-Vento Act
- Children “awaiting” foster care
- Certain migrant children
- Certain children of military personnel



What Schools **Must** Do:

Immediate Enrollment – without records, proof of residency, immunizations, parent or guardian signature

Cannot require proof of homelessness

Previous school has ten days to send records

Homeless liaison assists with gathering records

Homeless liaison assists with getting immunizations

Schools cannot require proof of residency or parent/guardian signature

Schools cannot require caregivers to seek guardianship



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- in a shelter, family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter, or transitional living program;
- in a hotel, motel, or weekly rate housing;
- in a house or an apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship or loss;
- in an abandoned building or a car, or a campground, or on the street;
- in temporary foster care or with an adult who is not your parent or legal guardian;
- in substantial housing loss due to eviction, no money, and/or no fault; or
- with family or family because you are a runaway or unaccompanied youth.

If you live in one of these situations, you do not need to provide:

- proof of residency;
- immunization records or a T-Title and name;
- birth certificate;
- school records; or
- legal guardianship papers.

You may also:

- continue to attend the school in which you were last enrolled, even if you have moved since then but without withdrawing from your current residence back to your school of origin;
- request transportation from your current residence back to your school of origin;
- qualify automatically for Title I/Section 504 and Reduced Price Lunch and other district-level programs;
- participate fully in all school activities and programs for which you are eligible; and
- contact the district liaison to resolve any disputes that arise during the enrollment process.

If you have questions about enrolling or school or enrollment, please contact your district or contact your local homeless liaison.

Your Local School District Liaison:

800.446.3142

THEO TEXAS HOMELESS EDUCATION OFFICE
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Sponsored by the Charles A. Davis Center at The University of Texas at Austin, the Region 6 Education Service Corps, and the Texas Education Agency.

What Schools **Must** Do:

Assistance with school choice – School of origin or residency zone

School of origin is the campus the student was attending when he/she became homeless or the last school attended

Choice lasts the duration of the school year even if becoming permanently housed

Transportation to and from the school of origin

Choice of residency zone = comparable services

Texas selection “third” choice of any district –

district gets to choose campus and no mandate for transportation.



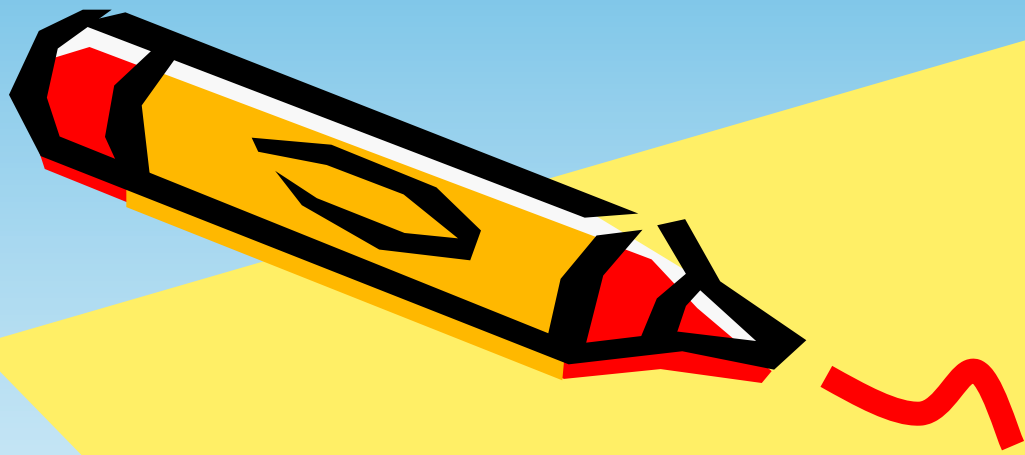
What Schools **Must** Do:

Provide services: placement, academic supports, nutrition, transportation, school uniforms, supplies, tutoring, extracurricular access, emergency Services, Title I/Set-aside services

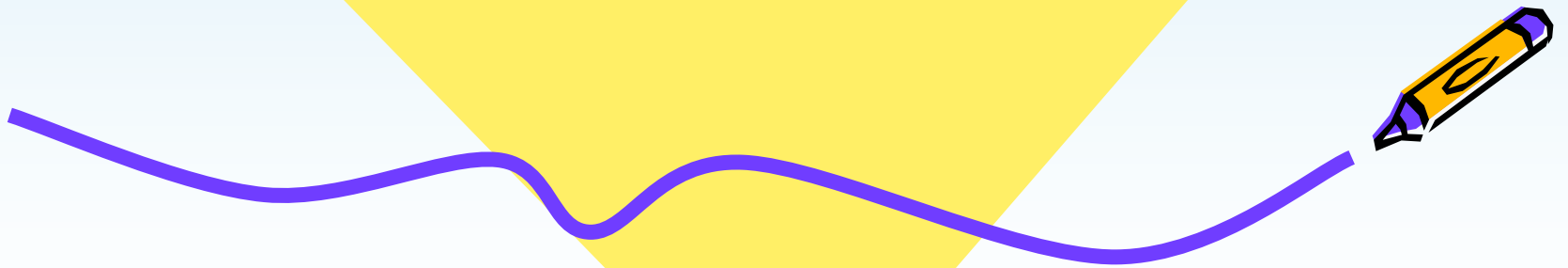
Connect students to district and community services

Assist with post-secondary plans: unaccompanied homeless youth = independent student status





Understanding Collaborative Practices that work



Collaborative Partnerships and Initiatives

- What works?
- Collaboration with all local agencies
- What doesn't work?
- Doing everything in isolation



Schools & Service Providers

Know the Law

Know what services schools are required to provide

Advocate for the student

Build relationships

Learn about each other's systems'
requirements/issues/needs

Create compatible systems for access and referral

Share a holistic view and like goals

Work mutually compatible service plans

Identify and share resources

Identify service gaps

Attend the local Homeless Coalition meetings



Service Gaps

- Alternative Housing
- Transportation
- Emergency Shelter
- Healthcare
- Unaccompanied youth resources
- Higher education assistance
- Mentoring/relationships
- Community services access
- SNAP, SSI, Driver's license, birth certificates, SS cards



Importance of the Local Homeless Coalition

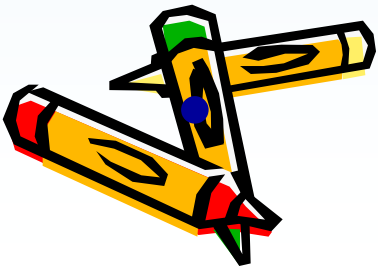
- Collaboration with your local Homeless Coalition is key to the district.
- Identify needs to determined available resources in the community.
- Identification of gaps
- Organizing to address gaps/get funding
- An education voice at the table



THEO' S Role



- Guidance to Texas' school districts/ESCs for compliance, and service provision
- Training to districts and community
- Technical Assistance and complaints hotline
- Dispute resolution assistance
- Input on policy at the federal and state level
- Advocacy for students and families
- Three year grant cycle



Web resources: www.utdanacenter.org/theo



Contact Us:

- Hotline: 1-800-446-3142
- Jeanne Stamp: 512-475-6898
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