




# McKinney-Vento and The Texas Education Code: Schools and Service Providers Working Together



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# Tracking Training: Sign-in Please

- <http://www.region10.org/mvhpdp/>



# Welcome



<http://www.region10.org/mvhpdpd>

The following screen will display:

### McKinney-Vento Training Log

**\* Name:**

**Job Title:**

**Are you a homeless Liaison?:**  
☐ YES ☐ NO

**\* Entity Type:**

**District / Charter / ESC:**

**Course Location:**

**\* Course Completion Date:**

\* Required

# Texas Data

Total students enrollment in public schools:  
5,232,065

Total students economically disadvantaged:  
3,068,820

Rate economically disadvantaged students:  
58.8% (per TEA)

**Total homeless students enrolled: 113,294**



# How many students experience homelessness in Texas?

- Public schools in Texas identified for 2014-2015 : 113,294
  - Shelter: 12,098
  - Doubled Up: 89,807
  - Unsheltered: 3,869
  - Motel or Hotel: 7,250
  - Unaccompanied homeless youth: 15,889
- Public schools in Texas identified for 2013-2014: 111,918
  - Shelter: 15,505
  - Doubled Up: 87,044
  - Unsheltered: 3,299
  - Motel or Hotel: 6,070
- Public schools in Texas identified for 2012-2013: 101,226
  - Shelter: 11,467
  - Doubled Up: 81,439
  - Unsheltered: 2,828
  - Motel or Hotel: 5,492

# 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:

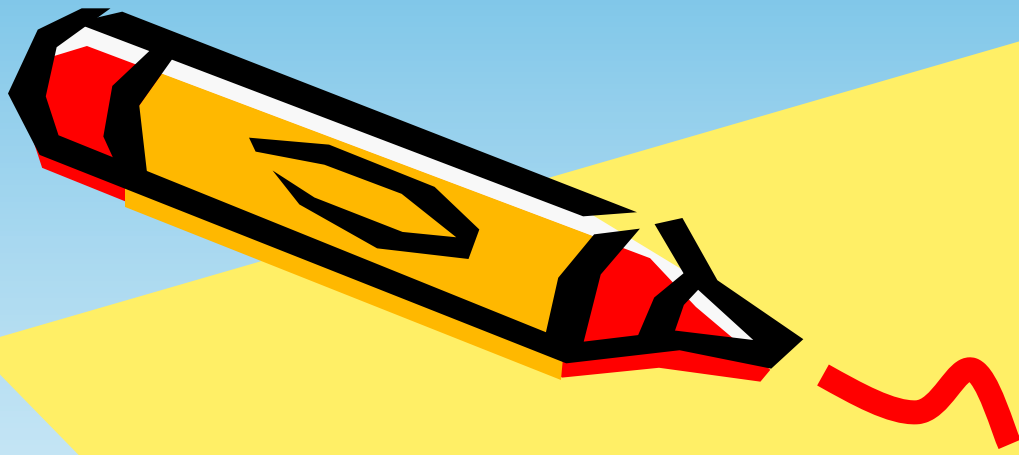
Lack of parent or guardian's signature



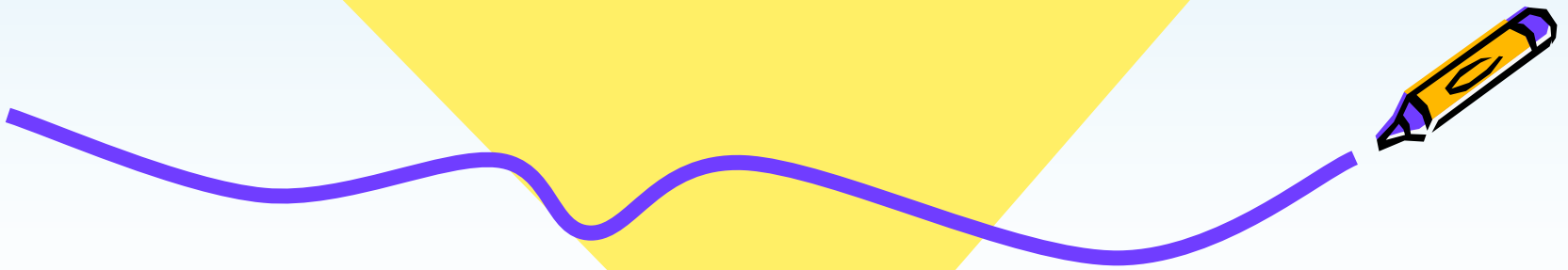
Attendance policies

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

Outreach and identification - SRQ

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

Assistance with school choice - School of origin or residency zone (Texas' third choice)

Provide services: placement, academic supports, nutrition, transportation, school uniforms, supplies, tutoring, extracurricular access, emergency services

Connect students to community services

Assist with post-secondary plans



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 rate housing;
- in a house or an apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship or loss;
- in an abandoned building 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-2 title and record;
- birth certificate;
- school records;
- legal guardianship papers to enroll in school.

**You may also:**

- continue to attend the school in which you were last enrolled, even if you have moved away from that school 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 liaison to resolve any disputes that arise during the enrollment process.

If you have questions about enrolling or staying in school or need assistance with transportation or enrollment, please contact your school district's liaison.

**800.446.3142**

**THE TEXAS HOMELESS EDUCATION OFFICE**  
The Division of Homeless Education is located at:  
200 North 101st Street, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas 75243  
[www.utdaneacenter.org/theo](http://www.utdaneacenter.org/theo)

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.

# Key Provisions of MV-ESSA

Homeless Liaison

Outreach and Identification

Immediate Enrollment

School Choice

Services: transportation,  
nutrition, Title I



# Homeless Liaison

- Every school district must appoint a homeless liaison
- The HL must have the capacity to do their job
- The HL must ensure the students in homeless situations are identified, enrolled in, attending and have the access to services needed to succeed in school including:







# Outreach and identification

- Posters and brochures on each campus where students enroll
- School personnel trained to identify
- Outreach into the community – contact service providers – places where homeless families stay or frequent



# Required Posting/Notification



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 motel, hotel, 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, at a campground, or on the street;

in temporary foster care or with an adult who is not your parent or legal guardian;

in substandard housing (no electricity, no water, and/or no heat); or

with friends 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 TB skin test result;

birth certificate;

school records; or

legal guardianship papers  
**to enroll in school.**

## **You may also:**

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;

receive 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 food 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 in school or need assistance with enrolling in school, contact:

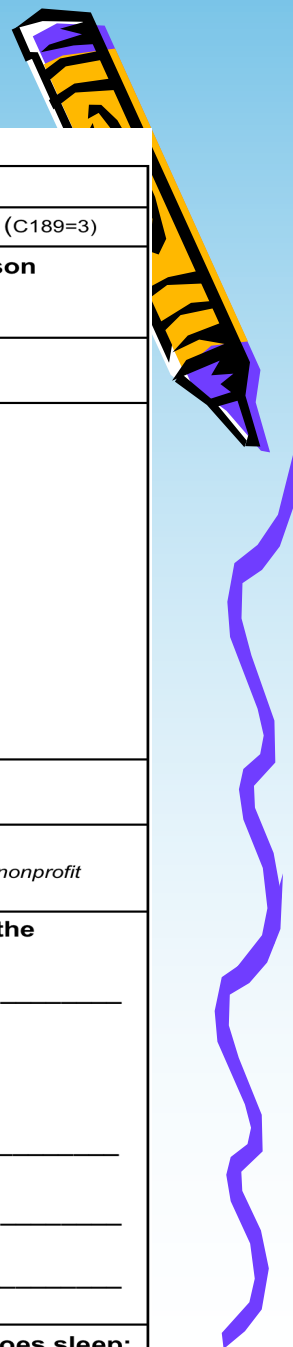
**Your Local School District Liaison:**

**800.446.3142**

**THEO** TEXAS HOMELESS EDUCATION OFFICE  
The University of Texas at Austin | Charles A. Dana Center  
2901 North IH 35, Room 2.220 | Austin, Texas 78722  
[www.utdanacenter.org/theo](http://www.utdanacenter.org/theo)

The McKinney-Vento Act requires public notice of educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness disseminated in every school district at every campus -- and wherever services are accessed.

# SRQ



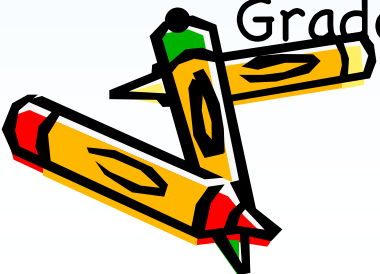
“X” all boxes below that best describe where the student sleeps at night, leave those blank that do not apply:

	<b>In a home that the student’s parent or legal guardian owns or rents</b> (C189=0)
	<b>In a place that does not have windows, doors, running water, heat, electricity, or is overcrowded</b> (C189=3)
	<b>Staying with a friend or relative because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason</b> (C189=2) <i>(Examples: eviction, foreclosure, fire, flood, lost job, divorce, domestic violence, kicked out by parents, ran away from home)</i>
	<b>In a shelter</b> (C189=1) <i>(Examples: living in a family shelter, domestic violence shelter, children/youth shelter, FEMA housing)</i>
	<b>In an unsheltered location, such as:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a tent</li> <li>• a car or truck</li> <li>• a van</li> <li>• an abandoned building</li> <li>• on the streets</li> <li>• at a campground</li> <li>• in the park</li> <li>• in a bus or train station</li> <li>• other similar place</li> </ul> (C189=3)
	<b>In a hotel or motel because of loss of housing or economic hardship</b> (C189=4) <i>(Examples: eviction, foreclosure, cannot get deposits for permanent home, flood, fire, hurricane)</i>
	<b>In a transitional housing program</b> (C189=1) <i>(Housing that is available as part of a program for a specific length of time only and is partly or completely paid for by a church, a nonprofit organization, governmental agency, or another organization)</i>
	<b>The student lives here because of a natural disaster. “X” the type of disaster below and provide the requested information:</b> ___Hurricane--Name of hurricane: _____ ___Flood ___Tornado ___Wildfire ___Other—Please describe: _____  Date the natural disaster took place: _____  Where the natural disaster took place, including county: _____
	<b>The student does not sleep in any of the places described above. Tell below where the student does sleep:</b>



# Identification: Signs of Homelessness

- Tired, sleeping in class, lack of energy
- Poor hygiene
- Wear the same clothes day after day
- Inability to concentrate
- Doesn't turn in homework assignments
- Doesn't complete special projects
- Is frequently tardy or absent
- Comes to class "unprepared"
- Change in behavior
- Is angry, hostile, anxious
- Is secretive, afraid to share information
- Moves around a lot
- Grades fall off, gaps in learning



# Issues with under-identification



- Identification triggers services
- Identification = \$
- Identification = numbers reported to TEA & USDE
- It's the law = district compliance
- Under identification happens with both accompanied and unaccompanied youth:
  - Families/youth don't know/think they are homeless – don't know the definitions
  - Families/youth want to hide the fact they are homeless due to embarrassment or fear of authorities



# Key Provisions of the law address: Immediate Enrollment



Enroll homeless students  
immediately  
even if they have **no records**

Contact previous school for records  
Sometimes there are **no** records

**10** days to send records

**30** days to receive immunization  
records or start the process



# Immediate Enrollment

## *Unaccompanied Youth*

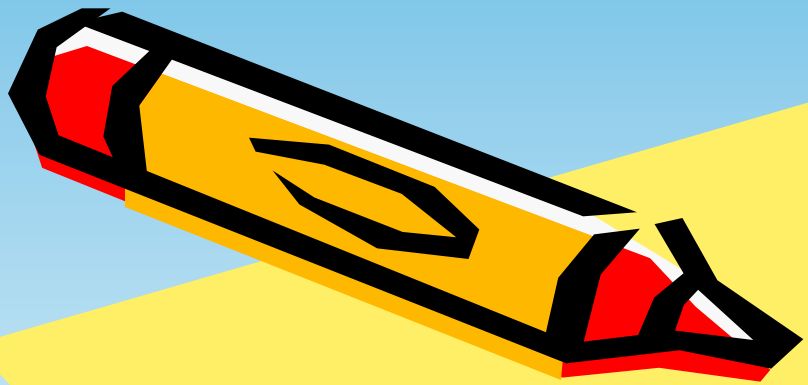
Enroll homeless students even if they have **no legal guardian**

Enroll homeless students even if they have **no proof of residency**

Homeless families/youth cannot be **required** to complete or sign a dual residency affidavit







# Key Provisions of The law address: Choice of Schools

## School of origin:

1. school in which student was enrolled when he/she became homeless
2. school where student was last enrolled
3. includes Pre-K and feeder schools







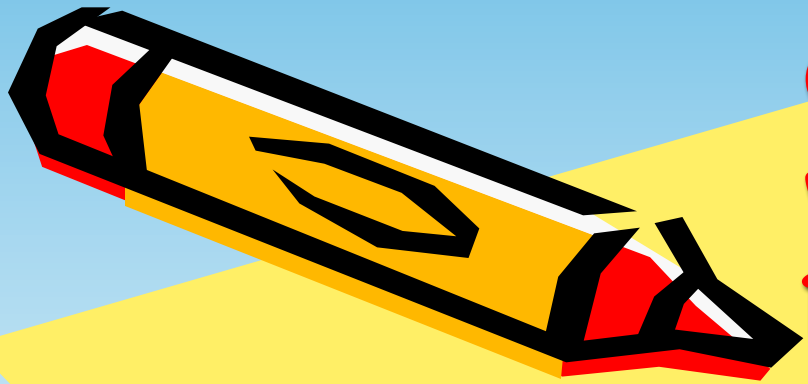
# Choice of Schools

Homeless students may remain at  
school of origin

or

may attend school to which they  
are zoned.





## Choice of Schools: who Decides

The law addresses “**best interest**” and child-centered determinations

The law prioritizes the decision of the parent or unaccompanied youth

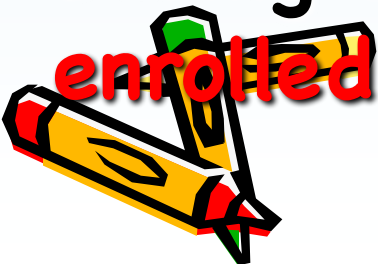


# Dispute Resolution

Enroll students if **possibly**  
~~Gather~~ information, then make  
determination of status

Notify parent/caregiver/youth  
**in writing** of decision with **appeal**  
information – Homeless Liaison assists  
During appeal, student **remains**

**enrolled**



# Services



**Transportation**

**Title I, Special Ed, Gifted and Talented and other programs**

**Nutrition**

**Extra-Curricular Activities**



## Services:

Transportation is **mandated** to and from school of origin for duration of homelessness or duration of the school year if become permanently housed

And for Comparable services

Transportation **may** be provided for Supplemental services:

- tutoring
- enrichment/field trips
- summer school
- extra-curricular activities



# Services: Title I: Examples of Eligible Uses



- Clothing and school uniforms
- School supplies
- Birth certificates
- Immunizations
- Food
- Medical and dental services
- Glasses and hearing aids
- Counseling services
- Outreach services
- Extended learning time before and after school
- Tutoring services
- Fees for GED testing
- Fees for AP & IB testing
- Fees for SAT & ACT testing
- Student fees
- Homeless liaison salary
- Excess cost of school of origin transportation



# Services: Nutrition Programs



- Categorical eligibility for homeless, runaway, and migrant children and youth; foster children are eligible
- **Immediate access**
- Homeless documentation can be used to document eligibility for nutrition programs
- Income documentation is not required if child/youth is homeless
- Homeless children residing with another household are eligible
- Other children in the household may also be eligible
- Duration of eligibility for the **entire school year** even if housing is secured or duration of homelessness



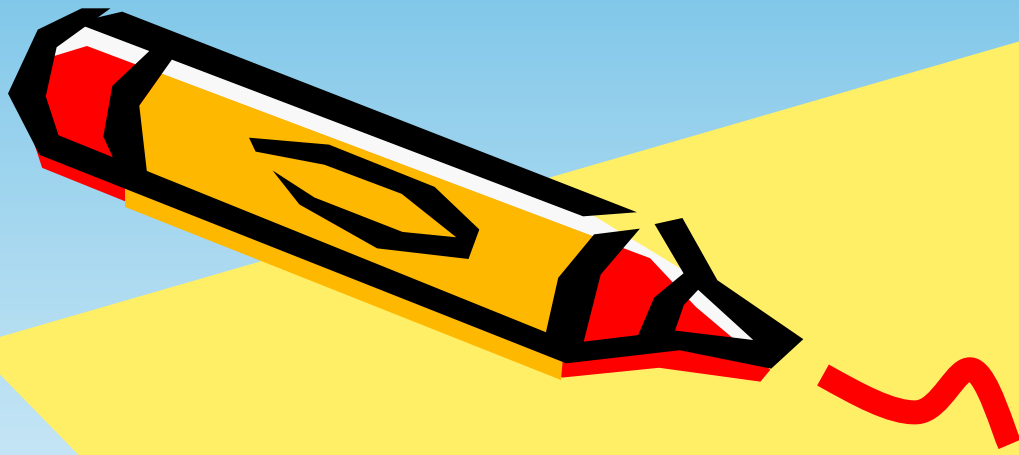
# Services: Unaccompanied Youth Programs:

## What are district policies for:

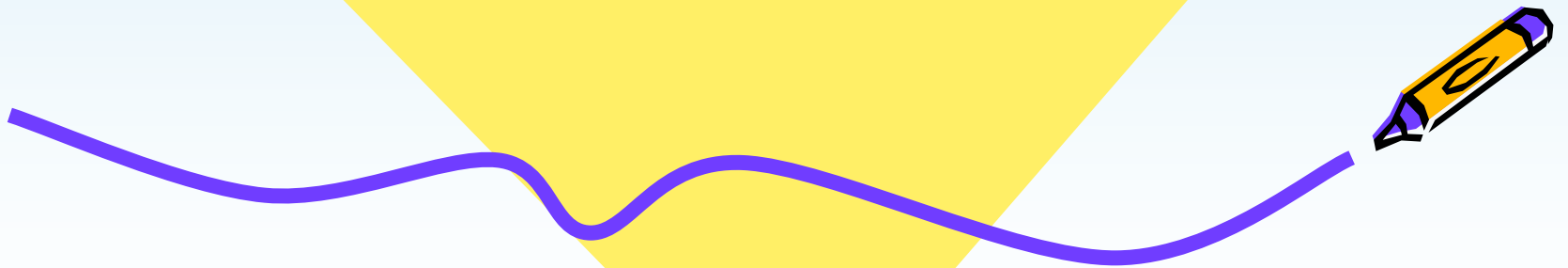
- Lack of parental signature for field trips, playing sports, other activities?
- Who goes on the contact form?
- Who receives school notices?
- Who gets called in case of illness, a behavior issue, or an emergency?
- Who is held accountable for poor attendance?
- Who instigates and attends an ARD?







# Understanding Collaborative Practices that work



# Causes of Family Homelessness



- Lack of affordable housing
- Poverty – mean income of homeless families is 46% of poverty line
- Health problems (including mental illness, addiction disorders)
- Domestic violence
- Natural and other disasters (foreclosure crisis)
- Under employment: 67% of homeless families have at least one adult full time worker
- Loss of housing due to a hardship
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth/LGBTQ Youth



# Collaborative Partnerships and Initiatives



- What works?

Collaboration with local agencies/  
providers

- 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



# Build Relationships

- District Administrator Support
- Campus Administrators
- Homeless Liaisons
- Community Agencies
- Advocates

- Services in the community



# Relationships

- Student engagement
  - One on one involvement
  - Tracking attendance, grades, work
  - Extracurricular activities
  - Mentoring
  - Community connections
- Parent Involvement
  - With their student
  - With the school
  - With the community



# Identify and Address Service Gaps

- Housing
- Transportation
- Emergency Shelter
- Health care
- Unaccompanied youth resources
- Higher education



# Unaccompanied Youth



- District policy and procedure
- Needs Identification
- Accessing district services
- Mentoring/relationships
- Community services identified
- Community services access
- SNAP, SSI, Driver's license, birth certificates, SS cards
- Service gaps
  - in district
  - in the community
  - state and federal
- Advocacy opportunities
- Policy input





# 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.theotx.org](http://www.theotx.org)

# Contact Us:

- Hotline: 1-800-446-3142
- **Jeanne Stamp: 512-475-6898**  
[jeannestamp@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:jeannestamp@austin.utexas.edu)  
[www.theotx.org](http://www.theotx.org)
- Tim Stahlke: 512-475-9709
- Patrick Lopez: 512-475-9704
- Vicky Dill: 512-475-9715
- Janie Phillips: 512-475-9702

