

WELCOME!

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

&

Individuals with Disabilities Education
Improvement Act

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education/ Title X, Part C of NCLB

- Reauthorized in 2002 as Title X, Part C of No Child Left Behind
- Mandates educational rights for homeless students including a homeless education liaison in every public school district
- **6,051** homeless students PreK-12 reported in 2007-08

Eligibility—Who is Covered?

- Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence—
 - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters
 - Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc.

McKinney Vento Overview

- Main themes:
 - School stability
 - School access
 - Support for academic success
 - Child-centered, best interest decision making

Children With Disabilities Who Are Experiencing Homelessness

- Studies indicate that children who are experiencing homelessness are twice as likely to have learning disabilities and three times as likely to have an emotional disturbance as children who are not homeless (Better Homes Fund, 1999)
- Yet children and youth who are homeless and have disabilities may not receive the special education services for which they are eligible

Barriers to Access for Part B & C Services

- Not being identified as needing IDEA services
- Difficulty with diagnosis due to mobility and other stressors
- Lack of timely assessment, diagnosis, or service provision
- Lack of continuity of services due to school transfers
- Lack of timely or efficient records transfer when enrolling in a new school
- Lack of an available parent or surrogate to represent the child or unaccompanied youth

IDEA Federal Guarantees for Children and Youth Who are Homeless

See handout:

“Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004: Provisions for Homeless Children and Youth with Disabilities”

Project Forum:

National Center for Homeless Education at The SERVE Center

<http://www.serve.org/nche/index.php>

To access a copy of the 44 page Policy Forum Proceedings titled
“Homeless and Special Education Administrative Collaboration:
Recommendations

http://www.serve.org/nche/new_resources.php

Increasing Collaborative Efforts at State and Local Levels

- McKinney participation in IDEA Panel - Part B
- McKinney participation in ICC-FIT Panel – Part C (0-3)
- Connecting District Directors of Special Education with statewide McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaisons. A full list can be found at:
<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/SchoolFamilySupport/index.html>

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