

January 18, 2008

Winter Conference – NCLB Roundtable



## McKinney-Vento: Education for Homeless Children and Youths

### Background:

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was first enacted in 1987 and was reauthorized in January of 2002 through the enactment of No Child Left Behind. Key changes include:

- Homeless Liaison designated in every school district
- Requirement for transportation to and from the school of origin
- Immediate school enrollment requirement
- Express prohibition against segregating homeless students
- Continued enrollment in school of origin while students “best interest” is determined

### Recent changes in Alaska:

- Amendment to Alaska immunization regulations - The amendment provides a period of 30 days of provisional public school enrollment for homeless students while the immunization records are located. (4AAC06.055(g), To be effective upon filing by the Lieutenant Governor.
- New HUD definition - Effective August 1, 2007, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) included on its Preferences form for housing assistance families with children that are doubled-up with family or friends AND who receive services from an Alaska School District under the McKinney/Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

### Who is considered Homeless?

Definition [Section 725]: Homeless children and youth are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (also referred to as “doubled-up” or “couch-surfing”)
- Living in substandard housing such as, motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals; or
- Awaiting stable foster care placement

### What are the responsibilities of the School District?

Purpose [Section 1031 subpart B sec. 721]

- Ensure that homeless children & youth have equal access to the same public education including public preschool as provided to other children and youths;
- Review & revise laws, regulations, practices or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance or success of such;
- Ensure full participation without segregation from the mainstream school environment;
- Ensure the opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held; and
- Ensure that homeless children & youth are identified by designating a district liaison as the key contact between homeless families, school staff, district personnel and other service providers.

## **What are the duties of District Homeless Liaison?**

[Section 722(g)(6)]: Every district must appoint a local liaison to serve as one of the primary contacts between homeless families and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers, and other service providers. The liaison coordinates service to ensure that:

- Homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- Homeless students enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the schools of the LEA;
- Homeless children and youth and their families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start, and preschool programs administered by the LEA, and referrals to health, mental health, dental and other appropriate services;
- Parents or guardians of homeless children and youth are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
- Parents or guardians of homeless children and youth are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
- Parents and guardians and unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to and from the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation services;
- Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act; and
- Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated to locations where they receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act.

## **Useful links:**

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Non-regulatory Guidance July 2004

[http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content\\_storage\\_01/0000019b/80/1b/9c/85.pdf](http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/1b/9c/85.pdf)

National Center for Homeless Education: <http://www.serve.org/nche>

McKinney-Vento Toolbox: [http://www.serve.org/nche/products\\_list.php#toolbox](http://www.serve.org/nche/products_list.php#toolbox)

A Look at Child Welfare from a Homeless Education Perspective:

[http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/ch\\_welfare.pdf](http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/ch_welfare.pdf)

Collaborations of Schools and Social Service Agencies:

[http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/collab\\_school\\_social.doc](http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/collab_school_social.doc)

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty: <http://www.nlchp.org/>

Casey Family Programs: <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications>

National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues:

<http://www.abanet.org/child/rclji/education/home.html#11>

## **More information:**

Melora Gaber, NCLB Program Manager

Phone: 465-8707 Fax: 465-2989

[melora.gaber@alaska.gov](mailto:melora.gaber@alaska.gov)