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**McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**  
**Title VII, Subtitle B**

*Oklahoma State Plan*  
*Education of Homeless Children and Youth*

**Revised**  
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**MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT  
TITLE VII, SUBTITLE B  
STATE PLAN**

**Education for Homeless Children and Youth**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Education for Homeless Children and Youths program is intended to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. The Act calls on States to review and revise their laws and policies to eliminate barriers to the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of children and youth experiencing homelessness and provide such children and youth with the opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Students in homeless situations must not be separated from the mainstream school environment because of their homelessness.

**Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act  
As Amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) [Title X, Part C]  
*McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001*  
Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program**

**STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS**

**Section 722(g)**

- (1) In General – Each State shall submit to the Secretary a plan to provide for the education of homeless children and youths within the State. Such plan shall include the following:
- (A) A description of how such children and youths are (or will be) given the opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards all students are expected to meet.
  - (B) A description of the procedures the State educational agency will use to identify such children and youths in the State and to assess their special needs.
  - (C) A description of procedures for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youths

- (D) A description of programs for school personnel (including principals, attendance officers, teachers, enrollment personnel, and pupil services personnel) to heighten the awareness of such personnel of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.
- (E) A description of procedures that ensure that homeless children and youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local food programs.
- (F) A description of procedures that ensure that –
  - 1. homeless children have equal access to the same public preschool programs, administered by the State agency, as provided to other children in the State;
  - 2. homeless youths and youths separated from the public schools are identified and accorded equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services; and
  - 3. homeless children and youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local before- and after-school care programs.
- (G) Strategies to address problems identified in the report provided to the Secretary under subsection (f)(3).
- (H) Strategies to address other problems with respect to the education of homeless children and youths, including problems resulting from enrollment delays that are caused by –
  - 1. immunization and medical records requirements;
  - 2. residency requirements;
  - 3. lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation;
  - 4. guardianship issues; or
  - 5. uniform or dress code requirements.
- (I) A demonstration that the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State have developed, and shall review and revise, policies, to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youths in schools in the State.
- (J) Assurances that –
  - 1. the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State will adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless;
  - 2. local educational agencies will designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as a local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, to carry out the duties described in paragraph (6)(A); and
  - 3. the State and its local educational agencies will adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the

case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin, as determined in paragraph (3)(A), in accordance with the following, as applicable:

- a. If the homeless child or youth continues to live in the area served by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located, the child's or youth's transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located.
- b. If the homeless child's or youth's living arrangements in the area served by the local educational agency of origin terminate and the child or youth, though continuing his or her education in the school of origin, begins living in an area served by another local educational agency, the local educational agency in which the homeless child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the local educational agencies are unable to agree upon such method, the responsibility and costs of transportation shall be shared equally.

(2) Compliance –

- (A) In General – Each plan adopted under this subsection shall also describe how the State will ensure that local educational agencies in the State will comply with the requirements of paragraphs (3) through (7).
- (B) Coordination – Such plan shall indicate what technical assistance the State will furnish to local educational agencies and how compliance efforts will be coordinated with the local educational agency liaisons designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii).

## **Requirements for the State Plan for Homeless Children and Youth from the U.S. Department of Education**

To receive funds, the State Educational Agency (SEA) must submit to the U.S. Secretary of Education, for peer review, a State plan, that includes the following information:

1. Completed information on the application page, including the signature of the authorized representative;
2. A narrative that:
  - a. Describes the SEA's procedures for ensuring that homeless children and youth are given the opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards that all students in the State are expected to meet;
  - b. Describes procedures the SEA will use to identify homeless children and youth in the State and to assess their special needs;
  - c. Describes the State's procedure for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youths;
  - d. Describes the State's programs for school personnel (including principals, attendance officers, teachers, enrollment personnel, and pupil services personnel) to heighten their awareness of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youths;
  - e. Describes the State's procedures for ensuring that homeless children and youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local food programs;
  - f. Describes the State's procedures for ensuring that: homeless children have equal access to the same public preschool programs, administered by the State agency, as provided to other children in the State; homeless youths and youths separated from the public schools are identified and accorded equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services; homeless children and youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local before- and after-school programs;
  - g. Describes the SEA's strategies for addressing problems set forth in its FY 2000 report provided to the Secretary under subsection 722 (f)(3) of the Act;
  - h. Provides the SEA's strategies for addressing problems with respect to the education of homeless children and youths, including problems resulting from enrollment delays that are caused by: immunization and medical records requirements; residency requirements; lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation; guardianship issues; or uniform or dress code requirements;
  - i. Demonstrates that the SEA and local educational agencies (LEAs) in the State have developed, and will review and as necessary revise, policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youths in school in the State;

- j. Describe how the State will ensure that LEAs will comply with the requirements of paragraphs in Section 722 (g)(3) through (g)(7) of the Act;
  - k. Describes the technical assistance that the State will furnish to LEAs and how the SEA will coordinate its compliance efforts with local educational agency liaisons designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii) in Section 722 of the Act;
  - l. Describes how the SEA will use the funds it receives under this program to carry out State-level activities and to make subgrants to LEAs
3. Assurances contained in this package with the appropriate signature.

**Subtitle B of the Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act  
As Amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) [Title X, Part C]  
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001  
Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program**

**Section 721. Statement of Policy**

The following is the policy of the Congress:

- (1) Each state educational agency shall ensure that each child if a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.
- (2) In any State that has a compulsory residency requirement as a component of the State's compulsory school attendance laws or other laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths, the State will review and undertake steps to revise such laws, regulations, practices, or policies to ensure that homeless children and youths are afforded the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths.
- (3) Homelessness alone is not a sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.
- (4) Homeless children and youths should have access to the education and other services that such children and youths need to ensure that such children and youths have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

**Section 725. Definitions**

For purposes of the subtitle:

- (1) The terms "enroll" and "enrollment" includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities.
- (2) The term "homeless children and youths" –

- a. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103 (a)(1)); and
- b. includes –
  - i. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
  - ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within meaning of section 103 (a)(2)(C));
  - iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
  - iv. migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

- (3) The terms “local educational agency” and “State educational agency” have the meanings given such terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.
- (5) The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- (6) The term “unaccompanied youth” includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

**OKLAHOMA'S STATE PLAN  
EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

- 1. Describes the SEA's procedures for ensuring that homeless children and youth are given the opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards that all students in the State are expected to meet.**

**Compulsory Attendance**

**70 O.S. § 1-114 (School Laws of Oklahoma 2002)**

All children between the ages of five (5) on or before September 1, and twenty-one (21) years on or before September 1, shall be entitled to attend school free of charge in the district in which they reside.

All children who are at least four (4) years of age but not more than five (5) years of age on or before September 1 and who have not attended a public school kindergarten shall be entitled to attend half-day or full-day early childhood programs at any public school in the state where such programs are offered; provided no child shall be required to attend any early childhood education program.

**Oklahoma's State Academic Achievement Standards**

All students enrolled in public schools in Oklahoma are given the same opportunities to meet the State's challenging academic achievement standards regardless of socioeconomic background. Oklahoma's State standards, the *Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS)*, currently exist for reading/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and foreign language. The standards are available on the Oklahoma State Department of Education Web site <[www.sde.state.ok.us](http://www.sde.state.ok.us)>. The State standards have been reviewed for their content and rigor by several outside organizations including *Education Week's Quality Counts*, Heidi Glidden of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), peer review with the Technical Issues in Large Scale Assessment (TILSA) study, and Achieve, Inc. Results from these revisions are being incorporated in the current revision of *PASS*. The Oklahoma State Standards are reviewed and revised every six years with one curriculum area reviewed annually beginning in 2002-2003. Teachers, university faculty, curriculum directors, and administrators comprise review/revision committees of the State standards.

All identified homeless children and youths enrolled in public schools will participate in State-mandated assessments. Each local educational agency (LEA) will be responsible for disaggregating test scores of children and youth identified as homeless. The LEAs will report to the State educational agency (SEA)/State Coordinator of Homeless Children and Youths the percentage of students scoring proficient on State assessments annually.

The SEA will continue to assist districts in eliminating barriers to ensure that all children including those identified as homeless are meeting the same challenging academic achievement standards.

**2. Describes procedures the SEA will use to identify homeless children and youth in the State and to assess their special needs.**

Each LEA will be required to have a homeless children and youth liaison. The primary responsibility of the liaison will be to locate and identify homeless children and youth within the community. Once the identification had been completed, the liaison shall determine any special needs (i.e., educational needs, health needs, housing needs) so that the LEA may provide appropriate services and referrals. The liaison will also be responsible for helping to eliminate any barriers for enrollment such as residency issues, immunization or medical records issues, or guardianship issues.

The SEA Coordinator will collaborate with the LEA liaisons to ensure that homeless children and youth are being identified and provided the same educational opportunities as other children and youth. The technical assistance provider will give support to districts through onsite visits, consultations, and/or mailing other pertinent program information. Technical assistance may include issues addressing location and identification of homeless students, appropriate educational services, and eliminating barriers caused by:

- immunization and medical records requirements;
- residency requirements;
- lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation;
- guardianship issues; or
- uniform or dress code requirements.

The SEA Coordinator, and the LEA liaison will coordinate and collaborate with other organizations and agencies to provide appropriate services to homeless children and youth as special needs are identified. This collaborative effort will be necessary to initially assist students with enrolling in school, but also to encourage retention of the student in school. Assisting with basic needs for homeless children and youth (food, shelter, and/or medical attention) fosters a better attitude for learning and achieving.

**3. Describes the State's procedure for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youths.**

- The SEA has a policy in place titled "McKinney-Vento Homeless Complaint Procedures." This policy is provided on the SEA Web site so that all districts and/or families may have access to the document. The policies and procedures will be based on requirements outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act.

**4. Describes the State's programs for school personnel (including principals, attendance officers, teachers, enrollment personnel, and pupil services personnel) to heighten their awareness of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youths.**

- The SEA Coordinator will furnish available materials (brochures, books, websites, community resource information) to school districts on the subject of homelessness specifically addressing the needs of runaway and homeless children and youths. These materials will be used to inform school personnel of the special needs and situations of homeless children and youths.
- The SEA Coordinator will gather this information from other agencies and organizations that provide services to homeless children and their families on a daily basis in order to maintain ongoing and current data.
- The SEA Coordinator will offer support to school district personnel on issues such as eliminating enrollment barriers, providing information or referrals on health and/or housing services, and retaining homeless children and youths in school.
- The SEA Coordinator will conduct workshops at State conferences and meetings throughout the year informing the school districts of their responsibilities to serve homeless children and youths.
- Technical assistance will be provided to the school district liaisons on how to properly identify homeless children and youths. Also, liaisons will receive information on how to eliminate enrollment barriers for homeless children which includes examining housing issues and health issues.

**5. Describes the State's procedures for ensuring that homeless children and youths who meet the relevant criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local food programs.**

- All children enrolled in a public school district that participates in the Child Nutrition Program will have the opportunity to participate in the program if all eligibility requirements are met. (7 CFR 210 and 220)
- Those students that are identified as homeless by the liaison for homeless children and youths will automatically be enrolled in the free breakfast and lunch program.
- Technical assistance will be provided to the liaison for homeless children and youth on how to enroll students identified as homeless in the free breakfast and lunch program.

- Liaisons for homeless children and youth will be requested to collaborate with the food service director in the district to ensure that homeless students are receiving proper services.
  - The SEA Coordinator will collaborate with the SEA's Child Nutrition Program personnel as well as other agencies and organizations assisting homeless children and families to provide information on food and nutrition programs that are available at the State and local levels.
- 6. Describes the State's procedures for ensuring that: homeless children have equal access to the same public preschool programs, administered by the State agency, as provided to other children in the State; homeless youths and youths separated from the public schools are identified and accorded equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services; homeless children and youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local before- and after-school care programs.**
- Membership of the SEA Coordinator on the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness is the vehicle for improving collaboration between State and local level service providers and school districts to identify and serve homeless children and youth.
  - The SEA Coordinator will collaborate with Title I and additional federal programs at the SEA to develop and disseminate information to districts regarding homelessness and how Title I and additional federal funds can be used to assist in serving this population.
  - The SEA Coordinator will collaborate with the Early Childhood personnel at the SEA to develop and disseminate information to districts regarding enrollment of homeless children in prekindergarten programs.
  - Collaboration and coordination will occur between the SEA, and the State Head Start program to ensure that guidelines are in place for serving homeless children.
  - Technical assistance will be provided to district liaisons for homeless children and youth on prekindergarten enrollment.
  - A primary responsibility of the liaison will be to identify homeless children and youth of compulsory attendance age who are not enrolled in school. The liaison will develop strategies for identifying homeless students based on requirements in the McKinney-Vento Act.
  - If a district offers before- and/or after-school care, all students enrolled in that district are eligible to attend. The liaison will be responsible for

notifying the parent or guardian of the available programs and encouraging attendance.

**7. Describes the SEA's strategies for addressing problems set forth in its FY 2000 report provided to the Secretary under subsection 722 (f)(3) of the Act.**

**(A) Homeless children in the typical Oklahoma community remain invisible and difficult to identify.**

- The SEA will request annually each LEA to identify a homeless liaison and submit contact information for that individual to the SEA Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth at the Oklahoma State Department of Education.
- The liaison will be primarily responsible for identifying homeless children and youth in the community and providing any enrollment assistance.
- The SEA Coordinator will give support to districts and/or students regarding enrollment procedures and requirements outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act.

**(B) Homeless children temporarily living in shelters are not present within a district long enough to be identified and served before moving on.**

- The SEA Coordinator will assist districts in fulfilling the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act by providing core academic instruction at either the school of origin or school of residence. If applicable, only supplemental instructional services can be provided at the shelter sites.

**8. Provides the SEA's strategies for addressing problems with respect to the education of homeless children and youths, including problems resulting from enrollment delays that are caused by: immunizations and medical records requirements, residency requirements, lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation; guardianship issues; or uniform or dress code requirements.**

- Districts will be notified of the federal requirements for enrolling homeless children and youth. Specific emphasis will be placed on eliminating barriers for homeless children to enroll.
- Technical assistance will be provided to districts on methods for eliminating barriers for enrollment as well as retention. Areas of concern are attaining immunization and medical records as well as other documentation necessary for enrollment. The district will be instructed to enroll the child prior to location of the documents.

- The SDE Coordinator will assist with guidance on how to use community resources to locate documents.
- Districts will be made aware that Title I may be used for many of the costs related to these items.

**9. Demonstrates that the SEA and local educational agencies in the State have developed, and will review and as necessary revise, policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youths in schools in the State.**

- The SEA and representatives from local educational agencies will review and revise the State's policies that eliminate barriers to enrolling and retaining homeless children and youths.
- The SDE Coordinator will collect information on homeless students and enrollment barriers to disseminate to LEAs.
- The SEA Coordinator will examine the resources available at the State and local level to ensure that all homeless children and youths are given every opportunity to succeed. A child's first and best teacher is their parent. Providing educational opportunities to parents as well as children is essential in breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness.
- The SEA adheres to the federal government regarding enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth.

**10. Describes how the State will ensure that LEAs will comply with the requirements of paragraphs in Section 722 (g)(3) through (g)(7) of the Act.**

- Each subgrantee signs assurance of their compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act as part of the subgrantee application packet.
- The SDE Coordinator will gather and distribute to homeless liaisons resources and materials regarding the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act and state laws pertaining to homeless education with emphasis on paragraphs in Section 722 (g)(3) through (g)(7) of the Act.

**11. Describes the technical assistance that the State will furnish to LEAs and how the SEA will coordinate its compliance efforts with the local educational agency liaisons designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii) in Section 722 of the grant.**

- The SEA will request annually each LEA to identify a homeless liaison and submit contact information for that individual to the State Coordinator

of Education of Homeless Children and Youth at the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

- The SEA Coordinator will collaborate with the LEA liaisons to ensure that homeless children and youth are being identified and provided the same educational opportunities as other children and youth. The SDE Coordinator will give support to districts through on-site visits, consultations, and/or mailing other pertinent program information. Technical assistance may include issues addressing location and identification of homeless students, appropriate educational services, and eliminating barriers caused by:
  - immunization and medical records requirements;
  - residency requirements;
  - lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation;
  - guardianship issues; or
  - uniform or dress code requirements.
- The SEA Coordinator and the LEA liaison will coordinate and collaborate with other organizations and agencies to provide appropriate services to homeless children and youth as special needs are identified. This collaborative effort will be necessary to initially assist students with enrolling in school, but also to encourage retention of the student in school. Assisting with basic needs for homeless children and youth (food, shelter, and/or medical attention) fosters a better attitude for learning and achieving.
- The SDE Coordinator will furnish available materials (brochures, books, websites, community resource information) to school districts on the subject of homelessness specifically addressing the needs of runaway and homeless children and youths. These materials will be used to inform school personnel of the special needs and situations of homeless children and youths.
- The SDE Coordinator will gather this information from other agencies and organizations that provide services to homeless children and their families.
- The SEA Coordinator may conduct workshops at State conferences, videoconferences, and meetings throughout the year informing the school districts of their responsibilities to serve homeless children and youths. Additionally, technical assistance will feature information regarding best practices in the delivery of educational services.

**12. Describes how the SEA will use funds it receives under this program to carry out State-level activities and to make subgrants to LEAs.**

- Funds received under the McKinney-Vento Act at the State level will be used primarily for technical assistance provided by consultations, videoconferences, or on-site visits.
- At the State level, funds will be used by the SDE Coordinator for collecting, preparing, and disseminating information relevant to issues involving homeless students and their families.
- Applications for subgrants will be made available by the SEA every fall to all LEAs. Interested LEAs will complete the application and submit to the SEA for review.
- The LEAs will collaborate with Title I and additional federal programs to ensure that all available resources are used for the purpose of assisting homeless students in breaking down the barriers for enrolling and receiving an equal, appropriate education.