

# Homeless Education Newsletter

August, 2024  
Issue 1

## Upcoming Events

### McKinney-Vento in Practice for Experienced Liaisons

August 27th, 10am-12pm  
August 27th, 1pm-3pm

### McKinney-Vento in Practice for New Liaisons

August 29th, 10am-12pm

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## Welcome Back!

It's back-to-school time and we are excited to support local education agencies (LEAs), McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons, community-based organizations, homeless service providers, and other State agencies supporting students and families experiencing homelessness!

If you are a returning McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison, **welcome back!** Our goal this year is to continue to build partnerships with you to elevate our collective impact through initiatives such as awareness & outreach, technical assistance, professional learning, resource development, and intentional data gathering, analysis & implementation.

If you are a new McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison, **welcome!** We are eager to meet and support you throughout the school year as you learn about, develop, and implement your program. We hope you will find helpful this year's professional learning catered for new Liaisons, a variety of essential resources on our website, and the opportunity for tailored technical assistance. We are here to support you!

## The Arizona Homeless Education Program

The mission of the Arizona Homeless Education Program (HEP) is to ensure positive comparable academic outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness through implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The HEP is housed within the Office of Homeless, Foster Care, and Refugee Education Programs. Our team is comprised of passionate and knowledgeable individuals eager to serve students experiencing homelessness and stakeholders who support them.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in December 2015, serves as the primary federal legislation detailing the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires that children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. The [Arizona Homeless Education Program Overview Video](#) provides more information on the Arizona Homeless Education Program and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.



## The Arizona Homeless Education Program

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Contact List

It's the beginning of a new school year, which means it is time to ensure your McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison's contact information is up-to-date on our website!

The McKinney-Vento Act requires that contact information for the local liaisons for homeless children and youth at all local education agencies (LEA), including charters, is published and accurate ([42 U.S.C. §11432\(e\)\(3\)\(C\)\(i\)\(IV\)](#)). Please review the [McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison of Record contact list](#) published on the [Arizona Homeless Education Program website](#) to ensure that your LEA is in compliance with this requirement.

If your LEA's contact information is not current, follow the steps outlined below to submit changes:

1. Visit the [Arizona Homeless Education Program website](#), and navigate to the [McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Contact List and Forms webpage](#).
2. To change your McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison's currently published contact information, you will need to complete **both** the "[McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Contact Change Form](#)" followed by the "[McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison of Record Form](#)". Links to these forms and further instructions can be found on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Contact List and Forms webpage, linked in step 1.
3. Complete each form entirely. Be sure to click submit for each form. Allow sufficient time (roughly one week) for the Arizona Homeless Education Program team to make the requested changes to the published contact list.
4. Check the published McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison of Record contact list to ensure the requested changes have been made and are accurate.

Please note that the above process to update contact information can occur as many times as necessary and at any point in the year.

We are excited to announce a statewide awareness campaign to support the identification of students experiencing homelessness!

The campaign brought roughly ~11,500 new visitors to our website in July alone!

Up-to-date contact information for LEAs on our website is required to enable the identification and provision of services for students experiencing homelessness who make their way to our website seeking information and assistance.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons must ensure that their published contact information is accurate and, if necessary, submit forms by **September 3, 2024**. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach the Office of the State Coordinator at [Homeless@azed.gov](mailto:Homeless@azed.gov).

## Guidance Documents & Sample Forms

The HEP has designed the following **NEW and revised** guidance documents to provide LEAs and McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons with essential guidance for the identification, enrollment, and school retention of students experiencing homelessness. These resources are essential to fulfilling statutory compliance, such as use of the **required** ADE Student Residency Questionnaire.

- [Identification Process Guidance & Resources](#)
- [Re-Eligibility Determination Guidance & Resources](#)
- [Guidance for Utilizing the Arizona Department of Education Student Residency Questionnaire and the Rights of Homeless Students](#)

Please note that these documents have been developed for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons to adopt and adapt to fit the needs of their LEAs. To edit a sample document, refer to the [Converting Sample Documents for LEA Use Guidance Document](#).

Please ensure that you are familiar with the "[Guidance & Sample Documents for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons](#)" on the [ADE HEP website](#) to access to additional guidance documents and sample forms.

## Professional Learning Schedule

The McKinney-Vento Act requires that the Office of the State Coordinator provide professional learning opportunities for LEA personnel and McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons to assist them in identifying and meeting the needs of homeless children and youth and to provide training on the definitions of terms related to homelessness ([42 U.S.C. § 11432\(f\)\(6\)](#)).

Additionally, States are required to adopt policies and practices to ensure participation by McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons in professional learning and other technical assistance activities. Based on this requirement, it has been determined appropriate by the Office of the State Homeless Education Program Coordinator that McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons in the State of Arizona are required to meet a minimum of eight (8) professional learning hours each school year to ensure that their awareness of McKinney-Vento Act requirements and best practices is current. ([42 U.S.C. § 11432\(g\)\(1\)\(J\)\(iv\)](#)).

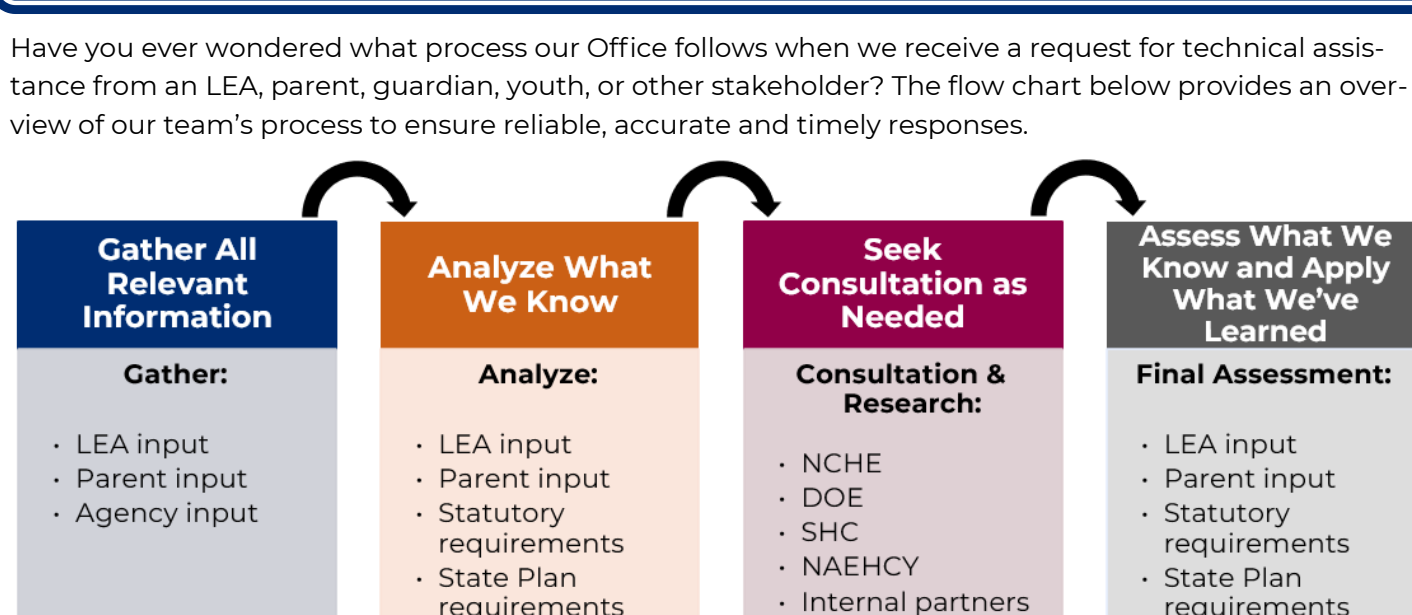
**We are excited to announce our Fall 2024 professional learning schedule! Please be sure to save the dates and times to the events you would like to attend now!**

**Please note that registration links are not yet available for sessions offered in September-December.** The Arizona Department of Education will begin hosting all professional learning sessions and other virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams starting in the fall of 2024. We are currently gathering more information and developing resources to support your participation in the professional learning sessions offered on this new platform. Updates, guidance, and registration information for these events will be shared soon!

Month	Course Title	Session Date & Time	Course Description
August	<b>McKinney-Vento in Practice for Experienced Liaisons</b> <i>(For this topic, we are offering two session options which will contain the same content.)</i>	<b>Session 1</b> August 27th, 2024 from 10am-12pm <a href="#">Zoom Registration Link</a>	This hour-long professional learning session and following Q&A Office Hour will provide McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons with essential information and resources needed to ensure they are prepared to identify, enroll, and support students experiencing homelessness at the beginning and throughout the school year.
		<b>Session 2</b> August 27th, 2024 from 1-3pm <a href="#">Zoom Registration Link</a>	<b>Who are "Experienced Liaisons"?</b> An experienced McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison has been in their role for three or more years. All experienced McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons are invited to attend a session, including those at public non-charter districts, public charter districts, Liaisons "Of Record" and "Site-Based" Liaisons.
	<b>McKinney-Vento in Practice for New Liaisons</b>	August 29th, 2024 from 10am-12pm <a href="#">Zoom Registration Link</a>	This hour-long professional learning session and following Q&A Office Hour will provide McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons with essential information and resources needed to ensure they are prepared to identify, enroll, and support students experiencing homelessness at the beginning and throughout the school year.
September	<b>Frequently Asked Questions - Part II</b> <i>(For this topic, we are offering two session options which will contain the same content.)</i>	<b>Session 1</b> September 24th, 2024 from 10am-12pm <i>Registration Link Coming Soon!</i>	This two-hour long professional learning session will provide McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons and support personnel with a brief description of requirements followed by an opportunity to ask questions and discuss solutions related to frequently requested topics. This session is designed as a continuation from the "Frequently Asked Questions: Office Hours for Discussion and Collaboration" session offered in November 2023.
		<b>Session 2</b> September 26th, 2024 from 10am-12pm <i>Registration Link Coming Soon!</i>	
October	<b>Supporting Unaccompanied Youth (UHY) - Part II</b> <i>(For this topic, we are offering two session options which will contain the same content.)</i>	<b>Session 1</b> October 22nd, 2024 from 10am-12pm <i>Registration Link Coming Soon!</i>	This 1.5 hour-long professional learning session and following 30-minute Q&A opportunity will inform McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons of the requirements to identify and support the unique needs of unaccompanied students experiencing homelessness. This session is designed as a continuation from the "Supporting Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)" session offered in February 2024.
		<b>Session 2</b> October 24th, 2024 from 10am-12pm <i>Registration Link Coming Soon!</i>	
November	<i>No Session due to National Homeless Education Conference and Holiday</i>		
December	<b>Eligibility Determinations, Best Interest Determinations (BIDs), Managing Disputes, &amp; Providing Written Notification</b> <i>(For this topic, we are offering two session options which will contain the same content.)</i>	<b>Session 1</b> December 10th, 2024 from 10am-12pm <i>Registration Link Coming Soon!</i>	This hour-long professional learning session and following Q&A Office Hour will inform McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons of requirements related to making eligibility determinations, conducting Best Interest Determinations (BIDs), managing disputes, and ensuring that written notification is provided.
		<b>Session 2</b> December 12th, 2024 from 10am-12pm <i>Registration Link Coming Soon!</i>	

## Technical Assistance

Have you ever wondered what process our Office follows when we receive a request for technical assistance from an LEA, parent, guardian, youth, or other stakeholder? The flow chart below provides an overview of our team's process to ensure reliable, accurate and timely responses.



During the technical assistance process, our Office may review McKinney-Vento statute and consult with the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), SchoolHouse Connection, (SHC) the Department of Education (DOE), and internal partners. As each request is addressed, we collect critical data and insights about each situation. Thorough documentation is kept regarding the support provided and data is reported to the Department of Education.

Our Office is available to provide technical assistance upon request. Examples of questions that are frequently addressed through technical assistance may include but are not limited to HEP policy, awareness, identification, transportation, best interest determination (BID), data reporting requirements, grants, missing enrollment information, statutory requirements, and monitoring preparation.

If you encounter a situation that you would like support on, please contact us at (602) 542-4963 or [Homeless@azed.gov](mailto:Homeless@azed.gov).