Eligibility Determinations, Best Inter-

est Determinations (BIDs), Managing Disputes, & Providing Written Notifi-

December 10th, 10am-12pm December 12, 10am-12pm

State Homeless Education Program

The mission of the Arizona Homeless Education Program (HEP) is to ensure

positive comparable academic outcomes for children and youth experi-

January 29th, 9:00am – 4:00pm MST January 30th, 9:00am – 4:00pm MST

cation

Conference

November, 2024 Issue 2 Inside this Issue

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The Arizona Homeless Education Program

Director of Educational Policy & Program Integrity

Marisa Peña

Refugee Student

Support – Lead Program Specialis

encing homelessness through implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless, Foster Care, **Homeless Education** Homeless Assistance Act. The HEP is and Refugee Student **Program** housed within the Office of Homeless, Support

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. tance Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in De-

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assiscember 2015, serves as the primary federal legislation detailing the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

less Assistance Act.



The Arizona Homeless

Education Gary Waiyaki Program Program Data & Ionitoring Specialist 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 edu-

lated 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)). STATE HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM CONFERENCE

The State HEP Conference will be the only scheduled professional learning opportunity for the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year. While professional learning sessions may still be provided during the

second semester, based on data, attendance of the virtual State HEP Conference is mandatory, and will help satisfy the annual eight (8) professional learning hour requirement for this school year. Please save the following dates to ensure that you may attend this mandatory conference: Wednesday, January 29th

Session Date & Month Course Title Course Description Time November No Session due to National Homeless Education Conference and Holiday

More information regarding how and when to register and topics to be covered will be shared soon!

December making eligibility determinations, conducting Best Session 2 Interest Determinations (BIDs), managing disputes, (For this topic we December 12th Ы

if it remains in the best interest of the child or youth. If the LEA determines that it is not in the best interest of the child or youth to remain enrolled at the school of origin, the LEA shall immediately provide the

accessing transportation. The legal citation that supports this requirement can be found here, (42)

2. The next step is to review your existing homeless education program transportation procedures to as-

3. Remember, the McKinney-Vento Act requires LEAs to provide transportation to the school of origin at the request of a parent or guardian or, for unaccompanied youth, at the McKinney-Vento liaison's request. Transportation services must be based on the individualized and student-centered best interest determinations, not on blanket mileage, time limits or the LEA's inability to provide alternate modes. The federal law supersedes any contrary state or local policies. Applying local policies that es-

Question from LEA: A parent called to advise us that they have moved into temporary housing across town, and it is quite a long distance. We only provide city bus passes and do not have drivers or vehicles for transportation. Does the parent have the right to decline use of the city bus passes? We also think the student would be better off transferring to the school in the area where the family moved since we do not

Answer: There are required steps that must be taken by the LEA to make well informed decision. The items outlined below will take you through a series of legal requirements to determine what the LEA is required to ensure takes place next. To this end, at first review of the information the LEA has provided, it

provide transportation and because of the distance. What is our LEA required to do next?

sess your LEA's internal processes to ensure the removal of barriers including the provision of transportation. As a critical reminder, the McKinney-Vento Act requires State Educational Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless students in school, including transportation (42

Temporary Housing

Z School District

YZ School District

School in the

attendance area of

temporary housing

LEAs

should en-

sure that all

reporting

require-

ments and

data are

updated by

Friday,

November

8th

School in

attendance area of

temporary housing

professional learning sessions to demonstrate the coordination of transportation to the school of origin to ensure school stability. School Stability & School of Origin

Loss of Housing

housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool". 42 USC1432(g)(3)(I)(i).

Loss of Housing

Transportation

Coordination

Transportation Coordination

Permanent Housing



The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has notified student information system (SIS) vendors of the FY25 data reporting updates on several occasions since November 2023. However, our Office has learned that many LEAs were not made aware of these changes and are consequently noncompliant in the re-

Please note that the following elements of the updated reporting requirements and AzEDS reports will be fully implemented in November 2024. However, to ensure transparency and support with the ongoing integrity of the homeless student enrollment data reported by your LEA, all changes have been detailed be-

Homeless has been established as its own Program and has replaced the homeless and unaccompanied youth needs associated with the Support Program. To this end, there is now the Homeless Program. HCY are reported as having membership to the Homeless Program in

UHY are reported as a flag associated with the Homeless Program in

of the latest integrity process run will determine the accuracy of the

This report displays a post-integrity list of student data related to membership and their integrity status results. The status and date of the latest integrity process run will determine the accuracy of the

data contained in the INTEG15. Integrity status is available on the AzEDS System Status page of the AzEDS Portal in ADEConnect. To support with next steps in reconciling your LEA's data, please reference the General Notification of Data Reporting Requirements, and work with your LEA's data team and SIS vendor to ensure compliance in implementing the updated data reporting requirements for your LEA's Homeless Education Program. Please note that LEAs should ensure that all reporting requirements and data are updated by Friday, **November 8th.** If you require assistance on how to get these elements submitted through your LEA's SIS, **Need Support With Your Data?** If you have any questions or would like to thought-partner through anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at <u>Homeless@azed.gov</u>. We're here to support you in any way we can.

rable academic outcomes for all students is an understanding and commitment to our shared responsi-

During a typical workday, the Arizona HEP receives over a dozen phone calls from constituents throughout the State. These phone calls open doors and opportunity for our team to provide technical assistance, brainstorm, problem solve, offer guidance, make introductions, collaborate, and most importantly develop rapport. Which is exactly how our collaborative partnership with the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD)

Homeless I.D. Project Quite often families who are experiencing homelessness face with challenges in maintaining adequate documentation as they face constant movement from place to place. And in situations involving domestic violence, the family may be fleeing to safety and the last thing on their mind is grabbing identification Thankfully, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act includes provision for the immediate enrollment for homeless children and youth (HCY) even if the parent, guardian or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, records of immunization and other required health records (birthcertificates), proof of residency, or other documentation such as a state issued I.D. 42 U.S.C. §11432 (g)(3)(C)(i)(I).

Compassion Engagement (Part 1) - Webinar

Technical Assistance

ssess What We Know and Apply Consultation as

Gather: Analyze: Consultation & Final Assessment: Research: · LEA input · LEA input LEA input NCHE Parent input Parent input · Parent input · DOE · Agency input Statutory Statutory SHC requirements requirements NAEHCY State Plan State Plan Internal partners requirements requirements Agencies Consultation

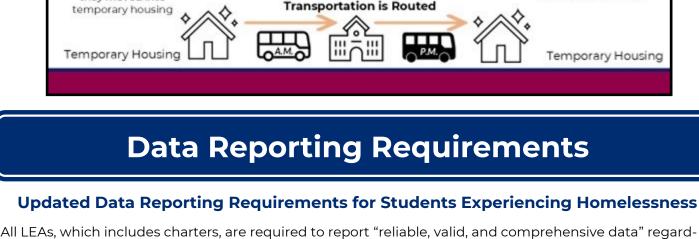
Education (DOE), and internal partners. As each request is addressed, we collect critical data and insights about each situation. Thorough documentation is kept regarding the support provided and data is reported to the Department of Education.

cation, 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 Home-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 re-

Eligibility Deter-

SL Ca na Yc Αs ec ut tic le Th th **Educational Rights Spotlight Transportation Q&A** Our office often receives requests for support regarding the topic of transportation. Below we have outlined a question and answer regarding this topic.

tablish blanket limits on transportation to students experiencing homelessness would violate the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(I)). Below you will find diagrams that the ADE Homeless Education Program has used frequently during



please contact your SIS vendor and refer to the Use Case document for FY25. **Local Education Agency Spotlight** Collective Responsibility to Students Includes All of Us!

Following the immediate enrollment, the parent, guardian, or youth is referred to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison who shall assist in providing support to obtain such documents. Circumstance may arise that required additional support through a referral to a community-based organization (CBO). The Homeless I.D. Project may be the answer! The mission of Homeless ID Project is to empower individuals and families to end their homelessness and rebuild their lives by providing the critical first step of identification replacement services. The services provided by the organization make it possible for individuals experiencing homelessness to receive sup-

Arizona Department of Education/McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Discounted rates for Coalition events and training workshops including the following sessions scheduled for December 2024:

Analyze What

Zoom Webinar - Link emailed after registration Register Here **Additional Important Membership Information:** Membership Expiration Date: January 18, 2025 Membership Questions? Contact, Arizona Housing Coalition Sylvia Waynick, Membership and Corporate Development Manager Email: sylvia@azhousingcoalition.org

> We Know Needed

cates and other supporting documents. As an added support the organization can provide secure document storage to prevent loss, theft, or destruction of these documents. Homeless ID Project office located in the Brian Garcia Welcome Center on the Human Services Campus with additional locations in Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix-Sunnyslope, Tucson and Tempe. Human Services Campus will now allow clients to receive replacement state-issued IDs on-site, eliminating the need to travel to a MVD office. They can also assist with AZ ID & AZ Driver's License, Birth Certificates, and Social Security Cards. Please visit their website to obtain additional information and to learn more about their services and business hours. **Arizona Housing Coalition** In partnership, the Arizona Housing Coalition (AZHC) welcomes the Arizona Department of Education and our state's McKinney-Vento Home-Arizona Housing Coalition less Liaisons as new members of the Coalition. AZHC is the largest housing stability advocacy organization in Arizona, with more than 300 member organizations, community advocates and governmental representatives. Through building part-

Phone: (602) 635-7732

families During the technical assistance process, our Office may review McKinney-Vento statue and consult with the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), SchoolHouse Connection, (SHC) the Department of

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. **Gather All** Relevant **Information**

We are pleased to have the Arizona Department of Education and our state's McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison's join the collective voice of the Arizona Housing Coalition and support their mission to end homelessness and advocate for sale, affordable homes for all Arizonans. Your Membership Includes: Subscription to Coalition e-Newsletter: **Click Here** and click "SIGN-UP FOR NEWS" Exclusive members-only communications, including Advocacy Alerts Ability to participate in Coalition committee(s) Listing on Coalition's membership website "org members only"

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 documentation, statutory requirements, and monitoring preparation. If you encounter a situation that you would like support on, please contact us at (602) 542-4963 or

ties and people of color in their efforts to gain and maintain housing stability.

nerships, AZHC collaborates with other organizations to increase the supply of affordable homes and build capacity among service providers to end homelessness. Furthermore, we are leading in the continuation of the necessary dialogue and learning on how to best address housing injustices affective minori-

> providing support to homeless

Research

	(For this topic, we are offering two session options which will contain the same content.)	December 12th, 2024 from 10am- 12pm <u>Registration Link</u>	and ensurir	ng that written notification is provided.
January	State Homeless Education Pro- gram Conference	Day 1 Wednesday, January 29th 9:00am – 4:00pm MST Day 2 Thursday, January 30th 9:00am – 4:00pm MST	More information regarding how and when to register and topics to be covered will be shared very soon!	
Guidance Documents & Sample Forms				
The ADE Homeless Education Program (HEP) has listened to suggestions and feedback from the field and have made modifications to the required Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire and the Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths documents. As outlined in the Arizona ESEA Consolidated State Plan, all local education agencies (LEAs), including charters, are required to stillize the Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire and Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths in the State of				Updated Resource! Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire & Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths
			•	Documents for McKinney-Vento Home- guidance documents and sample forms
he docume he needs of	nts have been devel	oped for McKinney-V	ento Homel	ess Liaisons to adopt and adapt to fit onverting Sample Documents for LEA

minations, Best Interest Determi-Session 1 December 10th, 2024 from 10am-Managing Dis-This hour-long professional learning session and putes, & Provid-12pm following Q&A Office Hour will inform McKinneying Written Noti-Registration Link Vento Homeless Liaisons of requirements related to fication

The Arizona Homeless Education Program (HEP) is excited to share that we will be partnering with School-

House Connection to host a virtual State HEP Conference in January 2025!

nations (BIDs),

* 9:00am - 4:00pm MST

9:00am - 4:00pm MST

Thursday, January 30th

does appear that the student must be provided transportation if the parent has requested the service and decision in written form to the parent. The written notice must include details regarding the decision, provide information about the dispute resolution, and a copy of the Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youth must be included with the written notice. The first step in this process is to ensure that the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison notifies the parent of the Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youth which includes the right to transportation to the school of origin. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison is required to provide assistance

U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(6)(A)(viii)).

<u>U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(I)</u>.

Permanent Housing ABC School District School student was last enrolled when they moved into temporary housing School of origin is defined as "the school that a child or youth attended when permanently

ing their homeless children and youth (HCY) and unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) enrollment numbers to the State Education Agency (SEA) (42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(6)(C)).

porting of their homeless student data.

Homeless is now its own Program

ABC School District

School student was

last enrolled when

they moved into

Every student's exit date from the Homeless Program must match the student's LEA membership withdraw/exit date. **Updated AzEDS Reports** HEP10 - Active This report provides all Homeless Education Program data that has been submitted to the ADE. This information is available immediately after submission and is pre-integrity. **HEP72** – Forthcoming This report provides all Homeless Education Program data that has been submitted to the ADE and has passed integrity. This information is updated nightly and is post-integrity. The status and date

INTEG15 - Active

data contained in the HEP72 report.

your SIS.

your SIS.

This notion of our shared responsibility is reflected in both the ADE mission of being a service organization committed to raising academic outcomes and empowering parents, and in our Office's impact statement of ensuring positive comparable academic outcomes for the student we serve. This collective commitment and responsibility to students includes you. Know that while you are all powerful actors in this work, you're not alone in doing the work. What's required for realizing positive compa-

developed.

bility to them. We are truly a team for students.

Pictured from left to right; Gary Wyaki-ADE HEP Monitoring Specialist, Rita Rodri-

guez-State HEP State Coordinator, Marisa Pena-ADE Refugee Student Support

Care Education Coordinator, Javi Trudeau-Student Success Specialist Youth in Care Program, Lupita Triana-HEART Liaison, Sherrie Garth-HEART Program Coor-

partnering meetings virtually and in-person.

Lead Specialist, Lacey Grijalva-TUSD Family & Community Engagement Director, Kristopher Neal-HEART Dropout Prevention Specialist, Joey Taylor-ADE Foster

receive the tailored technical assistance they request.

records.

December 18, 2024 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Zoom Webinar - Link emailed after registration **Register Here** Compassion Engagement (Part 2) - Webinar December 19, 2024 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Over the last year, we have been working closely with the TUSD Homeless Education and Resource Team (HEART). The staff reached out to request tailored technical assistance to ensure that their programmatic planning included the required elements as outlined within the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

On a bright summer morning the ADE Office of Homeless, Foster Care, & Refugee Education Programs team members travelled to TUSD to meet the team in person. We spent the day learning more about their LEA,

and each program area. We engaged in meaningful

tions to develop a plan as they work to enhance their

We enjoyed meeting the TUSD HEART and extend a

existing programs.

genuine thank you for their hospitality. We plan to maintain our collaborative partnership to ensure they

If you would like to request support from the Arizona HEP, please contact our Office. We offer thought-

Community-Based Organizations Spotlight

Many Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) have the experience, expertise, and capacity to provide wraparound services beyond what LEAs can or are funded to provide. Building partnerships with CBOs create opportunities to provide wraparound services for students experiencing homelessness. The goal of

Each issue, we will highlight a CBO that our team has met with to gain understanding of their services. In

wraparound services is to improve outcomes for students through collaboration and coordination.

this issue we are highlighting Homeless I.D. Project and Arizona Housing Coalition.

brainstorming sessions that guided planning conversa-

port with acquiring, at no cost to them, replacement identification documents including birth certifi-

What We've Learned

Homeless@azed.gov.