

Texas State Plan

No Child Left Behind Act of 2002

Public Law 107-110

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2002

Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program

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Introduction

The Texas State Plan was prepared as a collaboration between the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Education Service Center Region 10 (hereinafter referred to as "Region 10"), and the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO). The activities described herein are the major activities that will be undertaken to meet the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2002. The activities that the TEA, Region 10, and THEO will undertake to meet the requirements of McKinney-Vento are not limited solely to the activities mentioned in the State Plan.

Background

As a result of the 1995 decentralization of the TEA, the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program was moved to the Region 10 in March 1996. Region 10 administers all of the financial components of the program. The Region 10 outsourced all of the programmatic components to the THEO, located at the Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin.

State Policy

Definition of Equal Access to the Same Free, Appropriate Public Education

For purposes of this plan, "equal access to the same free, appropriate public education" in Texas means that homelessness alone shall not disqualify children and youth from participating in any program or receiving any service for which they would otherwise be eligible. All Texas children and youth experiencing homelessness will be able to participate in any program or receive any service for which they would be eligible if they were not homeless. Homelessness alone shall not disqualify any children or youth from eligibility. Therefore, children experiencing homelessness shall be eligible for transportation services, compensatory education services, bilingual education services, special education services, school meal programs, preschool programs, or any other programs offered by the local school district for which the homeless child or youth is otherwise eligible.

Requirements of the State Plan

The requirements for the State Plan are provided in *Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002*. Additional guidance regarding the State Plan appears in the *State Plan for the Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program* document from the U.S. Department of Education. The relevant citations and excerpts from both documents, specifying the contents and outline of the State Plan, are given below.

**Subtitle B Of Title VII Of The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
As Amended By The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act Of 2002 [Title X, Part C]
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2002
Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program**

Section 722. (e) State And Local Subgrants-

(2) Use By State Educational Agency- A State educational agency may use funds made available for State use under this subtitle to conduct activities under subsection (f) directly or through grants or contracts.

Section 722. (g) State Plan-

(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 youths.

(E) A description of procedures that ensure that homeless children and youths 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--

(i) homeless children have equal access to the same public preschool programs, administered by the State agency, as provided to other children in the State;

(ii) homeless youths and youths separated from the public schools are identified and accorded equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services; and

- (iii) 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--
- (i) immunization and medical records requirements;
 - (ii) residency requirements;
 - (iii) lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation;
 - (iv) guardianship issues; or
 - (v) 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--
- (i) 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;
 - (ii) 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
 - (iii) 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:
 - (I) 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 or arranged by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located.
 - (II) 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 of origin and 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 for transportation shall be shared equally.

PLEASE NOTE: The TEA's enforcement authority is not consistent with all assurances required under the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act*. The agency will seek State legislation clarifying this issue during the next Texas State legislative session, starting in 2003.

(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).

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

To receive funds, an 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:
 - 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; [Requirement 1, page 14]
 - Describes procedures the SEA will use to identify homeless children and youth in the State and to assess their special needs; [Requirement 2, page 17]
 - Describes the State's procedure for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youths; [Requirement 3, page 19]
 - 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; [Requirement 4, page 20]
 - 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; [Requirement 5, page 23]
 - 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; [Requirement 6, page 24]
 - 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; [Requirement 7, page 26]
 - 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; [Requirement 8, page 29]
 - 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 schools in the State; [Requirement 9, page 31]

- 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; [Requirement 10, page 32]
 - 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 Act; [Requirement 11, page 32]
 - 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. [Requirement 12, page 35]
3. Assurances contained in this package with the appropriate signature.

Legal Background for the Education of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The following legal citations will be used throughout this document. These citations contain legislation that has had a positive impact on the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

**Subtitle B Of Title VII Of The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
As Amended By The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act Of 2002 [Title X, Part C]
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2002
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 of 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 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 this subtitle:

- (1) The terms 'enroll' and 'enrollment' include 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)[cited as *U.S.C., Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter I* below]); 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 the 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.

U.S.C., Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter I

Section 11302. - General definition of homeless individual

(a) In general

For purposes of this chapter, the term "homeless" or "homeless individual or homeless person" [1] includes -

- (1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
- (2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is -
- (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
- (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
- (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- (b) Income eligibility

(1) In general

A homeless individual shall be eligible for assistance under any program provided by this chapter, only if the individual complies with the income eligibility requirements otherwise applicable to such program.

(2) Exception

Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a homeless individual shall be eligible for assistance under the Job Training Partnership Act (29 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) or title I [sic] of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

(c) Exclusion

For purposes of this chapter, the term "homeless" or "homeless individual" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of the Congress or a State law.

[1] So in original. Probably should be " 'homeless individual' or 'homeless person' ".

Texas Education Code (TEC)

§11.162. School Uniforms

(a) The board of trustees of an independent school district may adopt rules that require students at a school in the district to wear school uniforms if the board determines that the requirement would improve the learning environment at the school.

(b) The rules the board of trustees adopts must designate a source of funding that shall be used in providing uniforms for students at the school who are educationally disadvantaged.

(c) A parent or guardian of a student assigned to attend a school at which students are required to wear school uniforms may choose for the student to be exempted from the requirement or to transfer to a school at which students are not required to wear uniforms and at which space is available if the parent or guardian provides a written statement that, as determined by the board of trustees, states a bona fide religious or philosophical objection to the requirement.

(d) Students at a school at which uniforms are required shall wear the uniforms beginning on the 90th day after the date on which the board of trustees adopts the rules that require the uniforms.

§25.001. Admission

(a) A person who is at least five years of age and under 21 years of age on the first day of September of any school year is entitled to the benefits of the available school fund for that year. Any other person enrolled in a prekindergarten class under Section 29.153 is entitled to the benefits of the available school fund.

(b) The board of trustees of a school district or its designee shall admit into the public schools of the district free of tuition a person who is over five and younger than 21 years of age on the first day of September of the school year in which admission is sought if:

- (1) the person and either parent of the person reside in the school district;
- (2) the person does not reside in the school district but a parent of the person resides in the school district and that parent is a joint managing conservator or the sole managing conservator or possessory conservator of the person;
- (3) the person and the person's guardian or other person having lawful control of the person under a court order reside within the school district;
- (4) the person has established a separate residence under Subsection (d);
- (5) the person is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11302, regardless of the residence of the person, of either parent of the person, or of the person's guardian or other person having lawful control of the person;
- (6) the person is a foreign exchange student placed with a host family that resides in the school district by a nationally recognized foreign exchange program, unless the school district has applied for and been granted a waiver by the commissioner under Subsection (e);
- (7) the person resides at a residential facility located in the district; or
- (8) the person resides in the school district and is 18 years of age or older or the person's disabilities of minority have been removed.

§25.002. Requirements for Enrollment

(a) Not later than the 30th day after the date a parent or other person with legal control of a child under a court order enrolls the child in a public school, the parent or other person or the school district in which the child most recently attended school shall furnish to the school district:

- (1) the child's birth certificate or another document suitable as proof of the child's identity;
- (2) a copy of the child's records from the school the child most recently attended if the child has been previously enrolled in a school in this state or another state; and
- (3) a record showing that the child has the immunizations as required under Section 38.001, in the case of a child required under that section to be immunized, proof as required by that section showing that the child is not required to be immunized, or proof that the child is entitled to provisional admission under that section and under rules adopted under that section.

(b) If a child is enrolled under a name other than the child's name as it appears in the identifying document or records, the school district shall notify the missing children and missing persons information clearinghouse of the child's name as shown on the identifying document or records and the name under which the child is enrolled. The information in the notice is confidential and may be released only to a law enforcement agency.

(c) If the information required by Subsection (a) is not furnished to the district within the period provided by that subsection, the district shall notify the police department of the municipality or sheriff's department of the county in which the district is located and request a determination of whether the child has been reported as missing.

(d) When accepting a child for enrollment, the school district shall inform the parent or other person enrolling the child that presenting a false document or false records under this section is an offense under Section 37.10, Penal Code, and that enrollment of the child under false documents subjects the person to liability for tuition or costs under Section 25.001(h).

(e) A person commits an offense if the person enrolls a child in a public school and fails to furnish an identifying document or record relating to the child on the request of a law enforcement agency conducting an investigation in response to a notification under Subsection (c). An offense under this subsection is a Class B misdemeanor.

(f) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, for a child to be enrolled in a public school, the child must be enrolled by the child's parent or by the child's guardian or other person with legal control of the child under a court order.

§25.085. Compulsory School Attendance

(a) A child who is required to attend school under this section shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided.

(b) Unless specifically exempted by Section 25.086, a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached the child's 18th birthday shall attend school.

(c) On enrollment in prekindergarten or kindergarten, a child shall attend school.

(d) Unless specifically exempted by Section 25.086, a student enrolled in a school district must attend:

(1) an extended-year program for which the student is eligible that is provided by the district for students identified as likely not to be promoted to the next grade level or tutorial classes required by the district under Section 29.084;

(2) an accelerated reading instruction program to which the student is assigned under Section 28.006(g);

(3) an accelerated instruction program to which the student is assigned under Section 28.0211; or

(4) a basic skills program to which the student is assigned under Section 29.086.

(e) A person who voluntarily enrolls in school or voluntarily attends school after the person's 18th birthday shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is offered. A school district may revoke for the remainder of the school year the enrollment of a person who has more than five absences in a semester that are not excused under Section 25.087. A person whose enrollment is revoked under this subsection may be considered an unauthorized person on school district grounds for purposes of Section 37.107.

§29.081. Compensatory, Intensive, and Accelerated Instruction

In 2001, SB702 amended TEC §29.081. Compensatory, Intensive, and Accelerated Instruction, to include the following among its criteria for students who are to be considered at-risk:

(12) is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11302, and its subsequent amendments

These recent changes have not yet been incorporated into the TEC and published. The updated TEC is due to be published in June 2002.

§29.153. Prekindergarten

(a) Any school district may offer prekindergarten classes, but a district shall offer prekindergarten classes if the district identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least four years of age. A school district may offer prekindergarten classes if the district identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least three years of age.

(b) A child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class if the child is at least three years of age and is:

(1) unable to speak and comprehend the English language;

(2) educationally disadvantaged; or

(3) homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11302, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child.

Acronym Guide

LEA: Local Education Agency

NCLB: No Child Left Behind Act of 2002

PEIMS: Public Education Information Management System

PSA: Public Service Announcement

Region 10: Education Service Center Region 10

SEA: State Education Agency

TEA: Texas Education Agency

TEC: Texas Education Code

THEO: Texas Homeless Education Office

State Plan Activities

1. **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 [Section 722(g)(1)(A), page 3]:**
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Current efforts to address the provision

- 1.1 All children in Texas between the ages of 6 and 18 are required to enroll and attend school (TEC §25.085, page 11).
- 1.2 All students experiencing homelessness in Texas may enroll in any district regardless of where they, their parents, their guardians, or any other person having lawful control of them reside (TEC §25.001, page 10).
- 1.3 All prekindergarten students experiencing homelessness in Texas are eligible to enroll in the State prekindergarten program (TEC §29.153, page 12).
- 1.4 The Texas Office of the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth has worked since 1987 to ensure that Texas students experiencing homelessness have access to and succeed in Texas public schools. The responsibilities for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth program have been divided among Region 10 and the THEO since 1996. THEO works closely with both the TEA and Region 10 to ensure that Texas homeless children and youth are able to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school.
- 1.5 The THEO provides staff development, resource materials, and technical assistance to Texas teachers, counselors, support staff, administrators, homeless service providers, advocates, and others about the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, the related state laws, and the special needs of students experiencing homelessness.
- 1.6 The TEA's Chief Legal Counsel distributes a letter every year addressing enrollment and attendance concerns, including the identification and attendance of students experiencing homelessness. The letter clarifies that these children and youth are entitled to all the benefits of the public schools in the same manner as other children and youth.
- 1.7 The THEO works in collaboration with TEA and other state agencies to identify and address the existing barriers that prevent children and youth experiencing homelessness from meeting the academic standards expected of all students.
- 1.8 Students in homeless situations are required to participate in all state and local student achievement testing programs, and are not granted waivers or exemptions from testing solely on the basis of their homeless status.
- 1.9 Texas Senate Bill 702, passed in 2001, added "homelessness" to the list of at-risk criteria for compensatory, intensive, and accelerated instruction (TEC §29.081, page 12). Each Texas district is required to provide "accelerated instruction" to any student that meets these at-risk criteria.

- 1.10 The THEO responds to requests from Federal and State legislators for requests for information about homeless education issues.
- 1.11 The THEO collaborates with the TEA to craft new state laws and regulations to ensure that barriers are eliminated that might prevent children and youth experiencing homelessness from meeting the academic standards expected of all students.
- 1.12 The THEO facilitates collaborative efforts among districts, schools, and homeless service providers that meet the needs of children and youth experiencing homeless in order to ensure that they are able to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school.
- 1.13 The THEO assists students (and their advocates) who are experiencing difficulty enrolling in, attending, or succeeding in public school because they are homeless.
- 1.14 The THEO collaborates with state agencies, service providers, colleges, universities, and other organizations at state, regional, and local levels to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness are able to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school.
- 1.15 The THEO collects comprehensive information about the students served in the discretionary grant program. Included in this information are student identification numbers that can be used to obtain information from TEA regarding student achievement. The THEO is working with the Dana Center's Director of Educational Research to consider possible research studies that would yield important information regarding academic achievement for homeless students.

Proposed Activities	Timeline
<p>1.1PA The THEO will review state laws and rules related to education, including new state laws and rules passed in response to the NCLB, and will work to revise or eliminate any that constitute barriers to the enrollment, attendance, or success of students experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.2PA The THEO will provide training and support to each of the LEA liaisons about the identification and education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.3PA The THEO will develop new resource material and revise older material in response to reauthorization that addresses identification and assessment of the special needs of students experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.4PA The THEO will meet with TEA staff who manage the State's Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to explore the options for disaggregation of student achievement data for students in homeless situations.</p>	<p>Fall 2002 and ongoing</p>
<p>1.5PA The THEO will meet with TEA staff who manage the State Compensatory Education Program to explore ways in which more students in homeless situations can take advantage of these funds.</p>	<p>Winter 2003</p>
<p>1.6PA The THEO will develop a research project in collaboration with Dana Center senior research staff to identify effective educational interventions for students in homeless situations.</p>	<p>2002-2003 School Year and ongoing</p>
<p>1.7PA The THEO will produce a booklet that outlines successful practices that McKinney-Vento subgrantees have developed for working with students in homeless situations, including student achievement issues. The booklet will be distributed at no cost to all homeless liaisons and will be available to others.</p>	<p>This activity has begun and will be completed by November 2002</p>

2. Procedures for identifying homeless children and youth in the State and assessing their special needs [Section 722(g)(1)(B), page 3]:

Current efforts to address the provision

- 2.1 The THEO provides staff development, resource materials, and technical assistance that explain how to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness. This material and information is disseminated to schools and school districts throughout the state through various means. Much of this material is available on the worldwide web.
- 2.2 The THEO conducts workshops at conferences and meetings throughout the state focusing on identifying and educating children and youth experiencing homelessness. These workshops take place for different audiences, for example, school counselors, school nurses, school social workers, Title I parents, etc.
- 2.3 The THEO provides extensive staff development and technical assistance for the McKinney-Vento discretionary grantees and other districts upon request on identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- 2.4 The THEO collects information about all students served in the discretionary grant program through a database of students served and services provided.
- 2.5 The THEO provides technical assistance to anyone, anywhere in the state, via a toll-free number, regarding the identification of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- 2.6 The THEO assesses the needs of Texas children and youth experiencing homelessness through its extensive contacts and ongoing relationships with homeless service providers.
- 2.7 The THEO staff supports and collaborates with the Texas Homeless Network, Texas Network of Youth Services, and Protective Services for Families and Children (CPS); and works with other homeless service providers and homeless coalitions throughout the state.
- 2.8 The THEO regularly submits articles regarding homelessness to the Texas Homeless Network for publication in its newsletter, which has a statewide circulation of nearly 2,500.
- 2.9 The THEO convenes homeless service providers for the specific purpose of learning about the needs of Texas children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- 2.10 The THEO conducted an extensive survey of homeless service providers to identify the educational barriers for children and youth in homeless situations.
- 2.11 The THEO has met with TEA's Chief Legal Counsel to identify areas in which TEA enforcement authority is not consistent with all assurances required under McKinney-Vento.
- 2.12 The TEA Chief Legal Counsel will include information about the McKinney-Vento program in the annual legal update to Texas school superintendents. The TEA will also send a separate letter to school superintendents, which specifically addresses the new McKinney-Vento provisions.

Proposed Activities	Timeline
<p>2.1PA The THEO will provide training and support to all new local homeless liaisons about the identification and education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>July 2002 and ongoing</p>
<p>2.2PA The THEO will convene its advisory group and seek input for improving the process to identify children and youth in homeless situations and assess their special needs.</p>	<p>Spring 2003</p>
<p>2.3PA The THEO will expand its efforts to distribute a public service announcement to major TV and radio markets throughout the state to raise awareness of eligibility for homeless education services.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>2.4PA The TEA's Chief Legal Counsel will disseminate letters to school superintendents addressing the district's responsibility to identify and serve children in homeless situations.</p>	<p>August 2002</p>
<p>2.5PA The THEO will re-administer the comprehensive survey on educational barriers in order to assess progress and determine new needs.</p>	<p>Spring-Summer 2003</p>
<p>2.6PA The THEO will produce a booklet that outlines successful practices that McKinney-Vento subgrantees have developed for working with students in homeless situations, including identifying these children and youth and their special needs. The booklet will be distributed at no cost to all homeless liaisons and will be available to others.</p>	<p>This activity has begun and will be completed by November 2002</p>

3. Procedure for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youth [Section 722(g)(1)(C), page 3]:

Current efforts to address the provision

- 3.1 A dispute resolution process exists regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youth through an interagency agreement among the TEA, THEO, and Region 10.

Proposed Activities	Timeline
<p>3.1PA The THEO will work with the TEA and Region 10 to revise the dispute resolution process in response to the requirements of the reauthorization.</p>	<p>Summer 2002</p>
<p>3.2PA The THEO will provide information and staff development to school district homeless liaisons regarding implementation of the dispute resolution process.</p>	<p>July 2002 and ongoing</p>
<p>3.3PA The THEO will include a description of the dispute resolution process on its website.</p>	<p>September 2002</p>
<p>3.4PA The THEO will include a description of the dispute resolution process in all trainings it conducts on the implementation of the McKinney-Vento homeless education program.</p>	<p>This has begun and will be ongoing</p>
<p>3.5PA The THEO will prepare an article on the dispute resolution process for inclusion in newsletters of the Texas Homeless Network, the Texas Network of Youth Services, the Texas Council on Family Violence, and other appropriate organizations.</p>	<p>October 2002 and ongoing</p>
<p>3.6PA The THEO will develop guidance for school districts regarding procedures for determining "best interest" school placement.</p>	<p>Winter 2003</p>

4. 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 youth [Section 722(g)(1)(D), page 3]:

Current efforts to address the provision

- 4.1 The THEO provides staff development, resource materials, and technical assistance to Texas teachers, counselors, social workers, support staff, administrators, and others about the provisions of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, the related state laws, and the special needs of students experiencing homelessness. Much of the resource material developed by the THEO is available on the website free of charge. Posters and brochures developed by THEO are in Spanish and English.
- 4.2 The THEO has met with TEA's Chief Legal Counsel to identify areas in which TEA enforcement authority is not consistent with all assurances required under McKinney-Vento. The TEA will send a separate letter to school superintendents, which specifically addresses the new McKinney-Vento provisions regarding services for runaway and homeless youth.
- 4.3 The THEO facilitates collaborative efforts among districts, schools, and homeless service providers that help meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness in order to ensure that they are able to enroll in and attend school.
- 4.4 The THEO collaborates with state agencies, service providers, colleges, universities and other organizations at state, regional, and local levels to ensure that youth experiencing homelessness are able to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school.
- 4.5 The THEO sponsored a series of meetings to examine the special housing needs of runaway and homeless youth.
- 4.6 The THEO is the lead agency in an effort to introduce legislation that will add youth in transitional living programs to the categories of students exempt from tuition and fees at Texas public colleges and universities.
- 4.7 The THEO conducts workshops at conferences and meetings throughout the state that focus on identifying and educating youth experiencing homelessness. These workshops take place for different audiences, for example, school counselors, school nurses, school social workers, Title I parents, etc. The THEO presents a workshop annually at the Texas Network of Youth Services conference.
- 4.8 The THEO develops the children-and-youth strand for the annual Texas Homeless Network conference and includes sessions directly related to the needs of homeless youth.
- 4.9 The THEO provides extensive staff development and technical assistance for the Texas discretionary grantees on identifying youth experiencing homelessness.
- 4.10 The THEO provided opportunities for McKinney-Vento discretionary grantees to obtain additional funding by developing "focus areas" to serve specific populations—one of these populations was homeless youth.
- 4.11 A THEO staff member wrote a feature article for the Texas Homeless Network newsletter that focused on the needs and successes of youth in homeless situations.

- 4.12 The THEO received a grant from the US Department of Commerce through its Technology Opportunities Program to place computer networks and tutors at several sites in Austin, Texas, that serve homeless children and youth. This program, SHELTRS (Support for Homeless Education: Linking Technology Resources to Shelters), helps youth access information technologies available to their non-homeless peers and uses these technologies to transform the way they learn and relate to their communities. Tutors ensure that students experiencing homelessness receive individualized attention and benefit from assessment and learning activities that are aligned with the state-mandated curriculum framework. The tutors are given training that enables them to understand phenomena associated with homelessness so that they can better serve the students. This project garnered national attention when it received an award from the Smithsonian Institution and it is used as a model by other organizations trying to develop similar programs. Support from the Dell Foundation has helped to continue the project when TOP funding ended.

Proposed Activities	Timeline
<p>4.1PA The THEO will provide information and staff development to school district homeless liaisons and other staff regarding the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.</p>	<p>July 2002 and ongoing</p>
<p>4.2PA The THEO will present a workshop at the annual Texas Network of Youth Services conference and continue to strengthen its relationship with the organization.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>4.3PA The THEO has been contacted by the Texas Young Lawyers' Association concerning a possible partnership between our organizations. One of the areas of work that will be considered is runaway and homeless youth.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>4.4PA The THEO will seek new funding and partnerships to continue the SHELTRS project.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>4.5PA The THEO will develop a one-day pre-conference symposium on runaway and homeless youth for the Texas Homeless Network's annual conference.</p>	<p>Fall 2004</p>
<p>4.6PA The THEO will produce a booklet that outlines successful practices that McKinney-Vento subgrantees have developed for working with students in homeless situations, including the special needs of runaway and homeless youth. The booklet will be distributed at no cost to all homeless liaisons and will be available to others.</p>	<p>This activity has begun and will be completed by November 2002</p>
<p>4.7PA</p>	

The THEO will produce new posters and brochures in Spanish and English for wide distribution to schools, homeless service providers, shelters, soup kitchens, food banks, welfare assistance offices, low-income motels, and other locations where homeless children and youth and their families are likely to be.

July 2002 and ongoing

<p>4.8PA The THEO will review existing public service announcements, revise if necessary, and distribute widely to television and radio stations throughout the state. The PSAs are in English and Spanish.</p>	<p>July 2002 and ongoing</p>
<p>4.9PA The THEO will develop a video or series of training videos on homeless education.</p>	<p>Winter 2004</p>
<p>4.10PA The THEO will contract with the Texas Homeless Network to expand its newsletter dissemination to include all Texas school districts and education service centers. The THN will produce two newsletters devoted entirely to homeless education and will feature at least two articles in each issue on homeless children and youth.</p>	<p>Fall 2002 and ongoing</p>

5. Procedures for ensuring that homeless children and youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local food programs [Section 722(g)(1)(E), page 3]:

Current efforts to address the provision

- 5.1 The THEO collaborates with the Child Nutrition Programs Division at the TEA to ensure that all Child Nutrition Program administrators in the state are familiar with the eligibility regulations regarding children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- 5.2 The THEO has developed resource material regarding nutrition program eligibility for children and youth experiencing homelessness, and distributes that material to schools, districts, homeless service providers, and anyone concerned with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Information on this topic will be added to the THEO website on an ongoing basis.
- 5.3 The THEO provides information about how to access food programs to McKinney-Vento subgrantees through trainings, email, and written correspondence.

Proposed Activities	Timeline
<p>5.1PA The THEO will provide information and staff development to school district homeless liaisons and other staff regarding the US Department of Agriculture’s new guidelines for access to free and reduced lunch for students in homeless situations through training, the website, and newsletter articles. Homeless liaisons will be requested to meet with their district’s food service director to ensure that the new guidelines are disseminated and enforced, and to explore other opportunities for collaboration.</p>	Ongoing
<p>5.2PA The THEO will contact the director of the Child Nutrition Programs Division at TEA to discuss methods for informing local nutrition program administrators about the new guidelines for meals for students in homeless situations. We will examine the possibility of presenting information on homeless children and youth at trainings for nutrition staff.</p>	August 2002 and ongoing
<p>5.3PA The THEO will establish relationships with organizations such as the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies that provide information about food and nutrition programs to enlist their assistance in developing and promoting food and nutrition programs to assist homeless children, youth, and their families.</p>	Summer 2003 and ongoing

- 6. 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 youth and youth separated from the public schools are identified and accorded equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services; homeless children and youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local before- and after-school care programs [Section 722(g)(1)(F), page 3]:**
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Current efforts to address the provisions

- 6.1 All prekindergarten children experiencing homelessness are eligible for the State prekindergarten program (TEC §29.153, page 12). Information about prekindergarten eligibility is distributed throughout the state in the THEO resource material and workshops.
- 6.2 The THEO has collaborative relationships with the directors of the Head Start Collaboration Project and the Even Start Program. The THEO staff played a key role on the Head Start Collaboration Project conference planning committee.
- 6.3 The THEO presents a session at the annual Head Start conference to ensure that children experiencing homelessness are granted access to the Head Start program. Attendance at this session has steadily grown each year and homeless children appear to continue to have increased access to Head Start.
- 6.4 The THEO has widely disseminated the 1992 Head Start memo across Texas and to many other states.
- 6.5 The THEO has disseminated information about the Head Start demonstration project for homeless children to McKinney-Vento subgrantees and attendees at the annual Head Start conference.
- 6.6 The THEO wrote an article for the Texas Homeless Network newsletter that focused on access to education for very young children.
- 6.7 The THEO emphasizes the importance of McKinney-Vento collaboration with educational programs for young children. Several of the grantees have developed close working relationships with pre-K, Head Start, and Even Start programs.
- 6.8 All children and youth between the ages of 6 and 18 in Texas are required to enroll in and attend school (TEC §25.085, page 11). All children and youth experiencing homelessness are eligible to enroll in any district, regardless of where they or their parents reside (TEC §25.001, page 10). The THEO runs public service announcements on TV and radio stations across the state letting homeless children and youth and their parents know about their educational rights and responsibilities.
- 6.9 The THEO collaborates with agencies and service providers who work with homeless youth and youth separated from the public schools, such as the Texas Network of Youth Services.
- 6.10 All discretionary grant programs conduct outreach efforts in their community to locate supplemental programs for which children and youth experiencing homelessness are eligible. They advocate on behalf of these children and youth to ensure that the students have the opportunity to participate in these programs.

- 6.11 The resource materials distributed by THEO, including the *Campus Self-Assessment Guide*, *Pieces of the Puzzle*, and *Questions and Answers on the Education of Children and Youth in Homeless Situations*, address the topic of homeless students being allowed to participate in available programs for which they are eligible and offers suggestions to help liaisons and other advocates ensure that the students are able to participate.

Proposed Activities	Timeline
<p>6.1PA The THEO will address program eligibility and outreach efforts in its new resource materials and in all of its training and staff development sessions for all district liaisons.</p>	<p>July 2002 and ongoing</p>
<p>6.2PA The THEO will work with the directors of Head Start, Even Start, pre-K, and other programs geared toward young children to make them aware of the need to include information about the special needs of homeless children and youth and their families in any training or staff development activity they offer.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>6.3PA The THEO will develop a one-day, pre-conference symposium on the educational needs of very young children in homeless situations for the Texas Homeless Network's annual conference.</p>	<p>Fall 2003</p>
<p>6.4PA The THEO will continue to write articles on these topics for publication in relevant newsletters.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>6.5PA The THEO will continue to work with the Texas Network of Youth Services and other youth-oriented organizations to develop strategies to engage youth into programs that meet their educational needs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>6.6PA The THEO will work with the University of Texas at Austin's Distance Education Center to explore options for homeless youth.</p>	<p>May 2002 and ongoing</p>

7. Strategies for addressing problems set forth in the FY 2000 report provided to the Secretary under subsection 722(f)(3) of the Act [Section 722(g)(1)(G), page 3]:

Current efforts to address problems outlined in the report to the Secretary

In the FY2000 report provided to the Secretary under subsection 722(f)(3) of the McKinney-Vento Act, the THEO identified the following as the greatest challenges and barriers facing the Education of Homeless Children and Youth program:

High Mobility

A few districts in Texas have made excellent progress toward ensuring that students in homeless situations have the opportunity to remain in the same school for the entire school year by working with their transportation directors. Other districts, both McKinney-Vento grantees and non-grantees, have made some progress toward that goal. Some districts have social workers who act as case managers to help students and parents locate stable housing by working with community service providers to accomplish this goal. For most highly mobile children and youth in homeless situations, moving from one school to another still presents challenges to school stability.

Transportation

Transportation is closely related to high mobility, although some students move such a great distance that even if transportation to their school of origin was available, they would not be able to take advantage of it. Some districts have made progress on this issue.

Residency Requirements; Legal Guardianship Requirements; Availability of School Records; Immunization; and Birth Certificates

These issues have been well addressed by state law (see *Legal Background* at introduction of this document). The TEA's Chief Legal Counsel addresses these issues in the annual enrollment letter to LEAs and they are also addressed in the *TEA Student Attendance Accounting Handbook*. The THEO staff prominently discuss these issues at all trainings for LEAs, service providers, and at other venues, and information about them is available in many of the documents THEO distributes and that are available on the THEO website.

Additionally, specifically regarding birth certificates, the THEO developed a form that a parent/guardian/school official/student can send to the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics in order to acquire (at no charge) an official letter that will serve in lieu of a birth certificate for school purposes.

Lack of Available Preschool Programs

Please see items that address this topic elsewhere in this document.

Title I

During training for the McKinney-Vento liaisons, staff members from the Title I program at the TEA have presented information regarding the use of Title I funds for students experiencing homelessness. Liaisons have been encouraged to seek additional services for students through their districts' Title I programs.

Staff members from the THEO have presented training sessions to the statewide committee of practitioners and other groups that the state Title I office has convened. Staff from the THEO regularly present at education and related conferences, including those sponsored by the

Association of Compensatory Educators of Texas, and inform participants how Title I funds might be used to serve students in homeless situations.

At the district level, many liaisons have been successful in garnering support from the Title I program. For example, two districts that lost their McKinney-Vento funding were able to keep most of their homeless education services intact because their Title I directors saw the value of the program and provided funding to continue services, even after McKinney-Vento funding was restored. In other districts, Title I directors recognize that McKinney-Vento funds are insufficient to serve the large numbers of eligible students and provide funds for students experiencing homelessness.

Staff members from the THEO have noted discrepancies in Title I counting procedures involving numbers of homeless students and are working to address this problem.

Special Education

Students in homeless situations face two major challenges regarding special education: First, students frequently do not receive special education services because they are not referred for testing. LEAs assume that because the students will be in one school for a short time, it is not worth the effort and expense of putting the students through the process. Second, in some cases, students are referred for special education when there is actually another reason that they are under-performing, such as extended absences from school.

The THEO has worked with TEA's Special Education Complaints Director to resolve some of these issues and has created a separate chapter on special education in the questions-and-answers document.

Head Start

Staff members from the THEO serve on the Head Start Collaboration Project. Staff from THEO present at the Texas Head Start Association annual conference to encourage local Head Start projects to reach out to and include children in homeless situations.

In some communities, Head Start will complete the necessary paperwork and place children experiencing homelessness at the top of the waiting list. However, if no children drop out and the program remains full, then no slots are available for children in homeless situations and they remain unserved.

The THEO widely distributes the 1992 memo from the Head Start Bureau that outlines responsibilities for ensuring access for homeless children and youth to Head Start.

Even Start

Collaborations with the Even Start program have been established to facilitate and increase enrollment of pre-school children in homeless situations.

In two districts, the McKinney-Vento program and the Even Start program are housed in the same office and work very closely together.

Bilingual Education

In some districts, the homeless liaison, who speaks the same language as the family, meets with parents as they enroll children in school to determine the family's needs. Information about a variety of programs and services is offered to the parents at this time. As part of the McKinney-Vento grant application process, applicants are required to indicate how they will ensure effective communication with students and parents whose primary language is not English.

Posters and brochures developed by the THEO are in English and Spanish.

Adult and Vocational Education

Efforts are coordinated between the pre-Kindergarten and elementary campuses to involve qualified parents in adult education programs. The Adult English as a Second Language program does provide joint learning opportunities for children with their parents. Many districts take a holistic approach to case management and work with the entire family to ensure that all family members receive the services for which they are eligible. Even Start programs work with parents to expand their literacy skills.

Proposed Activities	Timeline
<p>7.1PA The THEO will continue to provide strategies to address the problems identified in the current and future reports provided to the Secretary under subsection (f)(3) of the Act and will also fold those strategies into future planning documents and state plans. Most of the efforts to address the problems set forth in the report are described throughout the State Plan and are not repeated in this section of the Plan.</p>	Ongoing
<p>7.2PA The THEO will work with the State's Title I program to ensure that the Title I application for funds includes appropriate references to homeless students. The THEO will provide information to Title I that can be included on the Title I website and will place Title I information on the THEO website.</p>	Ongoing
<p>7.3PA The THEO will work with the Dana Center, and possibly other UT staff, to develop a project related to mobility issues.</p>	Spring 2004
<p>7.4PA The THEO will include a session on special education in its August training for subgrantees.</p>	August 2002
<p>7.5PA The THEO will work with the TEA's Special Education Department to develop strategies for increasing school districts' capacity for providing appropriate special education services for students in homeless situations.</p>	January 2003

8. **Strategies for addressing problems with respect to the education of homeless children and youth, including problems resulting from enrollment delays that are caused by: (i) immunization and medical records requirements; (ii) residency requirements; (iii) lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation; (iv) guardianship issues; or (v) uniform or dress code requirements [Section 722(g)(1)(H), page 3]:**
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Current efforts to address the provisions

- 8.1 The TEC has addressed each of these issues for all students. All superintendents and administrative staff should be aware of these provisions:
- (i) & (iii) The TEC §25.002 prohibits districts from denying a child enrollment for lack of records and gives the student 30 days after enrolling to provide them to the school. According to the TEA Chief Legal Counsel, students are not necessarily withdrawn even if they fail to provide the information after the 30-day grace period.
 - (ii) & (iv) The TEC §25.001(b)(5) requires a school district to enroll a homeless student regardless of where they, their parent or legal guardian, or any other person having lawful control over them, resides.
 - (v) The TEC §11.162 (b) requires schools to identify a source of funding that shall be used in providing uniforms for students at the school who are educationally disadvantaged. The TEC §11.162 (c) allows students assigned to schools with school uniform requirements to be exempted or to transfer to another school with available space if the parent or legal guardian of the student provides a written statement that, as determined by the board of trustees, states a bona fide religious or philosophical objection to the requirement.
- 8.2 The THEO disseminates information about the TEC provisions pertaining to these issues throughout the state in its resource documents and staff development.
- 8.3 Conflicts that arise over any of these issues can be resolved through the toll-free homeless education hotline.
- 8.4 Education for Homeless Children and Youth discretionary grant funds or Title I funds can be used to pay for any costs related to these items for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Proposed Activities	Timeline
<p>8.1PA The THEO will work with current and new homeless liaisons to ensure that all local policies and procedures are carried out as required by NCLB.</p>	Ongoing
<p>8.2PA The THEO will continue to ensure that any documents, web materials, newsletter articles, training sessions, and other communications clearly convey the laws and policies concerning enrollment delays.</p>	Ongoing
<p>8.3PA The THEO will continue to work closely with homeless advocacy organizations to ensure that they fully understand the provisions of the law that address enrollment delays.</p>	Ongoing
<p>8.4PA The THEO will continue to address questions and resolve disputes that involve enrollment delays through its toll-free hotline.</p>	Ongoing
<p>8.5PA The THEO will use the results of the comprehensive survey and meetings with service providers to identify additional barriers that might be caused by enrollment delays. If additional legislation is required, the THEO will work with TEA's Chief Legal Counsel to develop new laws.</p>	Fall 2003
<p>8.6PA The THEO will continue to provide guidance to school districts on sources of funding for school uniforms.</p>	Ongoing

9. Demonstration 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 youth in schools in the State [Section 722(g)(1)(I), page 4]:

Current efforts to address the provision

- 9.1 The TEA has collaborated with the THEO and Region 10 to review and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth in the State on an ongoing basis since the McKinney Act was first passed in 1987. In some cases, statutes were revised specifically to address homeless students, such as TEC §25.001(b)(5), §29.081, and §29.153. In other instances, the revisions pertain to all students, such as TEC §25.001(b)(4), §25.002, and §11.162 (b).
- 9.2 McKinney-Vento subgrantees are required to submit copies of their local policies and procedures regarding homeless students when they apply for homeless education grant funding.
- 9.3 LEAs have adopted local policies that are in compliance with state and federal laws regarding the enrollment, attendance, and education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Most Texas school districts are members of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), which assists districts in developing local policies that comply with State and Federal laws.

Proposed Activities	Timeline
9.1PA The TEA, Region 10, and the THEO will continue to collaborate by reviewing and revising policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth and ensure that state laws and policies are in compliance with the reauthorization.	Ongoing
9.2PA The THEO will gather information about educational barriers for homeless students through surveys, advisory group meetings, hotline calls, LEA homeless liaisons, and other formal and informal means. This information will be used to develop new legislation if necessary.	Ongoing
9.3PA The THEO will work with TEA's Division of Accountability and Accreditation to develop quality indicators for ensuring that LEA policies do not create barriers for students in homeless situations.	July 2002 ongoing

10. 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 [Section 722(g)(2)(A), page 4] and
11. Describe 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 Act [Section 722(g)(2)(B), page 4]:

Current efforts to address the existing provisions

- 10/11.1 Subgrantees are required to sign assurance of their compliance with the current McKinney-Vento Act.
- 10/11.2 McKinney-Vento subgrantees are required to submit descriptions of collaborations they have formed when they apply for homeless education grant funding. These descriptions must include signatures of all collaborators along with specific activities they will perform. They must also include the dollar value of the collaborative activities.
- 10/11.3 McKinney-Vento subgrantees were trained on the HUD Continuum of Care and how they can become part of that group.
- 10/11.4 All subgrantees are subject to annual program reviews.
- 10/11.5 All subgrantees receive annual training before the start of the school year or very early into the school year that covers any changes to relevant state or federal laws.
- 10/11.6 All subgrantees have received training on the merits of keeping the child or youth in the school of origin for the entire school year.

Proposed Activities	Timeline
<p>10/11.1PA The State will request each LEA in the State to identify a homeless liaison and submit contact information for that individual to the Texas Homeless Education Office. The list of Texas liaisons and a description of their duties will be posted on the THEO website.</p>	<p>August 2002 and ongoing</p>
<p>10/11.2PA The THEO will conduct training sessions for new liaisons at locations throughout the state as well as in a pre-conference Homeless Education Symposium at the annual Texas Homeless Network conference. These training sessions shall contain thorough information on paragraphs 3-7 as well as other pertinent sections of Federal and State laws related to the education of students in homeless situations. Special attention will be given to helping the liaison turn laws and policies into practice. Emphasis will be placed on the school enrollment provisions and the importance of locating students who are not currently in school and enrolling them.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>10/11.3PA</p>	

Training modules on paragraphs 3-7 as well as other pertinent sections of Federal and State laws related to the education of students in homeless situations will be developed and placed on the THEO website.

January 2003 and ongoing

10/11.4PA The THEO will write newsletter articles on paragraphs 3-7 as well as other pertinent sections of Federal and State laws for a variety of publications.	July 2002 and ongoing
10/11.5PA TEA's Chief Legal Counsel will include references to paragraphs 3-7 in the annual enrollment letter and in the "homeless-specific" letter to school superintendents.	August 2002
10/11.6PA The THEO will develop and distribute to homeless liaisons resources and materials about the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act and any relevant state laws. This resource material will be made available via the THEO website.	Ongoing
10/11.7PA The THEO will conduct staff development and workshops upon request for homeless liaisons, or any other interested group, about the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act and any relevant state laws.	Ongoing
10/11.8PA The THEO will collaborate with the TEA to provide additional training and information to homeless liaisons throughout the state.	Ongoing
10/11.9PA The THEO will collaborate with TEA's Division of Accountability and Accreditation to develop homeless education compliance and quality indicators that staff can review when conducting school performance reviews.	July 2002 and ongoing
10/11.10PA The THEO will explore with Region 10 and TEA other possible methods for ensuring compliance with McKinney-Vento requirements in districts that have no subgrant.	July 2002 and ongoing
10/11.11PA The THEO will collaborate with the TEA Legal Division to provide information about the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act and relevant state laws to homeless liaisons throughout the state.	Ongoing
10/11.12PA The THEO will collaborate with service providers, state agencies, and local governments to provide information and training about the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act and relevant state laws to homeless liaisons throughout the	Ongoing

state, with special emphasis on paragraphs 3-7.

<p>10/11.13PA The THEO will develop and post on its website a comprehensive list of shelters and other homeless service providers that can be sorted by city, county, and county district number. Homeless liaisons will be made aware of the existence of this list and will refer to it when carrying out their duties.</p>	<p>September 2002 and ongoing</p>
<p>10/11.14PA The THEO will publicize and encourage all homeless liaisons and others interested in homeless education to attend conferences and other activities sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and the Texas Homeless Network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>10/11.15PA The THEO will encourage homeless liaisons to utilize websites of the National Center for Homeless Education, the National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and the Texas Homeless Network in order to learn more about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Other provisions in paragraphs 3-7 are addressed elsewhere throughout this document.

12. Describe how the SEA will use the funds it receives under this program to carry out State-level activities and to make subgrants to LEAs [Section 722(e)(2), page 3]:

Proposed Activities	Timeline
<p>12.1PA The TEA will use the funds it receives under this program to carry out State-level activities and to make subgrants to LEAs by decentralizing the grant activities to Region 10. Region 10 contracts with the THEO to carry out responsibilities for the programmatic component of the McKinney-Vento Act, while Region 10 is responsible for the fiscal aspects of the program. The nature of this collaboration is described at the beginning of this document, in the Background section.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>12.2PA The THEO will continue to administer the competitive grant application process to select McKinney-Vento subgrantees. The THEO has been using a competitive process that mirrors the process outlined in NCLB, so it will continue in the same manner. All school districts and regional education service centers (except Region 10) are eligible to apply for funding. The subgrant applications are evaluated by a team of readers based on criteria developed by THEO and approved by Region 10 and TEA. The reviewers come from diverse levels and backgrounds, with knowledge in education, homelessness, or other related fields. The subgrants have a three-year grant cycle; funding for each subsequent year depends on the programmatic and fiscal performance of the previous year. The subgrants are evaluated each year and each current project has been visited by a McKinney-Vento staff member at least three times.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>12.3PA State-level activities are described throughout this Plan and are designed to provide liaisons, other school staff, service providers, and those experiencing homelessness with the knowledge and tools they need to ensure full implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2002. The THEO intends to use all available resources to meet the goals stated in this Plan, including collaborations with education and homeless organizations, articles in various publications, staff development at assorted venues, web-based information and materials, email, fax, and telephone. Collaborations with The University of Texas at Austin will be expanded. For example, the Advertising Department at The University of Texas at Austin has expressed interest in helping the THEO develop a public relations campaign as part of a class project to raise awareness of student rights and school responsibilities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>