



COVID-19 Tool

Guidance for Students Experiencing Homelessness

The Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program is committed to providing LEAs trainings, tools, and resources to support the identification, enrollment and academic success of students experiencing homelessness. Local Education Agencies (LEAs), when developing identification strategies and to ensure equitable at-home curriculum during the COVID-19 pandemic, should consider the following:

- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should review current strategies in place to identify students experiencing homelessness.
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should take the lead on providing services and outreach to students and families experiencing homelessness.
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should:
 - Provide online McKinney-Vento training to school staff (e.g. teachers, counselors, social workers, etc.) to assist in the identification of students during COVID-19
 - Develop identification tools that will provide teachers with increased awareness of indicators and to recognize risk factors of students experiencing homelessness
 - Review current strategies in place for school staff, parents, and students to communicate while school buildings are closed
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should communicate to students and families that they can remain in the school of origin if they move outside of their attendance zone.
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should utilize information-sharing systems to:
 - Share student contact information for identified McKinney-Vento eligible students
 - Facilitate prompt identification and services for newly identified students
 - Communicate student safety concerns
 - Disseminate LEA and homeless education program information and resources
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should consider LEA approved social media channels (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) and non-traditional methods of communication (e.g. LEA hotline, Google Voice, meal and technology distributions, etc.) to connect and share LEA and homeless education program information, services, and resources with students, parents, and guardians.
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should be included in LEA instructional continuity meetings to communicate:
 - Instructional challenges and barriers
 - Instructional gaps
 - Progress monitoring
 - Additional interventions needed (e.g. additional course work materials, supplies, flexible coursework deadlines, etc.)

- ✔ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should update their webpage to include the following:
 - Homeless Liaison contact information
 - Program services available to students and families
 - McKinney-Vento posters (digital format can be accessed on the [TEHCY COVID-19 Resource page](#))
 - LEA and community resources (e.g. shelters, housing authority, charitable organizations, etc.)

- ✔ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should utilize strong communication channels with community partners to disseminate LEA and homeless education program information, resources, and supplies.

- ✔ Homeless Liaisons should offer virtual office hours to check in with students who have a history of high mobility or are more at-risk academically (e.g. unaccompanied youth, students dually identified for other special programs or services, etc.).

- ✔ LEAs should ensure policies regarding privacy and sharing of personal information of students and families experiencing homelessness are in place and have been provided to all LEA staff. For more information, please visit: [FERPA FAQ](#)

Additional COVID-19 living situation check lists are available on the [TEHCY COVID-19 webpage](#).