

McKinney-Vento Transportation: Helping Homeless Students to Achieve School Stability

**Gulf Coast Directors of Transportation and LEA Staff
Spring ISD
September 27, 2017**



McKinney-Vento & Transportation Questions

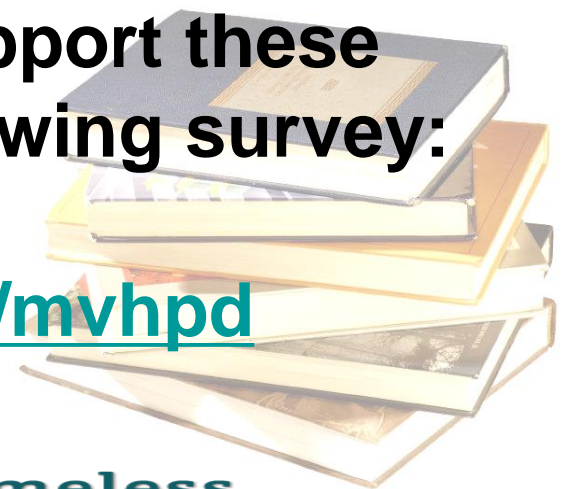
ESSA requires that homeless education personnel at districts and charter schools are trained in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

We use the link below to track participation in trainings across the state. To support these efforts, please complete the following survey:

<http://www.region10.org/mvhpdpd>



**Texas Homeless
Education Office**



McKinney-Vento Training Log

https://www.region10.org/mvhpdp/

* First Name:

* Last Name:

Are you a homeless Liaison?:

☒ YES ☐ NO

* Entity Type:

-- Select --

District / Charter / ESC:

--Select--

Presenter's Last Name:

* Training Date :

* Required

Cancel Submit Log

Agenda

- ❖ **The Numbers**
- ❖ **Definitions**
- ❖ **Transportation of McKinney-Vento Students - ESSA**
- ❖ **Transportation of Students in Foster Care**
- ❖ **Implementation Questions**
- ❖ **Common situations**
- ❖ **Uncommon questions**



**Texas Homeless
Education Office**

How many students experience homelessness in Texas?

✓ **Public schools in Texas identified for 2014-2015 : 113,063**

- 7 Shelter: 12,098
- 7 Doubled Up: 89,807
- 7 Unsheltered: 3,869
- 7 Motel or Hotel: 7,250
- 7 Unaccompanied homeless youth: 15,889

✓ **Public schools in Texas identified for 2013-2014: 111,918**

- 7 Shelter: 15,505
- 7 Doubled Up: 87,044
- 7 Unsheltered: 3,299
- 7 Motel or Hotel: 6,070

✓ **Public schools in Texas identified for 2012-2013: 101,226**

- 7 Shelter: 11,467
- 7 Doubled Up: 81,439
- 7 Unsheltered: 2,828
- 7 Motel or Hotel: 5,492



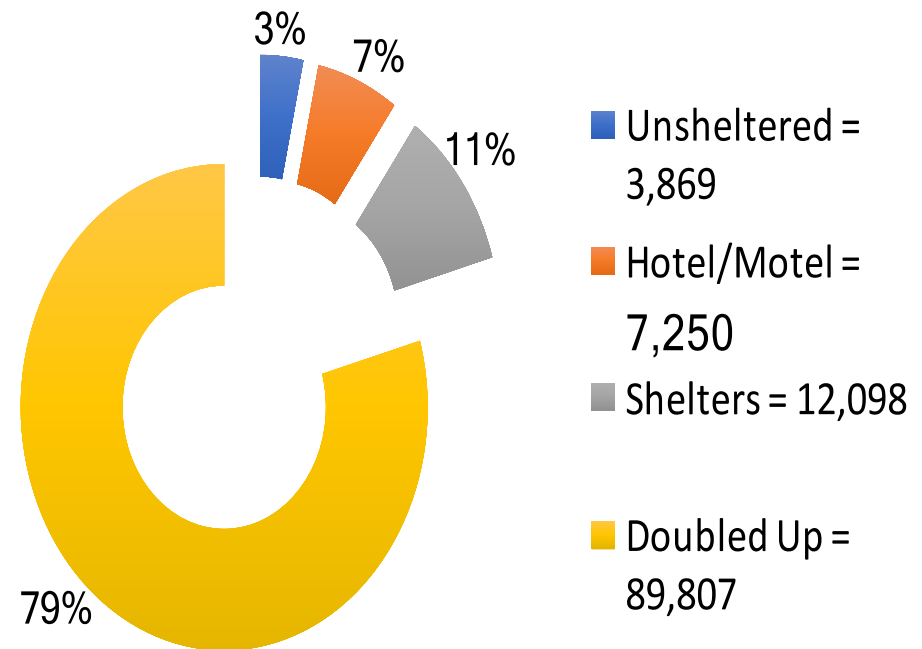
How many students experience homelessness in Texas?

✓ **2014-15**

✓ **Homeless
identification**

✓ **=113,063**

**Texas Students Experiencing
Homelessness by Living Situation**



What is the Impact of Hurricane Harvey on Homeless Numbers in Texas

TEA estimates:

1.5 million students will be impacted

250 schools will be impacted

197,000 school staff will be personally impacted

106,000 – 200,000 students will be newly made homeless

Tracking all students made homeless by the storm and flooding will be important for disaster funding – not all homeless students will receive the 05 crisis code in PEIMS, so schools should implement another means of tracking



Eligibility—Who is Covered?

✓ Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence— 11434a(2)

- 7 Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.
- 7 Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
- 7 Living in substandard housing – lacks heat, electricity, water, over-crowded – may be particularly true in Hurricane Harvey situations – ruined first floor and camped out on second floor



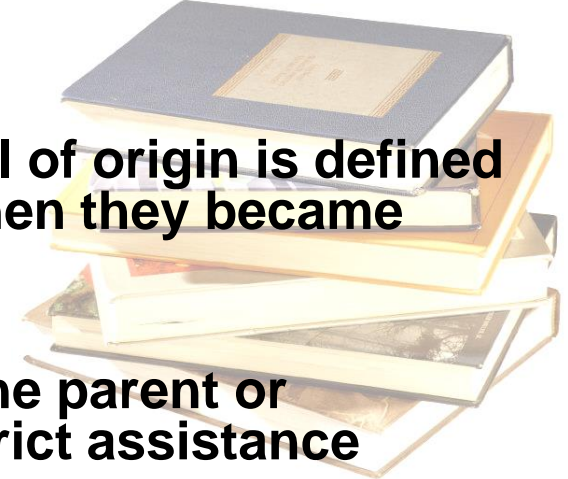
Eligibility (cont.)

- ✓ Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence—
 - 7 Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
 - 7 Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live.
 - 7 Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
 - 7 Migratory children living in above circumstances.
 - 7 Awaiting foster care placement is no longer part of the definition – 12/10/16 ESSA



McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act: School Stability

- ✓ **School stability is the heart of MV**
- ✓ **Homeless students are more successful if they do not have to change schools every time they change housing**
- ✓ **Students in homeless situations have a **federally protected right** to remain in their school of origin**
- ✓ **This right remains in place during disasters such as **Hurricane Harvey****
- ✓ ****Two possible** schools of origin: The school of origin is defined as the school the student was attending when they became homeless or the last school they attended**
- ✓ ****Best interest** school selection is made by the parent or unaccompanied homeless youth –with district assistance (**School selection check-list**)**



School of Origin =School Stability

Each LEA shall, according to each child's or youth's **best interest**:

- ✓ Continue the student's education in the **school of origin** for the **duration of homelessness**, and until the **end of the academic year** in which the student becomes permanently housed; OR
- ✓ Enroll in any public school that housed students living where the student is living are eligible to attend – **residency zone**.



ESSA School of origin

✓ Applies when students lose housing during the year or during the summer. 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(I)

✓ School of origin defined:

7 School attended when permanently housed or school in which last enrolled, **including a preschool**

7 The designated receiving school at the next grade level for feeder school patterns, when the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin 11432(g)(3)(I)

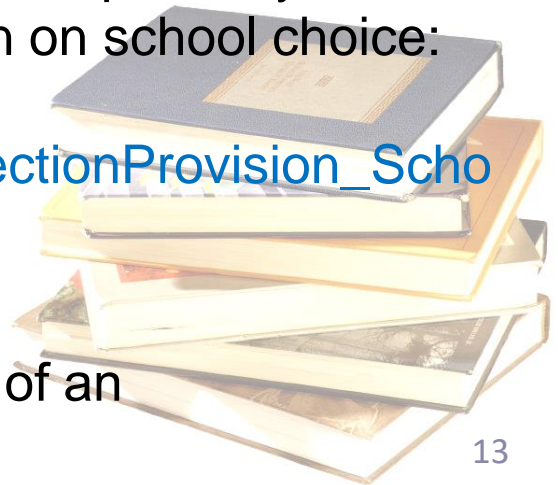


School of Origin = School Stability

In determining best interest, the LEA shall:

- ✓ **Presume** that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's **best interest**.
 - 7 Unless contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, **or unaccompanied youth**.
- ✓ Consider **student-centered factors**, including the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety. Use THEO School Selection Checklist to assist the parent or unaccompanied youth to make a student-centered, best-interest decision on school choice:
http://www.theotx.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Checklist_SchoolSelectionProvision_SchoolOrigin_AttendanceZone.pdf
- ✓ Give priority to the parent's/guardian's request.
- ✓ Give priority to the youth's request (in the case of an unaccompanied youth).

11432(g)(3)(B)(i)-(ii)

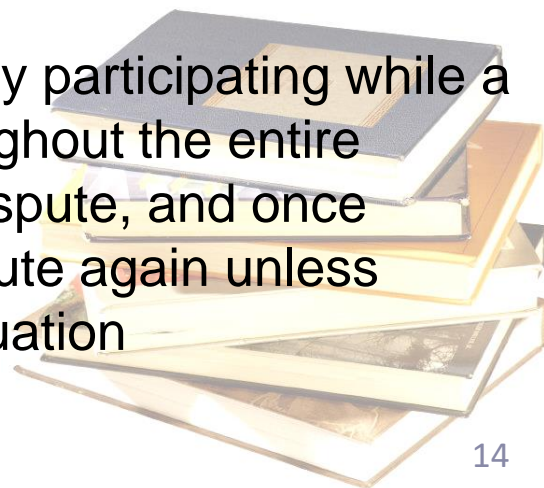


Best Interest Determinations

If the LEA determines that it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent, guardian or youth, the LEA must provide a written explanation **of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth**, including information regarding the right and process to appeal:
http://www.theotx.org/resource_type/disputeresolution-complaints/

11432(g)(3)(B)(iii)

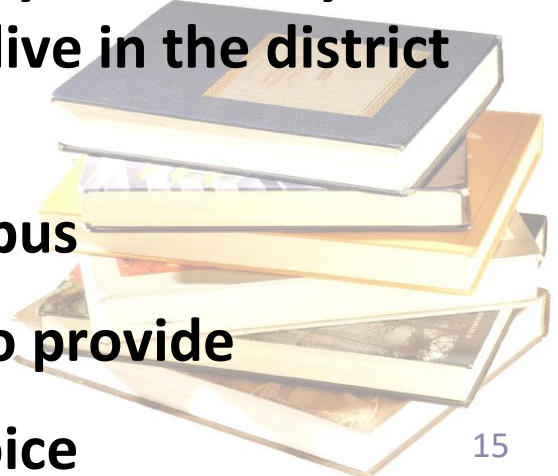
Students must remain in school, attending and fully participating while a best interest determination is appealed – throughout the entire dispute process – TEA is the final level for a dispute, and once decided the same situation cannot go into dispute again unless there have been substantial changes to the situation



School Choice

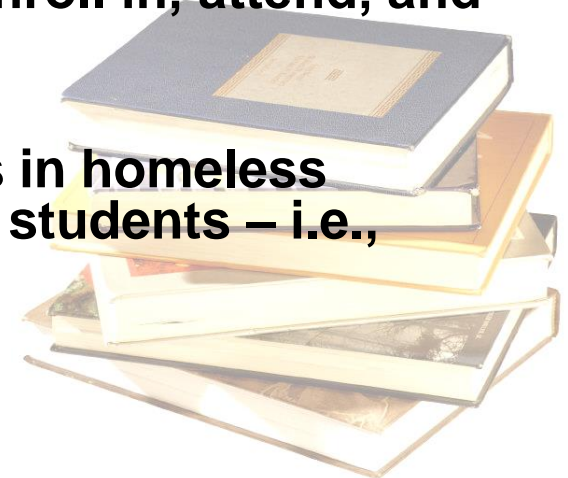
Homeless students may attend:

1. Their school of origin – may be two to choose from- **federal transportation mandate**
2. The school of residency – **comparable transportation services – outside two miles?**
3. Texas 3rd choice: a homeless student may attend any **district** in Texas whether they currently live in the district or have ever lived in the district
 - a. This is a choice of **district** not campus
 - b. There is **no mandate** for the LEA to provide transportation for this district choice



McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act Transportation Provisions

- ✓ Transportation is mandated to and from the **school of origin** within the LEA and between LEAs, even across state lines
- ✓ Transportation is mandated for other activities such as tutoring programs as it is provided to any other non-homeless student – “**comparable services**” – this would include students that are in their school of origin
- ✓ Transportation must be provided if lack of transportation is a **barrier** for a homeless student’s ability to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school
- ✓ Transportation **can be** provided to students in homeless situations even if it is not provided to other students – i.e., hazardous route



Who provides transportation to and from the school of origin?

What the law says: The district with the school of origin and the district where the student is staying must get together to decide how to provide the transportation and who will pay for it. If they cannot agree, it must be shared equally



**Texas Homeless
Education Office**



Common ways districts arrange transportation to and from the school of origin

District of origin provides transportation in the morning or in the afternoon, and the district of residency provides the other time

Districts take turns – we take this student, you take the next

Districts use private transportation services

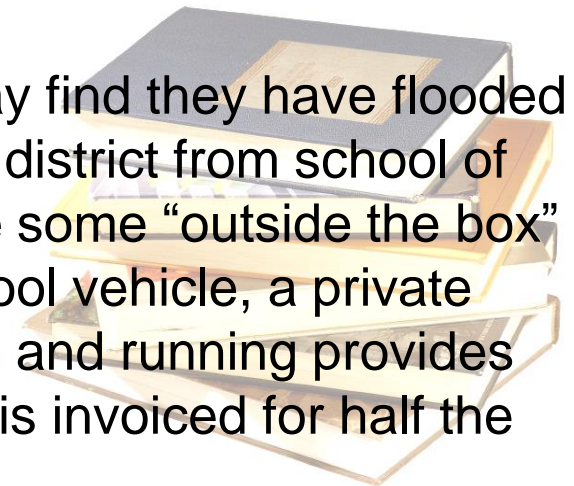
Districts use public transportation services

Districts use a district van or car

Districts reimburse parents, relatives or others for mileage

District transportation departments must build relationships with the transportation departments of adjacent districts

During a disaster like Hurricane Harvey, districts may find they have flooded buses, or lack bus drivers, this does not excuse the district from school of origin transportation responsibilities but may require some “outside the box” thinking: perhaps not a bus and route, rather a school vehicle, a private transportation service, perhaps the district that is up and running provides all the transportation and the district with difficulties is invoiced for half the costs, or parents who can drive are reimbursed, etc.



Transportation

1. Transportation services last the duration of homelessness or till the **end of the school year - even if the student obtains permanent housing**
2. If staying in the same LEA, but changing residency zones, that LEA must provide or arrange transportation to the school of origin.
3. Hurricane related transportation costs may be charged to the FSP
4. Title I and McKinney-Vento grant funds may be used for excess cost of school of origin transportation



Title IA Reservation

✓ **Funds may be used:**

20 USC 6313(c)(3)

- For homeless children and youth attending any school in the LEA.
- For services not ordinarily provided to other students.
- To fund the McKinney-Vento liaison.
- **To provide transportation to the school of origin.**
- For educationally related support services, including pre-school.



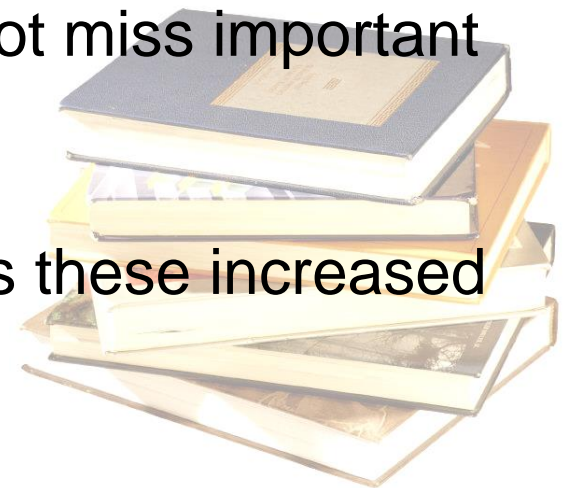
What's new for transportation in the Every Student Succeeds Act?

Pre-School students will now have the right to school of origin, which means a **mandate for school of origin transportation** – covers any age homeless preschool student

Feeder school patterns are included in the school of origin definition, which means a **mandate for transportation**

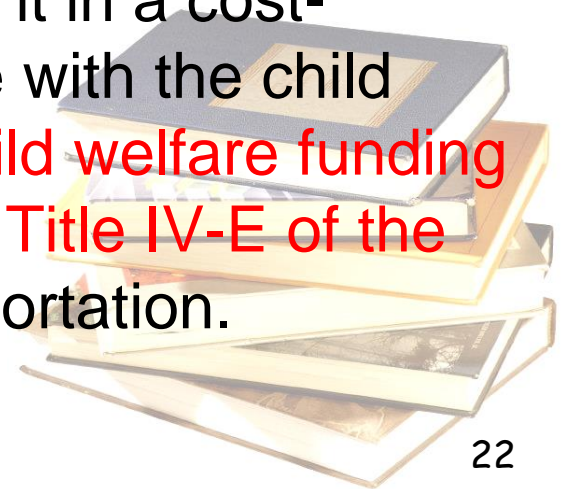
Children must be **on time** to school and not miss important instruction

Thoughts on how will your district address these increased transportation requirements?



Title I, Part A Amendments: Foster Care-- Local Title I Plans

- ✓ **Within one year of enactment, develop and implement procedures for how transportation to maintain foster youth in their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged and funded, which must:**
 1. Ensure that foster youth who need transportation to the school of origin promptly receive it in a cost-effective manner, and in accordance with the child welfare agency's authority to use **child welfare funding** available under **section 475(4)(A) of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act** to provide transportation.



Title I, Part A Amendments: Foster Care-- Local Title I Plans

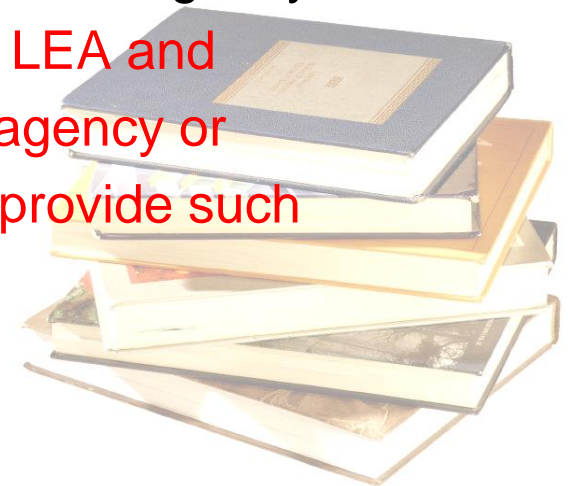
2. Ensure that if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, LEAs will provide it if:
- They are reimbursed by the child welfare agency;
 - The LEA agrees to pay the costs; or
 - The LEA and the child welfare agency agree to share the costs.



What's new for transportation in the Every Student Succeeds Act?

Transportation to School of Origin for Foster Youth

ED guidance § 299.13(c)(1)(ii) In § 299.13(c)(1)(ii), ED proposes the following regulation to the Title I state plan: “The SEA will ensure that an LEA receiving funds under Title I, part A of the Act will provide children in foster care transportation, as necessary, to and from their schools of origin, consistent with the procedures developed by the LEA in collaboration with the State or local childwelfare agency under section 1112(c)(5)(B) of the Act, **even if the LEA and local child welfare agency do not agree on which agency or agencies will pay any additional costs incurred to provide such transportation.**”



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When is an Early Childhood Program Subject to M-V Requirements?

- ✓ When the program is administered by/through the LEA
- ✓ Four year old preschool is required
- ✓ Three year old preschool is optional
- ✓ Any age preschool homeless student is covered by MV for school of origin the same as K-12 homeless students = a mandate for school of origin transportation

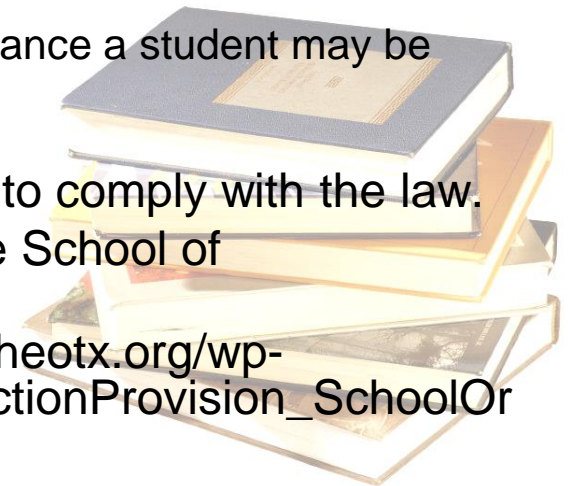


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McKinney-Vento Early Childhood Updates

- ❖ **ESSA – Changes Related to Preschool School of Origin**
- **Questions Relating to Transportation – Guidance Provided by TEA & THEO**
 - If a district provides ½ day Preschool Programs is mid-day transportation a requirement?
 - Yes, transportation to and from the School of Origin is a requirement.
 - In the past our district has only transported Preschool students if an older sibling is on the bus, is this still an allowable requirement?
 - No – there is no provision in the law requiring a Preschool student to be transported along with an older sibling. Pre-school children must be transported whether with an older sibling or not.
 - What is an allowable distance for a Preschool student to be transported to the School of Origin?
 - There is no provision in the law that limits the distance a student may be transported – regardless of what grade level.
- **Reminders:**
 - LEAs may use alternate forms of transportation to comply with the law.
 - Collaborate with Head Start Programs to ensure School of Origin/Transportation Services are provided.
 - Use the school selection checklist: http://www.theotx.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Checklist_SchoolSelectionProvision_SchoolOrigin_AttendanceZone.pdf



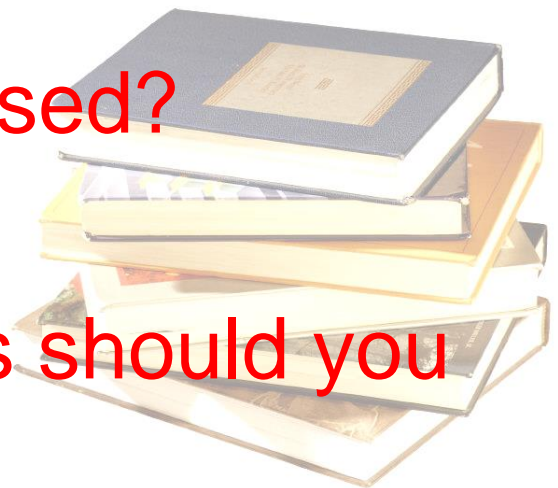
What's new for transportation in the Every Student Succeeds Act?

What will your district's next steps be?
Preschool? Feeder patterns?

Who needs to be involved?

What issues need to be addressed?

With which neighboring districts should you
collaborate?



Transportation Strategies

- ✓ Develop close ties among local liaisons, school staff, pupil transportation staff, and shelter workers.
- ✓ Use school buses (including special education, magnet school and other buses).
- ✓ Develop formal or informal agreements with school districts where homeless children cross district lines.
- ✓ Use public transit where feasible.
- ✓ Use approved carpools, van or taxi services.
- ✓ Reimburse parents and youth for gas.
- ✓ Pursue inter-agency solutions.



Examples: Implementing Transportation of McKinney-Vento Students

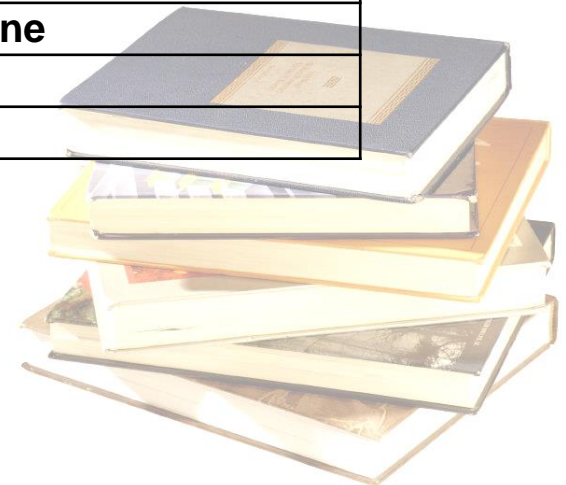
❖ **McKinney-Vento Transportation Requests**

- **Sample Transportation Request Form**
 - Items that need to be included on all forms:

Student Information	School Information	Parent/Guardian Information
Name	Name	Name
DOB	Address/phone	Address
Grade	Contact person	Phone
Student ID	School bell	
Gender	Breakfast time	



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Transportation of McKinney-Vento Students

❖ **McKinney-Vento Transportation Requests**

- Reporting Change of Address (COA)
 - Responsibility of the district where the student is enrolled
 - Indicate “new” request or “COA” request.

- Cancellation of Transportation
 - Responsibility of the district where the student is enrolled
 - When canceling with another LEA:
 - Fax or email
 - Be specific
 - Dates and times
 - Cancelling specify AM and/or PM pickups



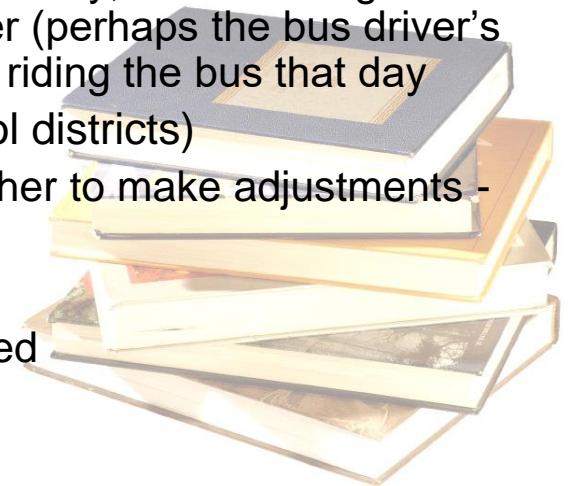
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Transportation of McKinney-Vento Students

❖ **Transportation Concerns**

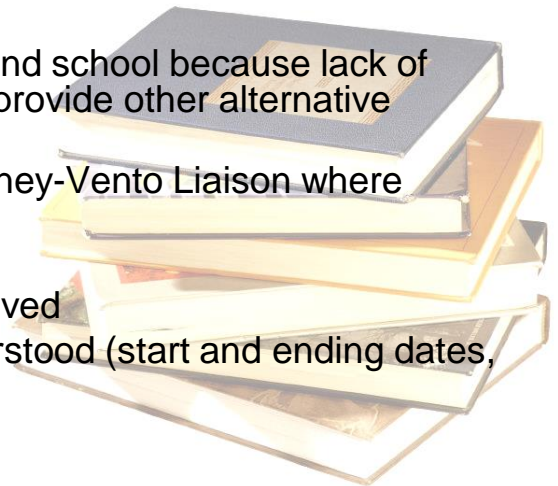
- Reporting Student Absences
 - Parent must call transportation department
- Student not riding bus – not showing up at designated pick-up location.
 - Communicate with the MV Liaison where student is enrolled
 - The Liaison will assess the barriers and assist the family
 - If not riding for 3 days with no communication – do not cancel transportation; must contact MV Liaison for follow up
 - Create a contract with the parent that spells out the parent's responsibility for having the student at the bus stop on time each day, or contacting the transportation department at a designated number (perhaps the bus driver's cell phone) to let them know the student won't be riding the bus that day
- Early dismissal / holidays (contact appropriate school districts)
 - Transportation staff from both districts work together to make adjustments - liaisons might not be involved in this process.
- Bus Accidents / Emergencies
 - Reminder to notify district where student is enrolled



Transportation of McKinney-Vento Students

❖ **Bus Rules / Regulations**

- All district procedures pertain
- Medications - review your district policy
- Discipline Reports - All reports must be addressed immediately
 - In- district students
 - Follow internal appropriate procedures
 - Out of district students
 - The transportation office generating the report will send the report to their respective McKinney-Vento Liaison.
 - That McKinney-Vento Liaison will forward to McKinney-Vento Liaison where student is enrolled.
 - The McKinney-Vento Liaison where the student is enrolled will provide the report to the appropriate campus administrator/s.
- Removal of a student
 - From the bus: if a homeless student cannot attend school because lack of transportation is a barrier, then the district must provide other alternative means to transport
 - If child is suspended from the school, the McKinney-Vento Liaison where student is enrolled must notify:
 - District transportation office and/or
 - Any other district transportation office involved
 - Dates of suspension must be clearly understood (start and ending dates, inclusive)



Transportation of McKinney-Vento Students

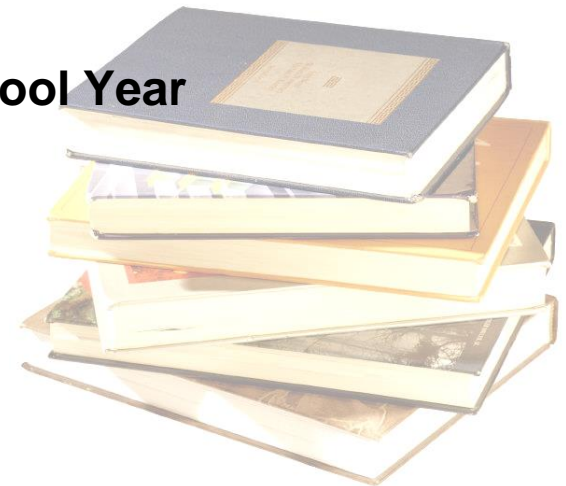
❖ **Transfer Points**

- Will be set with each district but may vary according to needs of the student
- Address security of children: at drop-off, young children must have a responsible party to meet them at the stop, while buses are in reverse
- Use of substitute buses and/or drivers
 - Process for notifying other districts?
- Use of restrooms
 - Has anyone had any difficulties?
 - Escorting of children
- Other Transportation Issues?

❖ **Date of Last Transportation Request for School Year**



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McKinney-Vento / Transportation Contact List

❖ McKinney-Vento Transportation List

❖ Special Situations and Policies

- ❖ All LEAs will transport from the first day of school to the last day of school for any LEA in the service area.
- ❖ Early dismissals – all LEAs will attend to other LEAs early dismissals
- ❖ Days Off – Transportation will be provided to all students of all LEAs on days off.
- ❖ DAEP – Transportation will be provided to students in DAEP
- ❖ PreK students – Transportation required by law, including half-days
- ❖ Kinder students – Transportation required by law

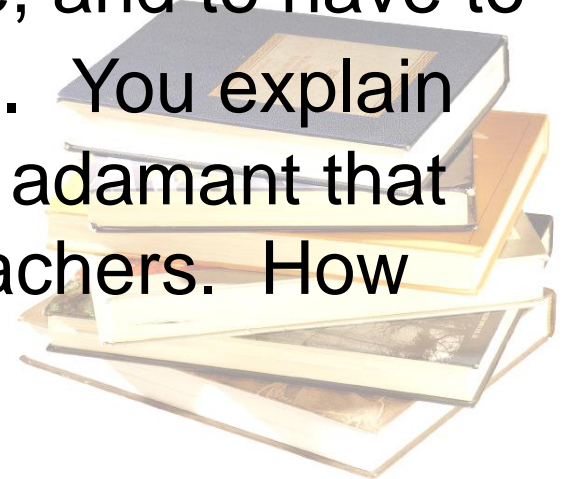


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Common Transportation Situations

Judy is age 8. Her family's home was flooded and must move in with her grandmother in a district 40 miles away. Her mother wants Judy to remain in her current school, but you do not think it is in Judy's **best interest** to do so, as the trip will take nearly an hour and a half each way. You think Judy is too young to have such a long commute, and to have to meet the bus so early each morning. You explain this to her mother, but her mother is adamant that Judy remain with her friends and teachers. How would you proceed?



Common Transportation Situations

Mary attends a **public charter** school that does not provide transportation to any student. Mary must move to a shelter in November in another district.

Who will provide her transportation?



Common Transportation Situations

Janie attends an **alternative school** that does not provide transportation to any student. Janie is kicked out of her home and moves in with a friend in another district. How would you help her to get to the alternative school?



Common Transportation Situations

Ben and his family are homeless living in an inexpensive motel. He gets removed from his school of residency and placed in an alternative school that does not provide transportation to any student.

Must the district provide Ben with transportation to the alternative school?



Common Transportation Situations

Sam, age 10 and his family were flooded due to the hurricane. Sam's family decides to stay at their home on the second floor even though their downstairs flooded and their kitchen and one bathroom are not useable. They have partial electricity, but must boil their water for use. Sam's campus was flooded so the campus is closed. The district assigns Sam to a campus 6 miles from his home. What is required of the district for Sam's transportation to the new campus? Does Sam have rights to attend any other campuses?



Common Transportation Situations

Dean age 14 and his family were flooded due to the hurricane. The family moved in with an aunt and uncle and three cousins in another district. This home has two bedrooms with now 8 people residing there. Dean wants to return to his own campus in his home district. Must transportation be provided? Who would provide it? What other choices of schools can Dean attend? Would transportation be provided for other school selection? Are the other children in the home entitled to MV services? If so, would this include transportation services?



Common Transportation Situations

Mark, age 7, and his family are homeless, living with his aunt 10 miles from school. He gets removed from the school bus for misbehaving. Neither Mark's mother or aunt have access to transportation. Mark's mother catches an early DART bus to work, and his aunt is disabled. The family does not have a vehicle.

How will Mark get to school?
What is the school district's responsibility for transportation for Mark? Would it matter whether Mark was attending his school of origin or residency zone?



Common Transportation Situations

There is a domestic violence shelter in your school district that is 1.6 miles from their elementary campus of residency. The shelter does not have a van or access for the kids to get to school.

The Homeless Liaison advocates for the district to provide transportation since these children are vulnerable to being snatched by the batterer/perpetrator, and must cross busy streets.

Must the district do so?
How does your district decide a hazardous route or other unsafe situation for provision of transportation services? What are the variables/factors that the district considers?





Texas Homeless Education Office

- ✓ Guidance to Texas' school districts/ESCs for compliance, and service provision
- Training to districts and community
- ✓ Technical Assistance and complaints hotline
- ✓ Dispute resolution assistance
- ✓ Input on policy at the federal and state level
- ✓ Advocacy for students and families
- ✓ Three year competitive grant
- ✓ Web resources: www.theotx.org
- ✓ **Hotline: 1-800-446-3142**





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Questions???



Contact



**Texas Homeless
Education Office**

<https://www.theotx.org>

**Jeanne Stamp, LCSW, LMFT, LCDC, ACSW
Director**

512-475-6898 (office)

1-800-446-3142 (hotline)

jeannestamp@austin.utexas.edu

512-417-3481 (cell)

