



*Technical Assistance Update
State Office for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
December 1, 2010*

*The McKinney-Vento Act:
Maintaining Educational Continuity for Homeless Children and Youth in Vermont*

In This Issue...

1. **2010-11 McKinney Vento Law Resource Packets**
2. **New Liaison Orientations**
3. **Administrative Team and School Staff Trainings**
4. **Unaccompanied Youth: Determining Homeless Status**
5. **Allowable Uses for the Title 1, Part A Set Aside Funds**
6. **Resources...**

1. 2010-11 McKinney Vento Law Resource Packets... Each year the Department of Education produces an **updated packet of information and tools designed especially to guide and support the work of Homeless Education Liaisons**, as well as community based service providers, in complying with the requirements of the McKinney Vento Law. All materials in the packet are also available online at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_homeless.html. If you have not received this packet, or would like to order additional packets, please contact Liz Rand at liz.rand@state.vt.us or 828-3150.

2. New Liaison Orientation... If you are new to the position of Homeless Education Liaison, you should have already received an orientation from the **Vermont Homeless Children and Youth Project staff**. A VHCYP brochure is included in your packet and is available online at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/educ_homeless_brochure.pdf If you have not yet received this training, please refer to the map in the brochure for your technical assistance staff contact: **Sally Williams** (sally.williams@state.vt.us or 233-1832) serves northern Vermont and **Jane Munroe** (jane.munroe@state.vt.us or 483-2198) serves southern Vermont.

For a complete description of **the role of the Homeless Liaison**, refer to page 4 in the **Summary of Key Issues in the McKinney Vento Law** located on the left side of your packet or at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/resources/key_provisions_summary.pdf

3. Administrative Team and School Staff Trainings... Homeless Liaisons ensure that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel. To accomplish this, our goal this year is to have all **administrative teams trained to provide a network for identification of students in your schools who are experiencing homelessness.**

Last year, Vermont schools identified and enrolled 1042 students. Based on national data, you can expect that a number equivalent to 10% of your free and reduced meal student population will at some time in the year experience homelessness. Last year, Vermont had 33,676 students eligible for free and reduced meals, so it is critically important that administrators, guidance, faculty, bus drivers, registrars and other appropriate staff are trained to identify and refer students to your attention.

The DOE Homeless Education website includes a powerpoint training tool that can be used in conjunction with the referral form to train your administrative team and school staff.

The **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act: Liaison Training Tool for Administrators, Faculty and Staff** powerpoint presentation and the **Liaison School Referral Form** can be found at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_homeless/toolbox.html. VHCYP staff can assist with the trainings.

Use the **Homeless Liaison Worksheet** for each student to document your work and gather information required by the DOE at the end of the year, including the **number of students identified and enrolled by grade level and the place of residence** when identified.

School registration forms should include a question such as: “Are you currently experiencing housing issues?” or “Is your current address a temporary address?”

4. Unaccompanied Youth: Determining Homeless Status... Do you have a student residing with someone who is not their parent or court appointed guardian? How do you determine if this student is homeless? Determining homeless eligibility is done on a case-by-case basis...and a flow chart has been developed to guide you through this process as well as support compliance with the McKinney Vento legal requirements. Click into: <http://education.wm.edu/centers/hope/determining%20eligibility%20uhy/uhy%20determination.pdf>

5. Allowable Uses for the Title 1 Set Aside Funds... Every SU/SD must set aside some Title 1 funds to help eliminate barriers to accessing education for homeless students. A complete description of the full range of allowable uses for these funds is attached to this Update. Questions? Contact Wendy Ross at wendy.ross or 828-5148.

6. Resources...

Guardianship: If you are working with an unaccompanied minor and would like to address guardianship status, Family Court may be a resource for you. You can find your local contact at: <http://www.courtreference.com/Vermont-Courts.htm#301>

Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth: A contact list of VCRHY agencies is attached to this Update.

Best Practices in Homeless Education Brief: “Ensuring Full Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities for Students Experiencing Homelessness” at

http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/extra_curr.pdf

If you have received this technical assistance update, you have been designated as the Homeless Education Liaison for your SU/SD to the Vermont Department of Education. To update information, contact Wendy Ross, State Coordinator, Education for Homeless Children and Youth at wendy.ross@state.vt.us or 828-5148.

Self paced training options are available on demand at the National Center for Homeless Education. Topics include The McKinney Vento Law, Determining Eligibility, and Title 1/Homeless Collaboration.

http://center.serve.org/nche/web/s_p.php

An archive of Homeless Education Technical Assistance Updates can be accessed on the website below on the Liaison Toolbox page.

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth website is located at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_homeless.html