

Item #1 - Revision of the LEA McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Procedure

Background: The [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#) requires all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to have an established dispute resolution procedure to follow when parents/guardians of homeless students and unaccompanied homeless students disagree with LEA decisions regarding McKinney-Vento Act entitlements. The U.S. Department of Education recommends having a common LEA level dispute resolution procedure to create consistency as homeless students can move across LEA lines due to their homelessness.

Rationale: The current LEA dispute resolution procedure needs revision because it is confusing, provides extra steps and stress for families and unaccompanied homeless youth and has not been consistently followed. The current procedure requires families to make an appeal directly to the school board, which has caused undue stress and burden on homeless families.

Proposed Procedure: Please see attached procedures. The current procedure is provided first, followed by the revised procedure.

Impact: Implementation of the revised LEA Dispute Resolution procedure will provide a clear and consistent state-wide process for LEAs to use when homeless students and their families disagree with LEA decisions regarding McKinney-Vento Act entitlements. The revised procedure will allow families to challenge decisions without having the burden and stress of appearing and presenting in front of a school or SU board.

Implementation Plan:

1. Once the revised procedure is finalized, the Agency of Education (AOE) will provide a copy to each LEA appointed homeless liaison, who will then share it with their school system.
2. AOE, in consultation with the LEA appointed homeless liaisons, will create a flow chart or condensed version of the procedure for LEAs to share with families and unaccompanied homeless youth.
3. AOE will work with VSBA to provide technical assistance to board members.
4. AOE will provide other technical assistance as needed.