



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234
Office of P-12 Education

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NYS FIELD MEMO
NCLB McKinney-Vento
#06 -2015

September 2015

To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of LEAs and Charter Schools
Title I Coordinators
McKinney-Vento Liaisons
Committee on Special Education (CSE) Chairs

From: Maxine Meadows-Shuford *Maxine Meadows-Shuford*
Director Title I School and Community Services

Subject: Mandatory McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Training

Although the recession may be over, children and families in New York continue to struggle economically. From 2008-09 to 2013-14, New York State (NYS) has seen a 53% increase in the number of students identified as homeless by New York State school districts and charter schools. To ensure that all NYS school districts and charter schools are aware of their responsibility to identify students experiencing homelessness as well as provide services to help them succeed in school, the New York State Education Department (SED) is **requiring your school district or charter school's participation** at one of this year's *McKinney-Vento Workshops* or webinars hosted by our technical assistance center, NYS-TEACHS. Superintendents, LEA McKinney-Vento liaisons, CSE chairs, registrars, school counselors, social workers, principals, transportation directors, school attorneys and Title I Directors are among those who would most benefit from attending one of these events.

The free of charge, half-day Workshops are planned for:

- **Albany:** November 4
- **Buffalo:** November 5

Please be aware that McKinney-Vento funds or Title I, Part A funds can be used for travel-related expenses and staff replacement costs related to your attendance at one of the workshops.

In addition to the Workshops, several hour-long webinars will be offered throughout the year, free of charge.

The professional development sessions will include:

- ✓ An introduction to McKinney-Vento and related NYS Education laws,
- ✓ Determining McKinney-Vento eligibility,
- ✓ Liaison responsibilities,
- ✓ Transportation of students in temporary housing,
- ✓ A panel discussion with youth who were homeless,
- ✓ Funding sources for instructional and transportation services for students in temporary housing,
- ✓ The rights of homeless unaccompanied youth who are homeless,
- ✓ Trauma-sensitive strategies for school success,
- ✓ Using trauma-sensitive strategies with parents and caregivers,
- ✓ Accessing services for families,
- ✓ Self-care, and
- ✓ Other timely topics relating to students experiencing homelessness.

To register for a webinar or workshop, please visit the NYS-TEACHS website: <http://www.nysteachs.org/trainings/>.

For LEAs receiving McKinney-Vento Grant funds, there will be a mandatory meeting in Albany this spring focused on designing and implementing programs that help students in temporary housing succeed in school. The meeting will be either one full-day or two half-days so please plan for one over-night stay in Albany. McKinney-Vento grant funds may be used for this travel. The day(s) will include time to learn about new strategies for school success, plan for the following year, and network with fellow liaisons in an effort to share successes and challenges. More information will be forthcoming. Please note that LEAs receiving McKinney-Vento Grants are invited and encouraged to also attend the fall workshops, but are not required to do so.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Melanie Faby at (518) 473-0295, or NYS-TEACHS at 1-800-388-2014, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. I thank you for your anticipated support and look forward to your participation.

cc. M. Faby