

McKinney-Vento Liaison

It's hard to imagine how someone can go from having a home one day to being out on the street the next. Many homeless people start out with jobs and stable residences, but then social, economic factors or loss of residence due to natural disaster occurs, causing a rapid change in living situation.

As the district, my duties are to:

- Identify homeless children and youth.
- Ensure that children and youth, including unaccompanied youth, experiencing homelessness enroll and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in school
- Ensure that families, children, and youth have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, early intervention, and other public preschool programs, and referrals to services for health care, dental, mental health, substance use, housing and other appropriate services
- Inform parents and guardians of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and provide them with meaningful opportunities to participate in that education
- Disseminate public notice of educational rights
- Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated
- Inform families and youth about transportation services and assist them in accessing transportation
- Ensure that other school personnel receive professional development and other support
- Participate in professional development and other technical assistance activities as determined appropriate by the State Coordinator [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iv)]

If you are in need of assistance or would like to discuss your situation, I can be reached at 201-947-3556 extension 2436.

Cindy Vouthas-Maza, M.Ed., LSW.

