



COLORADO
Department of Education

Office of Student Support
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

TO: McKinney-Vento District Liaisons
FROM: Paula Gumina, Highly Mobile Student Programs, Manager
DATE: August 11, 2025

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year! I am pleased to be sending this email to our McKinney-Vento District Liaisons across the state, and look forward to supporting this you this school year in the identification and connection to services for students experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

In the 2023-24 school year, nearly 23,000 students in Colorado public schools were identified as experiencing homelessness and lacking a fixed, regular and adequate primary nighttime residence. A first critical step in connecting students to what they need to be successful in school is having a well-informed McKinney-Vento District Liaison who can connect them to needed services and ensure they are aware of and receiving their rights under the law. Your role is essential in ensuring more students succeed in school, successfully graduate and have opportunities to succeed. Thank you for all you do!

In your role as the McKinney-Vento District Liaison, you know the challenges of back-to-school time for students eligible for McKinney-Vento services and the importance of identifying, enrolling, reducing barriers and increasing access for students experiencing housing crisis. Identification, enrollment, transportation, free meals, and course placement are only a few of the responsibilities you juggle, but you're not alone. Every school district in Colorado has a [McKinney-Vento District Liaison](#). Please consider reaching out and supporting one another, participating in networking and training opportunities together, and communicating and sharing helpful tools. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Office of Student Support is also here for you. CDE's Highly Mobile Student Programs have a dedicated staff working in support of students who experience multiple school moves including those experiencing homelessness and students in foster care. The newest member of our program staff is [Teddy Engel](#) who will be working with our grant and subgrant recipients. Please reach out to him as an additional resource this school year.

The following memo is intended to:

- Deepen understanding of the McKinney-Vento District Liaison Role
- Support the creation of greater capacity within school districts to help identify and support students experiencing housing crisis
- Build awareness of future training and engagement opportunities to further skills in the role of liaison

Please take a few minutes to review the links, tools, trainings and professional development opportunities found below.

The McKinney-Vento District Liaison Role

If you are a new to the role of McKinney-Vento District Liaison, please complete the following [Google form](#) to stay informed of important information related to McKinney-Vento and liaison duties. After completing the form, you will receive communication from CDE with additional details on your new role.



Consider registering for upcoming opportunities to deepen your understanding and build your network:

- The **Back-to-School Webinar** is designed for McKinney-Vento District Liaisons and their school level teams to review the rights of students experiencing homelessness and dive deeper into updates and recommended practices in the areas of Transportation, Immunizations, Schools Meals and Title IA Homeless Set-asides. **The webinar is scheduled for Monday, August 11, 2025 2-4:00pm. [Register Here.](#)**
- Highly Mobile Student Programs at CDE partner closely with the Title IC – Migrant Education Office at CDE, and the Colorado Department of Early Childhood to offer opportunities for cross program discussion and learning. Together we offer Cafecitos throughout the school year for staff from each program to collaborate in offering greater opportunities for young children experiencing high mobility. **The first Cafecito will be held Thursday, August 21, 2025 from 9:30am – 11am. [Register Here.](#)**
- The **New Liaison Webinar** is a chance for our liaisons who are newer to their role (those starting in the past three years) to deepen their understanding of the McKinney-Vento Law into practice and get their immediate questions answered. **The webinar is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2025 12:30-2pm. [Join Here.](#)**

This time of year is a helpful time for all McKinney-Vento District Liaisons to review roles and responsibilities and assess where they may need support, training or professional development. Please take a few minutes to review:

- [The CDE McKinney-Vento District Liaison website](#)
- [The Ten Legal Duties of the Homeless Liaison](#) and accompanying [Essential Tools](#)
- [Local Homeless Education Liaison Brief](#) published by the National Center for Homeless Education
- [Assessing the Capacity of the LEA McKinney-Vento Liaison for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness tool](#) published by SchoolHouse Connection

Helpful Back-to-School Resources for McKinney-Vento Liaisons

- [McKinney-Vento Act: Quick Reference](#)
- [Serving Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness under Title I, Part A](#)
- [Early Care and Education for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [EmpowerED](#)
- [Potential Indicators of Homelessness](#)
- [Identifying Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services](#)
- [Immediate Enrollment Under McKinney-Vento: How Local Liaisons Can Keep Homeless Students Safe](#)
- [Interview Checklists for Supporting School Selection](#)
- [Transporting Children and youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Extracurricular Activities and Transportation for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Students Living with Caregivers: Tips for Local Liaisons and School Personnel](#)
- [Serving Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Charter Schools](#)
- [Liaison Toolkit](#)

Training, Engagement and Professional Development



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Back-to-School time provides opportunities to train teachers, administrators, counselors, nurses, bus drivers and community partners on the definition of homelessness, common signs of homelessness and processes for connecting students to the McKinney-Vento District Liaison for further support. The following resources will support you in building awareness across your district and community:

- [Tips for Teachers & Staff: How to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Tip Sheets for Different Audiences](#)
- [Local Liaison Professional Development Strategies Tip Sheet Parts A & B](#)

The Colorado Department of Education, national partners and your liaison network are here to support you as well. There are several ways to engage in training, technical assistance and professional development. Consider the options for further engagement below:

- The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) [Annual Conference](#) is November 1 - November 4, 2025 in Dallas, TX. Please explore additional details on the conference website
- [Pre-recorded Webinars](#) and [Materials](#) through the National Center for Homeless Education
- For McKinney-Vento 101 Trainings and new liaison onboarding, the Colorado Department of Education contracts with Cathy Ebel who brings over 20 years of experience as a district liaison and leader in support the education of homeless children and youth. Please reach out to her directly about training and technical assistance opportunities. Cathyebel65@gmail.com

Important Dates

- US Department of Education's Year End Data Submission for School Year 2024-25
 - On October 1, 2025 a personalized URL link to an online data submission instrument will be sent via email to each McKinney-Vento District Liaison. **This is a mandatory report required for data submission to the U.S. Department of Education.** Be sure to contact me if you do not receive your link by Friday, October 3, 2025. The due date for this report will be Monday, November 10, 2025.

As always, feel free to reach out directly to me with your questions, Gumina_p@cde.state.co.us. Thank you for your continued commitment to Colorado youth!