



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

TO: McKinney-Vento District Liaisons  
FROM: Paula Gumina, State Coordinator, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program  
DATE: August 13, 2024

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year McKinney-Vento District Liaisons! I hope you were able to take time this summer to rest, recharge and restore. In your role as liaison, you know the challenges of back-to-school time for students eligible for McKinney-Vento services and the incredible importance of identifying, enrolling, reducing barriers and increasing access for students experiencing housing crisis. Transportation, free meals, enrollment and course placement are only a few of the responsibilities you juggle in support of nearly 18,000 students across the state, but you're not alone. Every school district across the state and across the country 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.

At the start of every school year, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) sends this memo to McKinney-Vento District Liaisons across the state 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 and opportunities, and reach out with questions.

### **The 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.

Please consider marking your calendars for upcoming opportunities to deepen your understanding and build your network:

- TODAY, August 13, 2024 11:30 am – 12:30pm – Highly Mobile Youth Peer-to-Peer Conversation
  - Topic: New Liaisons and Back-to-School
  - [Click to Join](#)
- Wednesday, August 21, 2024 9:00 am – 12:30pm – Back-to-School Liaison Networking Day
  - Lowry Conference Center 1061 Akron Way Building 697, Denver, CO 8023
  - Please [register](#) so we can plan accordingly
- Monday, September 16, 2024 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Back-to-School Webinar
  - Please [register](#) to hold this time on your calendars

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



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- [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.

The above resources are helpful for districts that are currently hiring for a district liaison.

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

- [McKinney-Vento Act: Quick Reference](#)
- [Liaison Toolkit](#)
- [Potential Indicators of Homelessness](#)
- [Identifying Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services](#)
- [Interview Checklists for Supporting School Selection](#)
- [Meeting the Transportation Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)

### Training, engagement and Professional Development

Back-to-Schooltime 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 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](#)
- [Educational Rights for Homeless Children and Youth Posters](#)
- [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 a several ways to engage in training, technical assistance and professional development. Please consider options for further engagement below:

- The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) [Annual Conference](#) is November 17– November 19, 2024 in Orlando, FL. Please explore additional details on the conference website.
- [Trainings](#), [Webinars](#) and [Materials](#) through the National Center for Homeless Education.
- For McKinney-Vento 101 Trainings and Regional Trainings, 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](mailto:Cathyebel65@gmail.com).

### Important Dates

- US Department of Education’s Year End Data Submission for School Year 2023-24
  - At the end of September, 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.** Please contact me if you do not receive your link by Tuesday, October 1st. The due date for this report will be Friday, November 8, 2024.

As always, reach out directly with your questions, [Gumina\\_p@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Gumina_p@cde.state.co.us). Thank you for your continued commitment to Colorado youth!