



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us


CHRISTOPHER N. RUSZKOWSKI
SECRETARY DESIGNATE OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

January 18, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Charter School Administrators

FROM: Dana Malone, State Coordinator of Education for Homeless Children and Youth 

RE: **New Mexico Educational Stability Guidelines for Students Experiencing Homelessness**

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (also referred to as the McKinney-Vento Act) (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.). The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently re-authorized and strengthened in December 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The McKinney-Vento Act is designed to address the challenges that children and youth experiencing homelessness have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

In addition, in 2017, New Mexico updated its laws to address the educational stability of students experiencing disruption, including those students experiencing homelessness or unaccompanied youths.

The attached guidelines were developed to provide information and guidance for local education agencies, charter schools, parents/guardians, students and advocates on the federal and state requirements regarding the education of students experiencing homelessness.

The "Guidelines for Students Experiencing Homelessness" include the following:

- Immediate enrollment of students experiencing homelessness in their school of choice;
- School selection and best interest;
- Participation and removal of barriers;
- School records, vaccinations and immunizations;
- Transfer of records;

- Transportation;
- Direct Certification for free school meals;
- Process for resolving disputes; and
- Notice of parental/guardian and student rights.

This document is posted on the Public Education Department (PED) McKinney-Vento website at:
<http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/student-success-wellness/mckinney-vento/>.

You can also locate New Mexico's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan at:
http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/ESSA_docs/FINAL_NMESSAPlan.pdf.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 827-1810 or
dana.malone@state.nm.us.

Enc. (2): New Mexico Educational Stability Guidelines for Students Experiencing Homelessness
New Mexico Public Education Department Students Experiencing Homelessness or
Unaccompanied Youth Dispute Resolution Form

cc: Debbie Rael, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, School Transformation
Denise Koscielniak, Director, Comprehensive School Supports Division
Michael Chavez, Director, Student Success and Wellness Bureau
LEA Homeless Liaisons
School Food Authority Directors
Regional Education Cooperative Directors