

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Texas. The seal contains a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by a wreath of olive and live oak branches. The words "THE STATE OF TEXAS" are inscribed around the perimeter of the seal.

# **Building Stability for Students Experiencing Homelessness**

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**A Legal and Foundational Overview of  
McKinney-Vento**

# The Highly Mobile & At-Risk (HMAR) Team



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## Review the McKinney-Vento Act

- Understand key definitions and legal requirements.

## Strengthen Implementation Practices

- Focus on identification, enrollment, and service delivery.

## Access TEHCY Program Resources

- Learn about updates, tools, and supports available statewide.

# “Through Their Eyes” Grounding Reflection - Activity



Imagine you're a student (maybe 8; maybe 17) who doesn't have a **stable place to sleep** tonight.



You're navigating school while carrying the weight of **uncertainty, exhaustion, and invisibility**.



What might this student **need from you**? Not just as an educator, but **as a supportive adult**?

# Reflection Statements

1

You arrive at **school late**. You slept on a couch last night in a **home that's not yours**.

2

You're asked to fill out a form that **requires a parent's signature**—but you **haven't seen them** in days.

3

You want to **join the basketball team**, but you **don't have a physical address** to list.

4

You're trying to focus in class, but you're **hungry** and **worried** about **where you'll sleep tonight**.

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# McKinney-Vento Definitions & Requirements

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## **McKinney-Vento**

Refers to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

## **Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program**

Refers to the Texas McKinney-Vento program

## **Students Experiencing Homelessness**

Refers to McKinney-Vento eligible students

## **Local Education Agencies (LEAs) or School Systems**

Refers to Texas public schools and open-enrollment charter schools

Children and youth who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**, including children and youth:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds, due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospitals
- Living in a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

## Children and youth who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**, including children and youth:

- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances [[42 U.S.C. §11434a\(2\)](#)]
- Unaccompanied youth includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian [42 U.S.C §11434a(6)]

# Events That May Lead to Loss of Housing

**Unemployment**

**Divorce**

**Domestic  
Abuse**

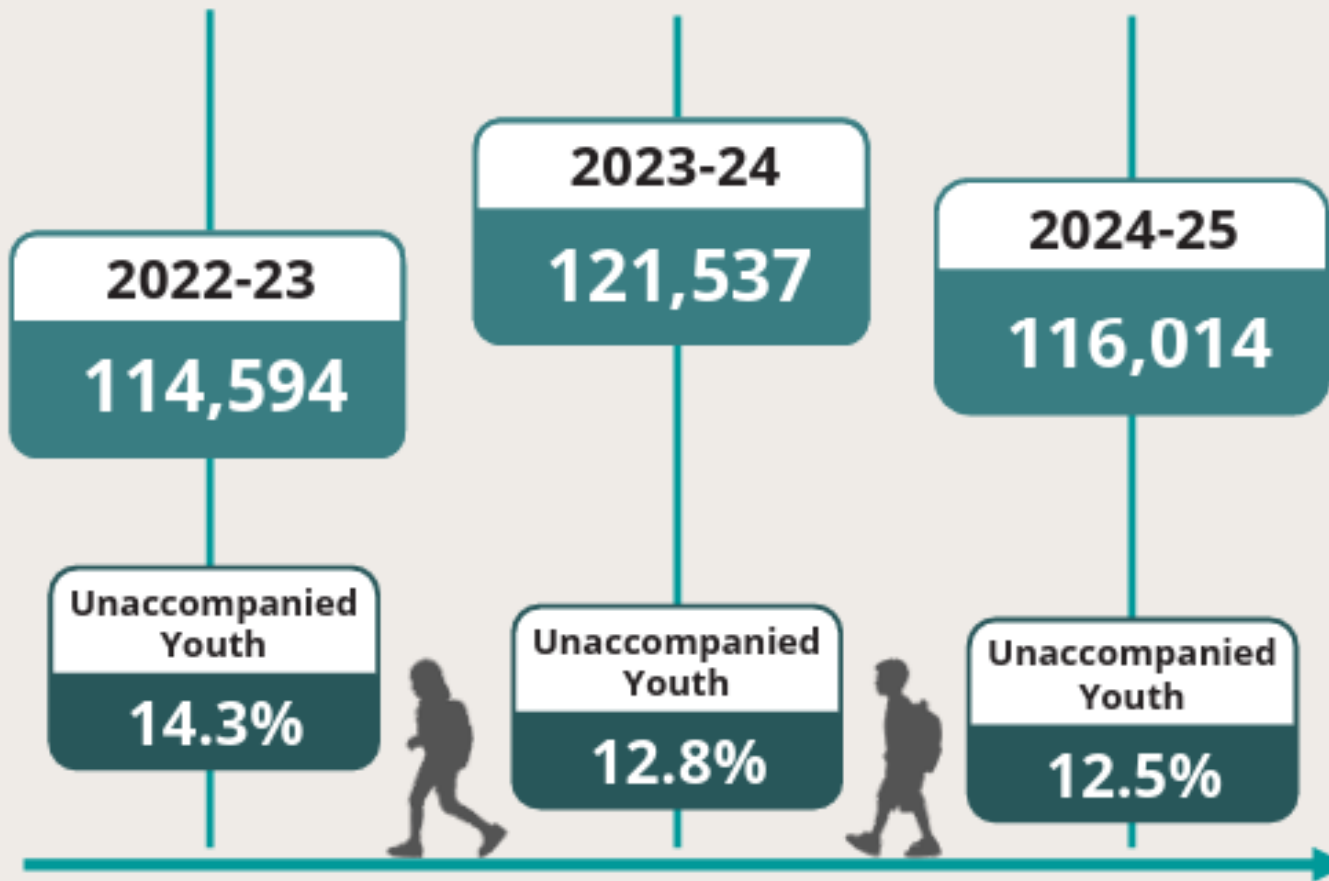
**Medical Issues**

**Lack of  
Affordable  
Housing**

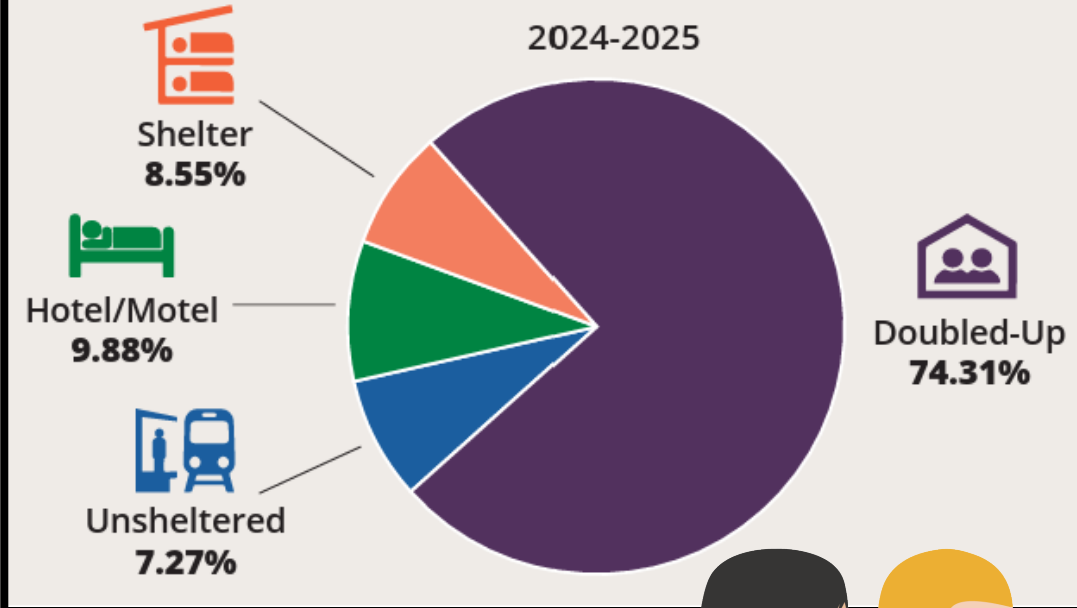
**Natural  
Disaster**

# Statewide Data: Homeless Student Identification

## Students Experiencing Homelessness in Texas Public Schools



## Identified Students Experiencing Homelessness by Living Situation



# 2025 TEHCY Infographic: 2024-25 PEIMS Data

## TEXAS EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM

Students experiencing homelessness live in any of these situations:



Doubled-up with other people



Homeless Shelter



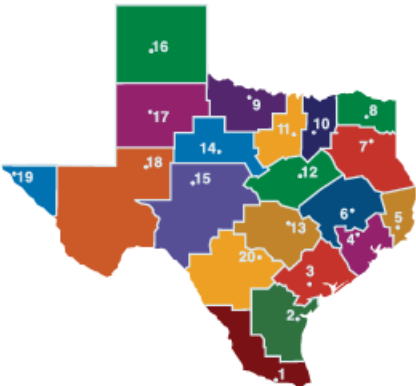
Hotel/Motel



Car, park, empty building, bus, or train station

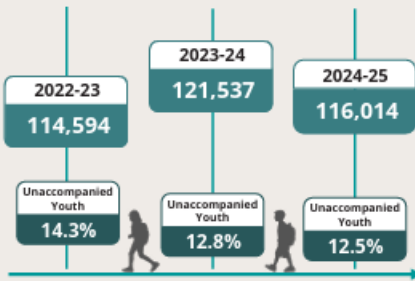
### McKinney-Vento eligible students have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school or continue attending their school of origin.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the student's needs.



Each of the 20 Regional Education Service Centers (ESCs) has a designated [Regional McKinney-Vento Liaison](#) who provides technical assistance and training to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs).

### Students Experiencing Homelessness in Texas Public Schools

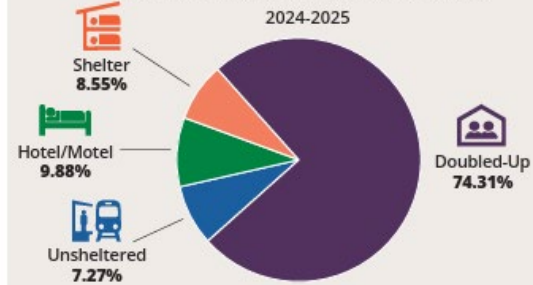


At the close of the 2024-25 school year, Texas LEAs submitted a total of 119,791 records of students experiencing homelessness. Of these submissions, 5.1% pertained to students who appeared more than once in the statewide data (i.e., students who changed schools and were reported as homeless by more than one school district). The above analysis presents the overall number of students experiencing homelessness as the unduplicated student count, while percentage figures in this infographic are calculated from all records in the statewide data set.

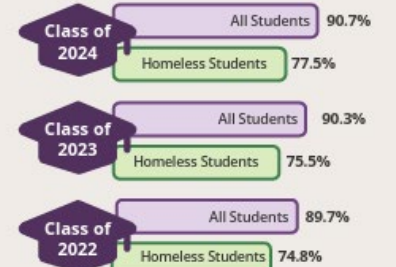


## TEXAS EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM

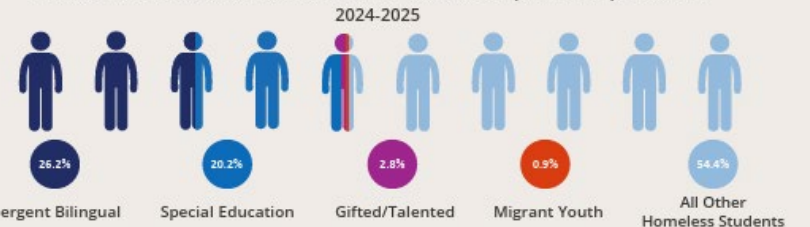
### Identified Students Experiencing Homelessness by Living Situation 2024-2025



### Graduation Rate by Year



### Students Identified as Homeless and Other Special Populations 2024-2025



Because students may be identified in more than one special population group, these categories are not mutually exclusive; therefore, percentages do not add up to 100%.

# M-V Requirements for All School Systems



Appoint a **local** Homeless Liaison and ensure they have the capacity to carry out the duties listed in statute



**Identify** students experiencing homelessness



Enroll students experiencing homelessness **immediately**, even without required records



Make student records available in a **timely manner**



Provide **services** to students experiencing homelessness that are **comparable** to those offered to other students

# M-V Requirements for All School Systems



Review and revise policies that **may act as barriers** to the enrollment of students experiencing homelessness



Continue the student's education in their **school of origin**



Provide **School of Origin transportation** if it is requested by a parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and is in the best interest of the student



Provide **written notice** to parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth related to the appeal process if the school system sends the student to a school other than the school requested

# Transportation Requirements for School Systems

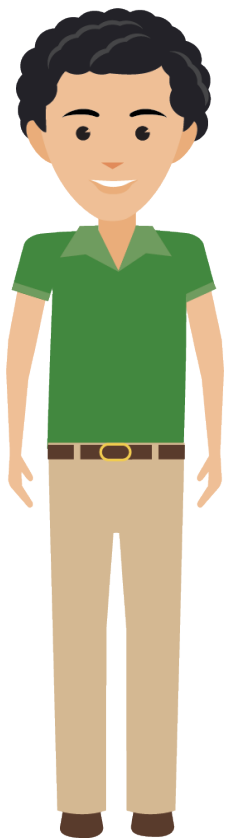
Transportation must be provided to and from the school of origin at the request of the parent or guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the local liaison.

*[42 U.S.C. §11432 (g) (1)(J)(iii)].*

- **School of origin** is the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled
- Students experiencing homelessness are **eligible for school of origin transportation**.
- School systems **must provide transportation** even if they do not provide transportation for any other students.
- **Collaboration** must occur between school systems to arrange transportation.
- School systems must agree on a method to **share the responsibility and costs**.



**All School Systems must designate a Homeless Liaison** to carry out the duties listed in the federal McKinney-Vento Act.



School systems must ensure their designated liaison's contact information in AskTED is **up** **to date** throughout the school year.

Districts submit their liaison information to TEA through the **district's AskTED administrator**.

Charter schools submit their liaison information using the **All-In-One Update Form**

# AskTED Navigation & Locating School System Liaisons

Highly Mobile and At-Risk (HMAR) Programs | TEA's AskTED Database System

For further assistance, users may find the resource useful: [AskTED Quick Reference Guide](#).

### Searching Directory for Liaisons

Below are instructions with pictures to view and download liaison contact information from TEA's AskTED database.

- Go to [AskTED Webpage](#).
- Select "Search by" and choose how you would like to sort the list:
  - School → Enter School name or School number
  - District → Enter District name or District number
  - County → Enter County name or County number
  - Region → Select Region from dropdown list
  - Texas

3. For each of the above guidance from Step 2 (i.e., A-E), you will then need to select:

- Information Type: Select "Personnel"
- Check boxes: Select "Include Other District Roles"
- Then select the role you are searching for: "Homeless Liaison" or "Foster Care Liaison" from the dropdown menu.

Updated September 2024

Highly Mobile and At-Risk (HMAR) Programs | TEA's AskTED Database System

## Introduction

AskTED is an online directory of Texas school information, including charter schools. The directory is primarily used by people seeking contact information for schools, districts, and education service centers. AskTED is a real-time database that is updated regularly by Texas LEAs.

To that end, Texas School Districts and Open-Enrollment Charter Schools are required to have both Homeless and Foster Care Liaisons as individual designated roles for all LEAs. The information must be maintained and stored in AskTED. It is important for LEAs to keep this information regularly updated, so that McKinney-Vento and Foster Care Liaison information is publicly available, and these points of contacts are available to support students and remove barriers related to school transitions and mobility.

### Submitting or Updating Liaison Information

Each LEA needs to ensure the contact information for their designated liaison is current and up to date throughout the school year. When information needs to be updated (e.g., change of designated staff, phone number, or email address), these changes need to be submitted to the AskTED database.

- For school districts, changes and/or submissions will be completed to TEA through each school district's AskTED administrator.
- For charter schools, AskTED updates are to be emailed directly to the Charter School Division at TEA at [CharterSchools@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:CharterSchools@tea.state.tx.us). More information can be found here for [Charter Schools](#).

### Steps to Search for Liaison Information

There are two (2) ways to access AskTED.

- Go to [TEA Webpage](#) → Select AskTED from Popular Applications in the dark blue menu at the top.
- Navigate directly to [AskTED Webpage](#).

When on AskTED homepage, users can use the drop-down menus at the top of the page to access the Texas Education Directory Customized Reports and Data Files. Under the 'Search by' menu, you will find searches for School, District, County, Region, and Texas.

Updated September 2024

Highly Mobile and At-Risk (HMAR) Programs | TEA's AskTED Database System

- Select "Search" at the bottom of the page.
- To download the list (or desired information), click on the "Select All" purple button (or portion of information that you would like), then select "View Details".
- Choose "Download File" to export the information into Excel (.csv file).

LEAs are required to keep Homeless and Foster Care Liaisons' information regularly updated in AskTED. Please review and update this information regularly.

Updated September 2024

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# McKinney-Vento Student PEIMS Coding

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Student eligibility for M-V services should be assessed **annually**.



M-V eligible students should be **coded at the time of identification**.



Identification and coding is for the **current school year**.



M-V coding **does not** carry over from year-to-year.

# TSDS PEIMS: Homeless & Unaccompanied Youth Status Codes

Table Identification	Name	Date Issued	Date Updated
C189	HomelessStatus	03/01/2012	03/01/2024
Descriptor	Short Description	Long Description	
2	Student Lives Temporarily Doubled-Up During The Current School Year	Student lives temporarily <b>doubled-up</b> (sharing residence with a family or individual) at any time during current school year.	
3	Student Is Unsheltered At Any Time During The Current School Year	Student is <b>unsheltered</b> (i.e., lives on the street, lives in cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailers [including FEMA trailers], or abandoned buildings) at any time during current school year.	
4	Student Lives In A Motel Or Hotel Any Time During The Current School Year	Student lives in <b>motel or hotel</b> at any time during current school year.	
5	Student Lives In A Shelter At Any Time During The Current School Year	Student lives in a <b>shelter</b> , transitional housing at any time during current school year.	

Used in the following data element(s):  
HomelessStatus

Used in the following entities:  
PriorYearLeaver  
StudentEducationOrganizationAssociation

Table Identification	Name	Date Issued	Date Updated
C192	UnaccompaniedYouth	03/01/2012	08/31/2015
Descriptor	Short Description	Long Description	
3	Homeless Student In The Physical Custody Of A Parent Or Legal Guardian	Homeless student is in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian (i.e., homeless student is not unaccompanied) for the entire school year.	
4	Homeless Student Not In The Physical Custody Of A Parent Or Legal Guardian	Homeless student is not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian (i.e., homeless student is unaccompanied) at any time during the school year.	

Used in the following data element(s):  
UnaccompaniedYouth

Used in the following entities:  
StudentEducationOrganizationAssociation

Homeless Liaisons should implement **processes and procedures** to ensure all identified McKinney-Vento students have **been coded for all appropriate services in a timely manner** by:

Providing registrars or other designated contacts:

An email notification with the appropriate “**homeless status**” and “**At-Risk**” indicator code in TSDS PEIMS

Informing designated Food Services contacts:

To code all eligible students for “**free meal**” status



# Review Accuracy of McKinney-Vento Coding



Develop, review, and monitor program reports to **ensure accurate and timely coding** of:

Student eligibility criteria

Date of qualification

At-Risk status

Unaccompanied Youth status (if applicable)



Review McKinney-Vento program reports to **monitor student enrollment, coding, and services** on a regular basis.



Develop processes and procedures to **address and correct any coding errors** throughout the school year.

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# TEHCY Program

# Postsecondary Support

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# Identification of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



- Review each situation on a **case-by-case basis**
- Review their **living situation** and **nighttime residency**
- Student must be **BOTH unaccompanied AND experiencing homelessness**

# College Preparation and Support for FAFSA



School counselors **must assist** students experiencing homelessness with **college preparation and readiness**.

*[42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(K)]*

Local liaisons must inform unaccompanied youth about their **independent student status** on the FAFSA and **assist with verification** of the status.

*[42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(x)(III)]*

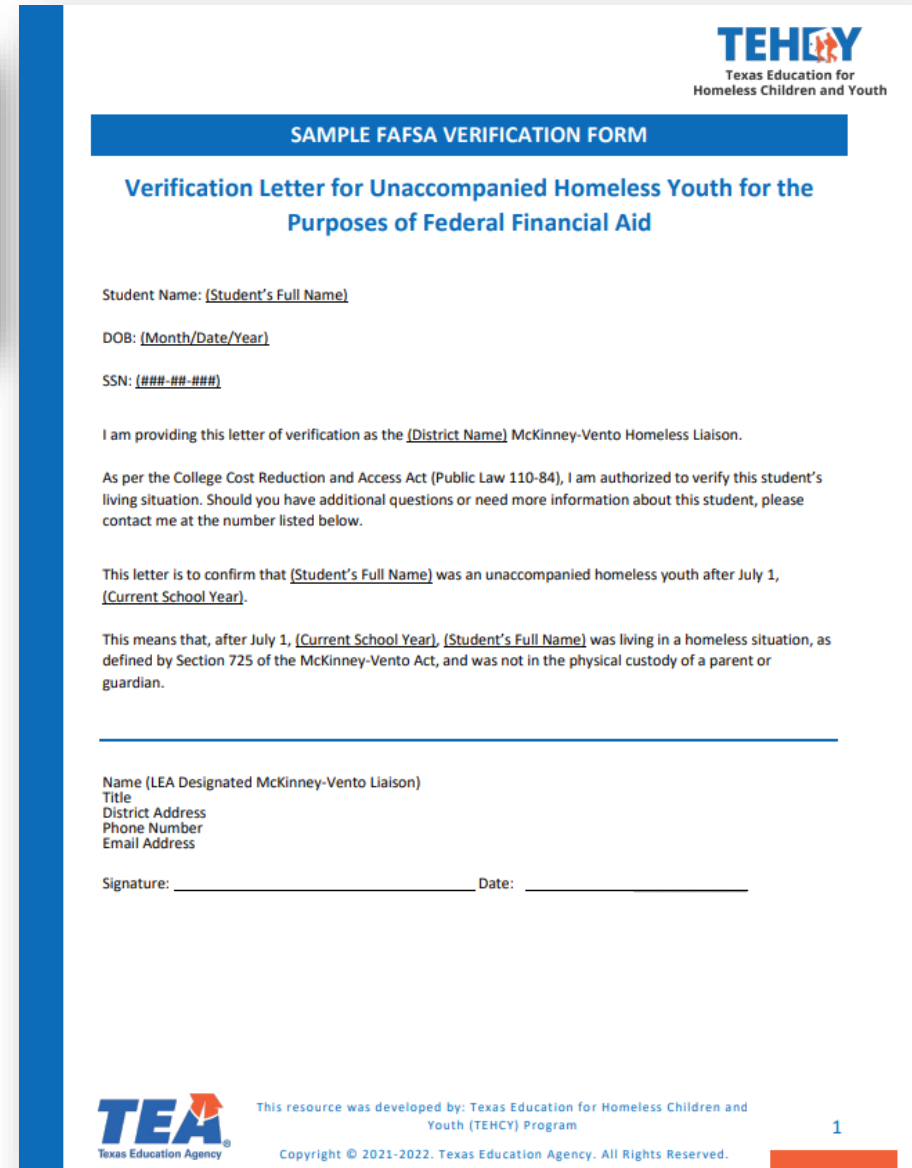
# FAFSA and McKinney-Vento

## From Question 6:

- The student was at any time on or after July 1, 2024, determined to be unaccompanied and (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless with a determination from one of the entities listed on the FAFSA form.

## Relevant Federal Student Aid Resources:

- [Federal Student Aid Handbook](#) (Search 'Homeless' after selecting the year)
- [Federal Student Aid and Homeless Youth FAQs](#)
- [Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determinations](#) (Updated July 19, 2024)
- [Sample FAFSA Verification Form](#)



**TEHCY**  
Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth

**SAMPLE FAFSA VERIFICATION FORM**

**Verification Letter for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth for the Purposes of Federal Financial Aid**

Student Name: (Student's Full Name)

DOB: (Month/Date/Year)

SSN: (###-##-####)

I am providing this letter of verification as the (District Name) McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison.

As per the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84), I am authorized to verify this student's living situation. Should you have additional questions or need more information about this student, please contact me at the number listed below.

This letter is to confirm that (Student's Full Name) was an unaccompanied homeless youth after July 1, (Current School Year).

This means that, after July 1, (Current School Year), (Student's Full Name) was living in a homeless situation, as defined by Section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Act, and was not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (LEA Designated McKinney-Vento Liaison)  
Title  
District Address  
Phone Number  
Email Address

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEA**  
Texas Education Agency

This resource was developed by: Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program

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1

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, postsecondary support responsibilities are designed to **ensure that youth experiencing homelessness have comparable access to higher education opportunities.**

Identification  
and Support  
for FAFSA

College  
Readiness and  
Advising

Access to  
Postsecondary  
Education

Coordination  
and  
Collaboration

Removal of  
Barriers

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# Title I, Part A Homeless Set-Aside Requirements

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## Mandatory Fund Reservation

- LEAs **must** reserve Title I, Part A funds specifically to support students experiencing homelessness before other expenditures.

## Needs Assessment Basis

- Set-aside amounts are determined by **assessing the number of students experiencing homelessness and educational barriers** they face.

## Coordination with McKinney-Vento

- Title I, Part A programming **must coordinate** closely with McKinney-Vento liaisons for effective support planning.

## Supporting Academic Continuity

- Set-aside funds help reduce instructional loss by **providing tutoring, supplies, and fee coverage** to students experiencing homelessness.

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Ensures *equitable access* for students experiencing homeless to academic supports.

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Helps meet unmet needs that affect attendance, engagement, and achievement.


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Supports coordination between Title I, Part A and M-V programs to reduce barriers.


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Allows LEAs to fund services that directly support *enrollment, attendance, and academic success*.

# Allowable Uses of Title I, Part A Set-Aside Funds for M-V Students



Transportation to/from the school of origin when not otherwise funded.




Academic supports such as tutoring, credit recovery, and extended-day programs.




Personal essentials (clothing, hygiene supplies, backpacks, school materials).



Fees required for participation in general education or extracurricular activities.



Salary support for the homeless liaison when reasonable and necessary.



Services not ordinarily provided by Title I, Part A **if they meet the “reasonable and necessary” test and are used as a last resort.**



Title I, Part A program plans must describe how programs **coordinate and collaborate** to support M-V students.



The M-V liaison must be included in **planning and consultation** to ensure needs are accurately represented.



Coordination strengthens identification, enrollment, attendance, and academic stability.

# Stay Updated on TEA Grant Opportunities



[TEA Grant Opportunities](#): This site is a central resource for all state and federal grants administered by TEA.



New state and federal funding opportunities are added throughout the year.



Visit regularly to:

- View newly released grant opportunities
- Track application timelines
- Access guidance documents and resources
- Plan ahead for future funding cycles



Your next opportunity may post soon—don't miss it!

# NEW Resource: How to Guidance on Accessing TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grants Opportunities Page



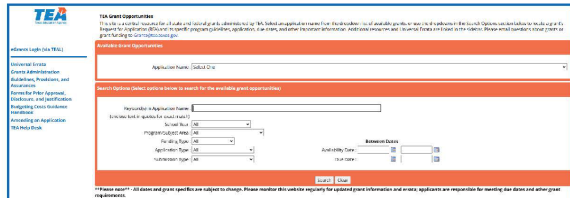
## TEA Accessing TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grant's Opportunities Page

### How to Guidance on Accessing TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grants Opportunities Page

This guide provides a step-by-step walkthrough for navigating the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Grant Opportunities website to locate active and/or past Texas Education of Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Grants. This resource includes screenshots and detailed instructions to assist users in accessing grant information and completing the application process.

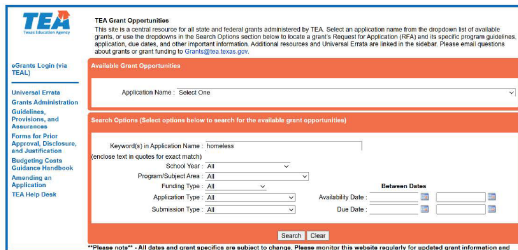
#### Step 1: Accessing the TEA Grant Opportunities Website

1. Open your web browser and go to the [TEA Grant Opportunities page](#).
2. This page serves as the central hub for all state and federal grants administered by TEA.



#### Step 2: Using the Search Options

1. Scroll to the "Search Options" section.
2. Under the "Keyword(s) in Application Name," type in "homeless".



3. All available grants will be listed in the "Search Results – Available Grant Opportunities" table.
  - a. **Name of the Grant Application:** The active school year for each grant is indicated in the name of the grant
  - b. **Availability Date:** Refers to the date when the application opens for applicants.
  - c. **Due Date:** The deadline for submitting the application.

TEHCY Grants | 1

## TEA Accessing TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grant's Opportunities Page

### TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grant's Opportunities Page

Specifies the category or type of grant application.

Indicates the method of submission, either via PDF or through the eGrants portal.

Name of Grant Application	Availability Date	Due Date	Application Type	Submission Type
Children and Youth (TEHCY) PSC Capacity Building Grant	07/25/2024	08/27/2024	Discretionary Non-Competitive	PDF
Children and Youth (TEHCY) Continuation Grant	06/20/2024	08/27/2024	Discretionary Non-Competitive	eGrants
Child Support Grant	08/01/2024	08/19/2024	Discretionary Non-Competitive	PDF
Children and Youth (TEHCY) PSC Capacity Building Grant	07/25/2024	08/27/2024	Discretionary Non-Competitive	PDF
Children and Youth (TEHCY) PSC Capacity Building Grant	07/25/2024	08/27/2024	Discretionary Non-Competitive	PDF
Children and Youth (TEHCY) PSC Capacity Building Grant	07/25/2024	08/27/2024	Discretionary Non-Competitive	PDF
Children and Youth (TEHCY) PSC Capacity Building Grant	07/25/2024	08/27/2024	Discretionary Non-Competitive	PDF
Children and Youth (TEHCY) PSC Capacity Building Grant	07/25/2024	08/27/2024	Discretionary Non-Competitive	PDF

Click on the magnifying icon under "View" next to each grant's name. For 2025-2026 Texas Education of Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY)-

These essential details about the grant program to help applicants understand its

Summarizes the goals, objectives, and intended outcomes of the grant

can apply by outlining the specific criteria and qualifications required.

Identifies the legal basis and regulations that govern the grant program.



Indicates the total funding available (amounts funded to each grantee will vary), start and end date, and fund type (Federal or State.)

Grant Start Date	Grant End Date	Fund Type	CTDA #	Percent	Amount
08/28/2024	08/28/2024	1418-01	2418A	100.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Funding Available</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>

TEHCY Grants | 2

## TEA Accessing TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grant's Opportunities Page

### Step 4: Accessing and Submitting the Application

#### For Paper Applications (PDF)

1. Under "Application and Support Information," click on Application Part 1 (PDF) and Application Part 2 (Excel)

Application Part 1 (PDF)  
Application Part 2 (Excel)

2. Please note the instructions on how to submit on the Application Part 1 PDF:

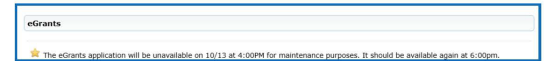
**SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION**

This application must be submitted via email to [grantapplications@tea.texas.gov](mailto:grantapplications@tea.texas.gov) by 11:59 p.m. CT, September 23, 2025.

**Both Application Part 1 (PDF) and Application Part 2 (Excel) are required when submitting.**  
The application may be signed with a digital ID, or it may be signed by hand and scanned. Then submit via email.

#### For eGrants

1. Log into the TEA eGrants system using your TEAL account. (If you do not already have access, you will need to request access in TEAL.)



2. Navigate to the GS2000 application for the TEHCY Continuation Grant.
3. Complete all required fields and upload supporting documents.
4. Submit the application electronically before the due date.

#### Additional Resources for Grants

1. **Federal and State Monthly Drawdown Interactive Dashboards:** View interactive dashboards for monthly federal and state grant awards, updated regularly to show total award amounts, remaining funds, and percentages.
2. **Applying for a Grant | Texas Education Agency:** Learn how to apply for federal and state education grants through TEA, including guidelines, eligibility, deadlines, and access to eGrants resources
3. **Division Contacts:** For grant-related questions (e.g., amendments, negotiations, status, etc.), please contact your grant negotiator.

TEHCY Grants | 4

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# TEHCY Program Resources

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# UPDATED MV POSTERS – Printing SOON!



## Información para Padres de Jóvenes en Edad Escolar



## Information for Parents of School-Age Youth



### Si su familia vive en cualquiera de las siguientes condiciones:

- Compartiendo la vivienda con otras personas debido a una dificultad económica
- En un albergue
- Motel o terreno para campamento
- En un automóvil abandonado, autobús, o estación de trenes

### Sus hijos elegibles tienen derecho a:

- Recibir una educación pública gratuita y apropiada
- Inscribirse en la escuela local o continuar a la escuela de origen (la escuela a la que el estudiante cuando tenía una residencia permanente, o la última escuela en la que se inscribió), si esto es su preferencia.
- Recibir transporte desde y hacia la escuela de origen, si se solicita.
- Recibir servicios educacionales comparables que están provistos para otros estudiantes, según las necesidades de sus hijos.
- Inscribirse en la escuela inmediatamente incluso si no tienen los documentos normalmente necesarios para la inscripción
- Inscribirse a la escuela y atender clases mientras la escuela obtiene los documentos necesarios

### Si cree...

que sus hijos podrían ser elegibles, comuníquese con el coordinador local listado abajo para enterarse de cuales servicios y apoyos pueden estar disponibles. También pueden existir apoyos para sus hijos de edad preescolar.

### Si el distrito escolar cree...

que la escuela que usted eligió no está en el mejor interés de sus hijos, el distrito debe proporcionarle con una explicación por escrito de su decisión e informarle de su derecho de apelar la decisión.

### Información de contacto:

**Línea de apoyo de TEHCY:**  
Llame al 1-855-85 TEHCY (83429)  
Horario: Lunes a viernes: 7:00 am a 3:30 pm CST  
Enviar solicitud de admisión en línea

**Coordinador local:**

**Coordinador regional:**

TEA.TEXAS.GOV/TEHCY

### If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- Doubled-up with other people
- Homeless Shelter
- Hotel/Motel or campground
- Car, park, empty building, bus or train station

### Your eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in the local school or continue attending their school of origin.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the student's needs.

### If you believe...

your children may be eligible, contact the local liaison listed to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.

### If the school districts believes...

that the school you selected is not in the best interest of your children, the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.

### Contact Information:

**TEHCY Support Hotline:**  
Call 1-855-85TEHCY (83429)  
Hours: M-F, 7:00am-3:30 pm CST  
[Submit Intake Online](#)

**Local Liaison:**

**Regional Liaison:**

TEA.TEXAS.GOV/TEHCY

## Information for School-Age Youth



### If you live in any of the following situations:

- Doubled-up with other people
- Homeless Shelter
- Hotel/Motel or campground
- Car, park, empty building, bus or train station

### Eligible students have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in the local school or continue attending their school of origin.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the student's needs.

### If you believe...

you may be eligible, contact the local liaison listed to find out what services and supports may be available.

### If the school districts believes...

that the school you selected is not in your best interest, the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.

### Contact Information:

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**Local Liaison:**

**Regional Liaison:**

TEA.TEXAS.GOV/TEHCY

## Información para Jóvenes en Edad Escolar



### Si tu familia vive en cualquiera de las siguientes condiciones:

- En un albergue
- Motel o terreno para campamento
- En un automóvil, edificio abandonado, autobús, o estación de trenes

### Tú tienes derecho a:

- Recibir una educación pública gratuita y apropiada
- Inscribirse en la escuela local o continuar asistiendo a la escuela de origen (la escuela a la que asistió el estudiante cuando tenía una residencia permanente, o la última escuela en la que estaba inscrito), si esto es su preferencia.
- Recibir transporte desde y hacia la escuela de origen, si se solicita.
- Recibir servicios educacionales comparables a los que están provistos para otros estudiantes, según las necesidades de sus hijos.
- Inscribirse en la escuela inmediatamente incluso si no tienen los documentos normalmente necesarios para la inscripción
- Inscribirse a la escuela y atender clases mientras la escuela obtiene los documentos necesarios

### Si crees...

que tus hijos podrían ser elegibles, comuníquese con el coordinador local listado abajo para enterarse de cuales servicios y apoyos pueden estar disponibles. También pueden existir apoyos para sus hijos de edad preescolar.

### Si el distrito escolar cree...

que la escuela que usted eligió no está en el mejor interés de sus hijos, el distrito debe proporcionarle con una explicación por escrito de su decisión e informarle de su derecho de apelar la decisión.

### Información de contacto:

**Línea de apoyo de TEHCY:**  
Llame al 1-855-85 TEHCY (83429)  
Horario: Lunes a viernes: 7:00 am a 3:30 pm CST  
Enviar solicitud de admisión en línea

**Coordinador local:**

**Coordinador regional:**

TEA.TEXAS.GOV/TEHCY

**McKinney-Vento requirement:** Public notice of educational rights of homeless children and youth is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such children and youth, and unaccompanied youth. 42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(6)(A)(vi)

# REMINDER: Transition Assistance Toolkit

## Nutrition Benefits

TAC § 89.1605(a)(3)

All students who are identified as homeless or in foster care are eligible for the US Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Program.

Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must ensure there is an expedited process in place for all students who qualify to receive nutrition benefits upon enrollment. The process must expedite communication with the LEA nutrition coordinator to ensure that eligible students are not charged in error or experience delays in receiving these benefits.

### Best Practices

- Appropriate LEA or campus staff should immediately notify food services when a new student enrolls.
- Verify student coding in alignment with effective date.
- Ensure student confidentiality.
- Collaborate with your Nutrition Coordinator to establish processes, such as sending an approval notification via email.
- LEAs should provide annual training to new and returning staff on nutrition eligibility and application processes.

**REMINDER:** Applications must be expedited when the student qualifies for SNAP benefits. Ensure systems and supports are student and family-centered!

## Enrollment Conferences

TAC § 89.1605(b)

Local Education Agencies must convene an enrollment conference with a student who is homeless or in foster care within the first two weeks, or as soon as feasible, after a student who is homeless or in substitute care enrolls at a new school. The student's participation in the meeting should be addressed on a case-by-case basis. The convening cannot delay or impede enrollment.

The enrollment conference may be used in conjunction with an existing meeting that is designed for a similar purpose for newly enrolled students.

An **Enrollment Conference** is a student-centered meeting for a newly enrolled student designed to:

- Identify academic and extracurricular interests.
- Review credits and assessment information.
- Introduce school processes and opportunities for engagement.
- Determine social-emotional support.
- Develop course and instructional strategies.
- Communicate confidential information that may impact a student's success, if needed.

### Key People to Consider Including:

- School Administrators
- McKinney-Vento Liaisons
- Foster Care Liaisons
- School Counselors

### Others to Include\*:

LEA AND CAMPUS STAFF	COMMUNITY SUPPORT
» Special Program Staff (e.g., Special Education, Emergent Bilingual, Gifted and Talented, etc.)	» Parent or Guardian
» Teachers	» Relative or Foster Placement Caregiver
» Social Workers	» Texas DFPS Caseworker
» Dropout Prevention Specialist	» DFPS Educational Decision Maker
» Attendance/Truancy Officer	» CASA Volunteer

\*Additional people may be invited, as needed.  
\*\*Discussion topics are required in TAC § 89.1605(b)(3) and should be adapted to meet the unique needs of each student.

## Student Welcome Packet Requirements and Best Practices

TAC § 89.1605(a)(1)

Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must provide welcome packets to students who are homeless or in foster care within the first two weeks of enrollment. LEAs may include the required welcome packet contents with any existing items being provided to new students.

### Welcome Packet Required Items:

- Extracurricular activities (e.g., fine arts, athletics, etc.)
- Club activities
- Information on fee waivers
- Tutoring opportunities
- Student code of conduct
- Available student supports
- Contact information for pertinent school staff

### Contact information for key school staff members:

- School counselors
- Nurses
- Social workers
- Foster Care Liaison
- McKinney-Vento Liaison
- Principal & Assistant Principals
- Registrars
- Nutrition coordinators
- Transportation specialists
- Additional support staff (e.g., Special Education, Emergent Bilingual, Gifted and Talented, 504 programs, Pregnancy Related Services)

### Additional Foster Care and McKinney-Vento Items:

- Student clubs
- After school programs
- Enrichment programs
- Mentor programs
- Family engagement opportunities
- Student ambassador programs
- Post-secondary planning activities
- Summer and holiday resources
- Other community resources available in your area (e.g., FindHelp.org)

### Key Discussion Topics\*\*:

- Student's interests, strengths, and previous successes.
- Student's attendance, grades, credits, etc.
- Social, emotional, and behavioral supports.
- LEA policies to support enrollment and withdrawal processes.
- Communication preferences of parent/guardians or unaccompanied youth.
- Post-secondary readiness.

## School Introductions to Ease Transitions

TAC § 89.1605(a)(2)

School introductions are welcoming activities provided by the school to new students. Staff can introduce students to the school in a variety of ways, such as giving tours of the campus, hosting welcome events, and providing one-on-one student support. These activities can help students acclimate to their new environment, adjust academically, meet new friends, and participate in extracurricular activities. While LEAs are required to provide introductions to students who are homeless or in foster care, these supports are beneficial for easing the transitions of all newly enrolled students.

### Strategies to Ease Transitions

- Provide introductions (e.g., staff introductions, campus tours, activities, welcome events, etc.) within two weeks of enrollment.
- Implement mentoring programs in which staff or community mentors can facilitate introductions, have lunch with students, and check-in with students throughout the day.
- Provide information on peer-to-peer programs, such as student-led activities, clubs, programs, extracurriculars, etc.
- Designate a staff member to whom the student can reach out for support and services. This person provides a safe space for the student to share any concerns, needs, or life changes.

### Key Contacts

- Campus staff members.
- Staff members who have been designated as student mentors.
- Community mentor sponsor. Student-led groups.
- Student ambassadors and faculty sponsors.

### Student Ambassadors

Student ambassadors are students who represent the school and introduce new students to the campus and its culture. Student ambassadors are familiar with the campus environment and have a positive attitude, great communication skills, leadership qualities, and are accepting of others. Student ambassadors can organize and/or participate in the following activities:

- Newcomer social events throughout the school year.
- Tours of the campus library, nurse's office, counseling office, gym, and cafeteria.
- Accompanying new students to lunch during the first week of school.



View Transition Assistance Webinars on YouTube  
[Transition Assistance Part I](#); [Transition Assistance Part II](#)

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[Liaisons](#) ▾

[Professional Development](#)

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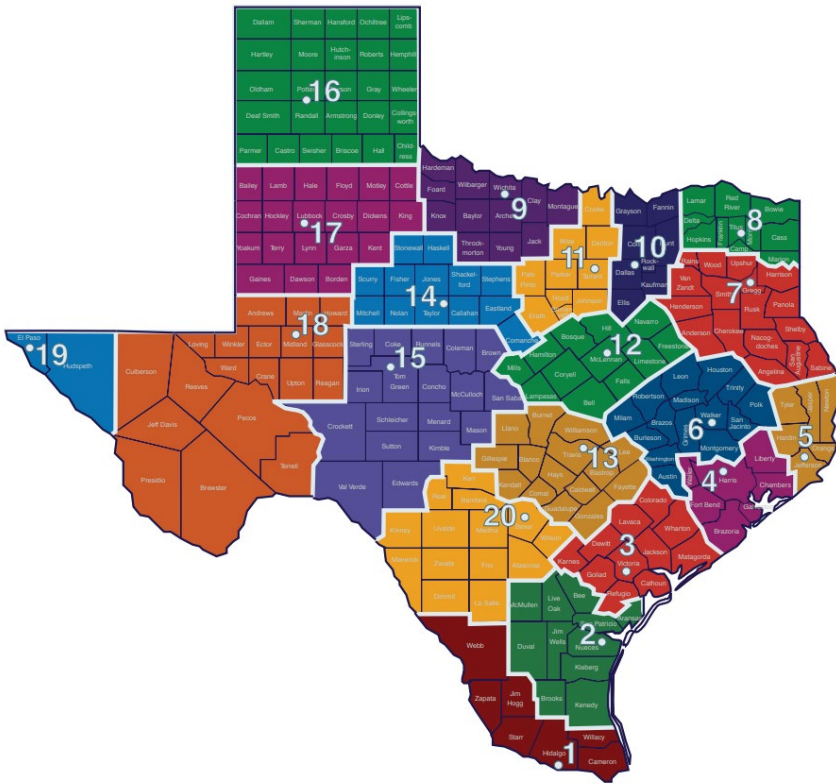
[Resources](#)



## Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Resources and services to ensure that all Texas children living in homeless situations have the opportunity to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school.

# Regional McKinney-Vento Liaison Contacts



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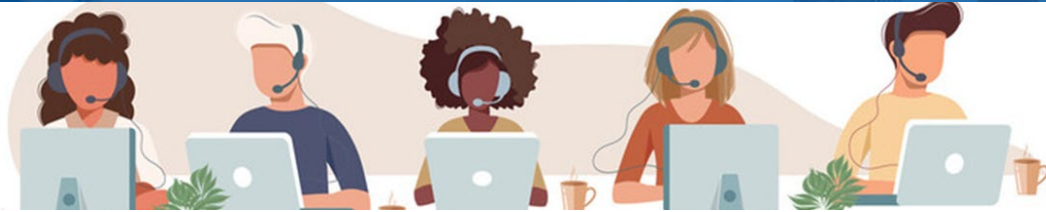
(915) 780-5316

## Region 20, Karina Gonzalez

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(210) 370-5773

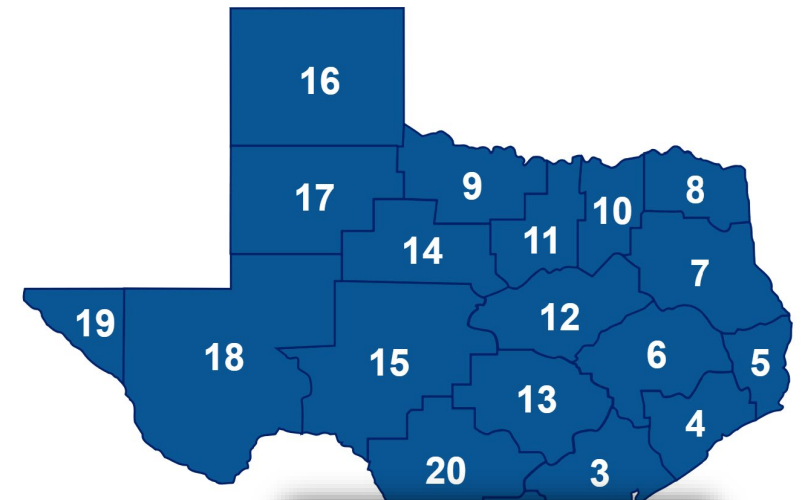
## McKinney-Vento Statewide Regional Contacts



Self submission via TEA  
website link



Phone Call to the TEHCY  
Support (1-855-85TEHCY)  
**7:00am – 3:30pm**



# “My Bridge Commitment” Closing Reflection - Activity



We began today by imagining the world through a student’s eyes.



Now, let’s return to our own “seats”; not just physically, but professionally.



Each of us has a role in building bridges for students experiencing homelessness.



What is one bridge I will commit to building—starting this week—to support McKinney-Vento compliance and student stability?



- Email: [HomelessEducation@Tea.Texas.gov](mailto:HomelessEducation@Tea.Texas.gov)
- Website: [Tea.texas.gov/TEHCY](http://Tea.texas.gov/TEHCY)
- Sign-up for [TEA TEHCY Announcements](#)