

Question and Answer – September 2021

These questions were submitted during the Highly Mobile and At-Risk (HM&AR) presentation on Thursday, September 16th, 2021. The questions are listed by topic.

Enrollment Conference / Transition Assistance

Q1. Where can I get more information about the specifics of enrollment conferences and transition assistance for students who are homeless or in foster care?

The HM&AR Division will be hosting a three-part training series covering transition assistance. Please register here:

[Part 1 – October 22nd](#), 10:00-11:30 am CST

[Part 2 – November 11th](#), 10:00-11:15 am CST

[Part 3 – December 3rd](#), 10:00-11:15 am CST

McKinney-Vento Programs

Q2. How and when will the McKinney-Vento funding be distributed?

ARP-Homeless I – TEHCY Supplemental Grant: All 2021-2022 TEHCY subgrantees will be eligible to apply for ARP-Homeless I - TEHCY Supplemental Grant. Communication will be going out directly to 2021-2022 TEHCY Subgrantees with more information about ARP-Homeless I - TEHCY Supplemental Grant in October 2021.

ARP-Homeless II: All LEAs will be eligible to apply via the eGrant system. Statewide communication regarding ARP-Homeless II eGrant will be provided through TEA Grants or McKinney-Vento newsletters in October and November 2021.

Q3. What is the roll out date for the ARP I and II applications?

The target posting date for ARP-Homeless I - 2021-2024 TEHCY Supplemental Grant is Friday, November 5th, 2021. Communication will be going out directly to 2021-2022 TEHCY Subgrantees with more information about ARP-Homeless I - TEHCY Supplemental Grant in October 2021. The target posting date for the ARP-Homeless II application is for late November or early December 2021.

Q4. Who is notified about McKinney-Vento grants?

2021-2022 TEHCY preliminary grant selection letters were provided to the primary and secondary contacts listed on the grant application on August 12, 2021. Contact Cal Lopez at cal.lopez@tea.texas.gov if you did not receive this communication.

Q5. During the webinar, “new TEHCY Grant subgrantees” are mentioned. To which grant recipients does this refer?

“New TEHCY Grant subgrantees” refer to recipients of the 2021-2022 TEHCY competitive subgrant three-year grant cycle.

Q6. Which LEAs are eligible to receive ARP grants?

All 2021-2024 TEHCY subgrantees will be eligible to apply for ARP-Homeless I - TEHCY Supplemental Grant. All LEAs will be eligible to apply for ARP-Homeless II grants.

Military-Connected Students

Q7. What are examples of Texas University Schools under HB 4124?

HB 4124 applies to two schools:

- [Texas Tech University K-12](#)
- [University of Texas at Austin High School](#)

Q8. Do you have sample job descriptions for a military liaison? Typically, in which department would this individual be 'housed'?

The military liaison duties are listed in the Purple Star Campus Designation criteria ([19 TAC §61.1063\(c\)\(1\)](#)). The designated liaison can be a counselor, teacher, administrator, or other staff members who support highly mobile students.

Q9. PEIMS coding #6 for Military-Connected Students states "Student in grade KG -12 was a dependent of a member of a military or reserve force in the United States military who was killed in the line of duty." Is there a benefit for the family when reporting their loved one was killed in the line of duty?

The identification of a student who was a dependent of a service member killed in the line of duty helps to inform the school of grief the student may be experiencing due to their military-connected status. Students without support in this area may experience a decline in their academic performance. This code better prepares the school to provide resources to the student and their family accordingly.

Mental and Behavioral Health (SB 279)

Q10. Under SB 279, are schools that do not issue student IDs required to issue IDs now?

No. SB 279 does not require that schools issue IDs if the school does not currently issue any IDs to students. However, it is beneficial to have these crisis-line numbers available to students who do not have IDs.

Q11. What is the expected timeline to have all student IDs updated with the National Suicide contact information?

The bill was effective June 16, 2021.

Q12. Does SB 279 include charter schools?

No, SB 279 does not apply to charter schools. However, it is best practice to include the information on IDs for all students.

Q13. If IDs have already been issued, how do we comply with this legislation?

Some districts are applying printed stickers to the ID cards as a solution.

Human Trafficking and Child Abuse Prevention (Legislative Updates)

Q14. Under SB 2158, do we have to inform parents that they can request the DNA kits? Is there a company that districts are using to get the DNA kits from?

Yes, LEAs can inform families that they can request DNA kits. More information regarding the DNA kits and distribution will be forthcoming.

Q15. When are the DNA kits (SB 2158) and warning signs for human trafficking (SB 1831) required?

More information about DNA kits will be forthcoming. The rules regarding signage requirements will be developed in Spring 2022. More information will be available at that time.

Foster Care and Student Success

Q16. How do I obtain a 2085 when the family will not contact me back and there is no caseworker info?

Please reach out to the [DFPS Educational Specialist](#) in your area. They will be able to locate the case manager and paperwork.

Q17. How will HB 4545 be tracked/monitored by TEA? What is the deadline for completion?

Please review the [HB 4545 FAQ](#) for more information.

Q18. FAFSA/TASFA Completion: If students choose "opt out" and later want to go to college, will they have the ability to change their initial choice?

Yes, absolutely. Students have the ability to change the initial choice after the decision to opt-out. The requirement is in place so that the school will have a record of the decision. If the student would like to opt-out, please ensure proper documentation is maintained.

Q19. If a Pre-K student is in foster care and are coded as 2 under the Foster Care PEIMS code, are they still coded as 2 beyond Pre-K or do they change from 2 to 1?

No, the FOSTER-CARE-TYPE-CODE (C196) code table has two codes "2" and "3" which are only for students that are in grade level pre-kindergarten. Each year, the local education agency should review all students coded as foster care and determine the correct coding based on current documentation (current 2085 etc.) However, once a student is no longer in grade level pre-kindergarten codes "2" and "3" should not be used.

Q20. Where is the Foster Care FAQ located?

[Foster Care Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) \(texas.gov\)](#)

Q21. Has TEA looked into creating a foster care list for LEA Foster Care Liaisons to have access to identify students living in our area?

TEA has explored a secure method, in which DFPS, could communicate to TEA the names of students in foster care, which in turn, could be communicated to LEAs confidentially. The complexities and cost surrounding this are great, and no further action is being taken at this time. DFPS is not able to provide a list of students to LEAs; however, speaking with your [DFPS Educational Specialist](#) is encouraged. They may be able to provide your district additional information, such as the placement types, and general number of students in your area and other information that may be helpful to support identification of students in foster care.

Q22. Can you identify a student as foster care if the foster parent only provides a court order? On the court order, what information am I looking for to code a student as in foster care?

A court order is an allowable piece of documentation to classify a student as foster care. The court order should state who has custody of the student. See this [PEIMS foster care guidance document](#) for more information.

Q23. Is the 2085/placement authorization all that is needed for enrollment? Does the 2085 have an expiration date?

The placement authorization 2085 is one piece of documentation required to code a student as foster care. A 2085-E (Educational Decision-Maker form) must also be provided (within 5 days of the student being placed in their residence) and does not have an expiration date. Student's must be identified every year. This identification and coding does not carry over from year-to-year. At the start of the new school year, the placement authorization 2085, must be re-submitted and verified for the new school year.

Q24. How can we get access to the foster care guide? Will the foster care guide come out in a TAA?

The latest foster care guide will be posted on the [Foster Care and Student Success](#) webpage. Please use the [current foster care guide](#) in the meantime. TEA is in the process of determining how the guide will be communicated.

Q25. The guidance on providing transportation to school of origin for foster care students states that transportation will be provided if the LEA agrees to pay the cost, DFPS agrees to pay the cost, or the LEA and DFPS agree to share the cost. If neither party will agree to assume the entire cost, is there a process in place to facilitate the shared cost agreement?

ESSA requires each Texas school districts to collaborate with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to develop and implement clear, written procedures for how transportation to maintain a student in foster care in his or her school of origin (unless it is not in the student's best interest) will be provided, arranged, and funded. More information to support foster care transportation planning is included in [TASB guidance on transportation](#).

Other

Q26. Where can I send questions related to program areas within the HM&AR division?

You can contact the program emails below:

- Foster Care & Student Success - FosterCareLiaison@tea.texas.gov
- Human Trafficking Prevention - PreventingHumanTrafficking@tea.texas.gov
- Pregnancy Related Services - PregnancyRelatedServices@tea.texas.gov
- Military Connected Students - MilitaryConnectedStudents@tea.texas.gov
- Homeless Children and Youth - HomelessEducation@tea.texas.gov

Q27. Where can I send questions related to Mental and Behavioral Health?

Safe and Support Schools Division: MentalandBehavioralHealth@tea.texas.gov

Q28. Will I receive credit or a certificate for this webinar?

No, the HM&AR Division does not provide certificates for the division webinars. The purpose of the webinars is to update and inform education stakeholders of new resources and information. Past presentations are located on [TEA's Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs](#) website. TEA is grateful for your participation and commitment to serving highly mobile and at-risk students. [Sign up for the HM&AR newsletter](#) to stay informed of future trainings!

Q29. When are the next webinars?

The next HM&AR division webinar is scheduled for:

- Thursday, November 18th, 2021 1:00 - 2:30 pm CST [Register Here](#)

Q30. How can I receive updates on HM&AR Programs?

[Sign up for all of the HM&AR newsletters!](#) Here is the recommended list:

- Highly Mobile & At-Risk Student Programs Division
- Foster Care and Student Success
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education
- Military Connected Students