

Homeless students are significantly more at risk of losing services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are questions and answers that will help local education agencies (LEAs) serve students experiencing homelessness during these uncertain times.

Q1. Who can LEAs contact for guidance about COVID-19 situations that are impacting students experiencing homelessness?

A1. LEAs can directly contact TEA at disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov. In addition, LEAs can reach out to the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) program staff with questions. Any TEHCY program specific questions or concerns can be sent to HomelessEducation@tea.texas.gov, or can contact the TEHCY Support Center at 1-800-446-3142. The TEHCY technical support team is available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Q2. Who in my LEA serves students experiencing homelessness? Where can I find this information?

A2. Every LEA has a designated local homeless liaison in place through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to facilitate the identification, enrollment, and academic success for students experiencing homelessness. Local Homeless Liaisons should take the lead on providing services and outreach to homeless students and families at this time. The statewide directory of local homeless liaisons can be found on the [Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth \(TEHCY\) webpage](#). Contact the local homeless liaison for program services and resources available in the LEA's area.

Q3. What resources are available to provide meals for students experiencing homelessness while school buildings are closed?

A3. Direct families to visit TXSchools.gov to find nearby locations of schools offering free school meals (both breakfast and lunch-for pick up) while school buildings are closed. Select "Meal Pick-Up Locations" and enter an address to find the closest location.

Listed below are additional resources to assist with locating food pantries and food banks in your area.

- [FOODPANTRIES.ORG](https://www.foodpantries.org)
- [Aunt Bertha | The Social Care Network](#)

Q4. Are there resources available to provide free broadband and internet services for students experiencing homelessness while school buildings are closed?

A4. Yes. TEA has compiled a list of cable and internet providers who will provide free broadband and internet services while schools are closed due to COVID-19. Please share the [Guidance to Districts on Providing Internet to Students](#) information page with families, as needed.

Q5. *What should homeless liaisons and school staff consider while providing instructional continuity for students experiencing homelessness?*

A5. LEAs are encouraged to work closely with school staff to assess the best medium for instructional continuity. LEAs, in collaboration with their local homeless liaison, should consider the following to ensure an equitable at-home curriculum and instruction model is developed for homeless students:

- Student's current living situation
- Student's unaccompanied youth status
- Student's access to at-home technology
- Low-tech options to complete coursework
- Access to other educational resources
- Identification and services for other special programs
- Tools for progress monitoring
- Tools and resources to mitigate high mobility
- Best form of communication with homeless students and families
- Staffing with unaccompanied youth to identify unique needs

Visit TEA's [COVID-19 webpage](#) for important updates and [instructional continuity resources](#).

Q6. *Are there any additional resources available for LEAs and stakeholders to address the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness while schools are closed?*

A6. Yes. Listed below are additional resources to that may be useful when working with your students and families:

- [Texas Education Agency COVID-19 Support and Guidance](#)
- [Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program](#)
- [Texas Network of Youth Services \(TNOYTS\): Provider Directory](#)
- [Texas Workforce Commission COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Texas Health and Human Services COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [211 TEXAS for Community Resources](#)
- [U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness: Supporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education COVID-19 Resources](#)