

# Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness During the COVID-19 Pandemic

April 17, 2020



Texas Education for  
Homeless Children and Youth



# Agenda

---

1. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
2. TEA Resources and Guidance
3. Information-Sharing Systems
4. Instructional Continuity for Students Experiencing Homelessness
5. Identification of Students Experiencing Homelessness during COVID-19
6. TEHCY Resources and Information

# Learning Objectives

---

Participants will increase knowledge of:

- COVID-19 guidance and resources
- Information-sharing systems for students experiencing homelessness
- Strategies and best practices to identify and support students experiencing homelessness during COVID-19

# Section 1: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

# McKinney-Vento Educational Definition of Homeless



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

- 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

# McKinney-Vento Educational Definition of Homeless



- Living in a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children living in the above circumstance  
[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)]

# Requirements of McKinney-Vento

- Appoint a local homeless liaison
- Identification of students experiencing homelessness
- Enroll students experiencing homelessness immediately, even without required records
- Enroll students experiencing homelessness in free school meal program
- Continue the student's education in the school of origin
- Eligible for school of origin transportation if requested by parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, if in the best interest of the student



# Requirements of McKinney-Vento

- Provide services to students experiencing homelessness that are comparable to those offered to other students
- Make student records available in a timely manner
- Review and revise policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of students experiencing homelessness
- Provide written notice to parents or guardians related to the appeal process, when the LEA sends the student to a school other than the school requested



# Section 2: TEA Resources and Guidance

# TEA Website

The screenshot displays the TEA website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Popular Applications, AskTED, ECOS for Educators, Grant Opportunities, Secure Applications, TEAL Login, and TSDS. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with icons and labels for About TEA, Texas Schools, Academics, Finance & Grants, Reports & Data, Student Assessment, and Texas Educators. The main content area features a large banner for the Texas School Meal Finder, which includes a map of Texas and a "FIND MEALS" button. Below the banner is a section titled "The Latest TEA News" with a sub-header "The latest news from the Texas Education Agency is available through news releases, online correspondence, mailing lists, and other posted information." This section contains three news items: "Texas Schools" with a house icon, "About" with a Texas map icon, and "Texas Schools" with a house icon. Each news item has a title and a brief description.

Popular Applications AskTED ECOS for Educators Grant Opportunities Secure Applications TEAL Login TSDS Help Desk

Search Search tea.texas.gov

TEA Texas Education Agency

A - Z Index Contact Employment Sign Up for Updates TEA Correspondence

About TEA Texas Schools Academics Finance & Grants Reports & Data Student Assessment Texas Educators

TXschools.gov

School Meal Finder

TEA is working closely with local partners to help students gain access to breakfast and lunch during the quarantine. Click the link below for meal locations near you.

FIND MEALS

\* SELECT "MEAL-PICK UP LOCATIONS" \*

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Texas School Meal Finder House Bill 3 (HB 3)

### The Latest TEA News

The latest news from the Texas Education Agency is available through news releases, online correspondence, mailing lists, and other posted information.

**Texas Schools**

**TEA Office Closings and Teleworking**

In an abundance of caution around the evolving coronavirus situation, TEA has determined it will move to a mandatory telework policy for agency employees beginning Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. TEA will not be accepting visitors at this time. We encourage constituents to utilize the HelpDesk system and TEA main line (512) 463-9734. We will continue to provide all essential agency services.

**About**

**Learn More About A-F Accountability**

Each year, the Texas Education Agency produces a rating on an A-F scale for each district and school in the state. Explore our resources page to learn more about the 3 domains of performance and how the overall system works.

**Texas Schools**

**"HB 3 in 30" Web Video Series Launched**

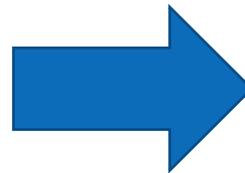
The TEA has launched a new web video series, "HB 3 in 30" to help inform school districts and the public about how to implement the transformative measures in House Bill 3, passed during the 86th legislative session.

# TEA COVID-19 Website

Contact TEA with any COVID-19 specific questions at:

Email: [disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov](mailto:disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov)

[TEA COVID Page Link](#)



The screenshot shows the TEA website's "Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Guidance" page. The header includes navigation links like "Popular Applications", "AskTEA", "ECOS for Educators", "Grant Opportunities", "Secure Applications", "TEAL Login", and "TSDS". A search bar is present with the text "Search tea.texas.gov". Below the header is a menu with icons for "About TEA", "Texas Schools", "Academics", "Finance & Grants", "Reports & Data", "Student Assessment", and "Texas Educators". The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Texas Schools / Health, Safety, & Discipline". The title "Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Guidance" is prominently displayed above a photograph of Governor Greg Abbott speaking at a podium during a press conference. Below the photo, a paragraph states: "The Texas Education Agency (TEA) continues to work with the Office of the Governor, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to coordinate and plan the state's response to COVID-19. TEA's role in these efforts is to help coordinate the flow of information from the state to districts, help districts solve problems, and provide guidance that will aid in districts' decision-making. TEA does not have the general authority to close schools for matters related to health. This authority lies with the local health authority, DSHS, and the Governor of Texas." Below this text is a video player showing "Commissioner Morath's Message to Pa..." with a play button overlay. At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled "General Public Health Resources" with a paragraph: "As DSHS is the lead agency in the state's preparedness efforts, school districts should be working closely with your local health authorities as you weigh operational decisions. You can find your local public health organization on the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) website. To see the status of COVID-19 cases, please visit the Department of State Health Services dashboard."

# Guidance for Students Experiencing Homelessness



[TEA SPED and Special Populations Page Link](#)

**TEA**  
Texas Education Agency

**COVID-19 FAQ: Guidance for Students Experiencing Homelessness**  
Updated April 14, 2020

(512) 463-9000    disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov    [tea.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus)

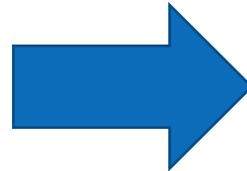
Students experiencing homelessness are significantly more at risk of losing services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are questions and answers that will help Local Education Agencies (LEAs) serve these students during these uncertain times.

- 1. Who in the LEA serves students experiencing homelessness? Where can I find this information?**  
*Posted April 7, 2020*  
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.
- 2. Are trainings available for LEAs to support students and families experiencing homelessness during COVID-19?** *NEW April 14, 2020*  
Yes. A statewide TEHCY COVID-19 webinar will be held on Friday, April 17, 2020 from 10:00 am – 11:30 am. This webinar will provide several strategies, best practices, tools, and resources to assist the identification and support of students experiencing homeless during COVID-19. Use this [link](#) and enter **Workshop ID SP2043856** to register. This webinar will be recorded and posted on the [TEHCY](#) website.
- 3. What should LEAs consider when planning communication and outreach for students experiencing homelessness?** *Posted April 7, 2020*  
LEAs should collaborate with their homeless liaisons to review current strategies in place for school staff, parents, and students to communicate while schools building are closed. Consider the following when developing a communication and outreach plan:  
[LEA Information-Sharing Systems for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)  
Homeless liaisons should have access to contact records (e.g. phone numbers, physical addresses, and email addresses) for students, parents, and guardians.  
Homeless liaisons should communicate student contact information for identified McKinney-Vento eligible students with LEA staff. LEA information-sharing systems should be utilized to identify students who have lost their housing during COVID-19 and disseminate LEA and

tea.texas.gov

# Virtual Enrollment Guidance and Best Practices

TEA COVID-19 Waiver and  
Funding Guidance  
[COVID-19 FAQ : Virtual Enrollment  
Guidance and Best Practices](#)



The thumbnail shows the top portion of a document. At the top left is the TEA logo (Texas Education Agency). To its right is the title "COVID-19 FAQ: Virtual Enrollment Guidance and Best Practices" and the date "April 14, 2020". Below this is a dark blue bar with contact information: "(512) 463-9000", "disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov", and "tea.texas.gov/coronavirus". The main body of the document contains introductory text, a definition of virtual enrollment, a "Frequently Asked Questions" section with three numbered items, and a paragraph about required documentation. At the bottom of the thumbnail is the TEA logo and social media icons.

**TEA**  
Texas Education Agency

## COVID-19 FAQ: Virtual Enrollment Guidance and Best Practices

April 14, 2020

(512) 463-9000    disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov    [tea.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus)

This document focuses on guidance and best practices related to virtual enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on enrollment and attendance issues, including how to document attendance related matters, questions on instructional minutes, etc., please see the **Attendance and Enrollment FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Funding and Waivers](#).

For purposes of this document, **virtual enrollment** is defined as the enrollment of a student in a school district or charter school (school system) for the first time that does not involve in-person interaction. This document will address virtual enrollment questions for students enrolling in a school system for the current school year, 2019-2020, and students registering for enrollment for school year 2020-2021.

### Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. My school system is transitioning to virtual instruction. Are we required to enroll students during the transition?** *NEW April 14, 2020*  
School systems must continue enrolling students even while transitioning to distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuant to Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.001, **schools are required to fulfill all statutory responsibilities concerning enrollment**. Even while school buildings are closed, local education agencies (LEAs) must have a process in place for enrolling students virtually.
- 2. What methods should we use during the enrollment process?** *NEW April 14, 2020*  
The method of enrollment is a locally driven decision. As a best practice, student enrollment could be accomplished via a district-created, secure internet portal or through a secure email process. Whichever method is used, **your school system's process for enrollment and withdrawal should be prominently placed on your school's website** in an easy-to-find manner for families, students, and community members.

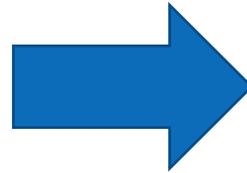
For required documentation, school systems should consider the documents they require at the time of registration and the method they choose to receive those to facilitate enrollment for all families. As a best practice, using a secure server for parents to upload documents and complete registration paperwork may enable a LEA to receive copies and paperwork. A secure email server may be another option for some documentation. Parents may be able to mail some documents to the LEA if there is a person at the LEA available to receive. LEAs may need to consider the follow up once face-to-face registration is reinstated to view all required documents.

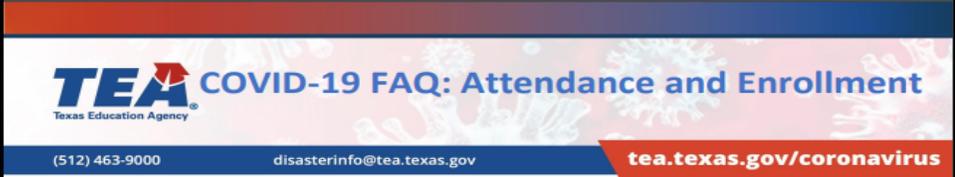
- 3. Should my school system consider any legal issues related to enrollment?** *NEW April 14, 2020*

tea.texas.gov

# Attendance and Enrollment

TEA COVID-19 Waiver and  
Funding Guidance  
[COVID-19 FAQ : Attendance and  
Enrollment](#)





**TEA** COVID-19 FAQ: Attendance and Enrollment  
Texas Education Agency

(512) 463-9000 disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov [tea.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus)

This document provides guidance on attendance, enrollment and calendar related topics. For more information on general funding issues, including Foundation School Program ADA calculations and program spending requirement guidance, please see the **General State Funding FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Funding and Waivers](#).

**Attendance and Enrollment FAQ: Section Topics**  
Click on the links below to go directly to that section of the FAQ.

- [School Day Categories](#)
- [Missed School Day Waivers](#)
- [Attendance](#)
- [Enrollment](#)
- [School Calendar](#)

**School Day Categories**  
School days will generally fall into one of four categories: *Posted March 25, 2020*

- **Closed, Instructing:** Those who cease normal operations, so that children no longer come to the school site at all, but are instead provided support to receive instruction at home / off-site. The staff may be doing this work while on site or remotely or in some combination.
- **Closed, Preparing:** Those who cease normal operations, but campus staff are working (either on-site or remotely) in order to prepare so they can deliver instruction to students while they the students are at home / off-site. Non-instructional staff may also be working during this time, including at least school cleaning activities.
- **Closed, Temporary:** Those who previously announced a short term (likely one week or less) closure out of an abundance of caution, and at the time were not actively working to prepare to deliver remote instruction. Non-instructional staff may also be working during this time, including at least school cleaning activities.
- **Open:** Those who are allowed to re-open at some point, but who may face large absenteeism in terms of in-person student (and possibly staff) attendance.

**Missed School Day Waivers**  
**MISSED SCHOOL DAY WAIVERS** *Posted March 27, 2020*  
For school closure based on COVID-19 related concerns the LEA must seek additional minute waivers from the agency in order to meet the 75,600 operational minute requirement.

Those waivers would be granted as long as the LEA commits to supporting students instructionally while at home. The "Instructional Continuity Attestation While Closed" document located on TEA's [COVID-19 Support and Guidance](#) web page regarding instructional support will be required to be submitted with a Missed School Day waiver using the TEAL Waivers application. Please note that if a

tea.texas.gov 

# Section 3: Information-Sharing Systems

# Overview of Information-Sharing Systems

---



# LEA Information-Sharing Systems



LEAs should collaborate with their homeless liaisons to review current strategies in place for school staff, parents, and students to communicate while school buildings are closed.



Homeless Liaisons should have access to contact records for students, parents, and guardians.



Homeless Liaisons should take the lead on providing services and outreach to students and families experiencing homelessness.

# Utilize Information-Sharing Systems to Communicate



Student contact information for identified McKinney-Vento eligible students



Facilitate prompt identification and services for newly identified students



Disseminate LEA and homeless education program information and resources



Communicate that students can remain in their school of origin

# Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

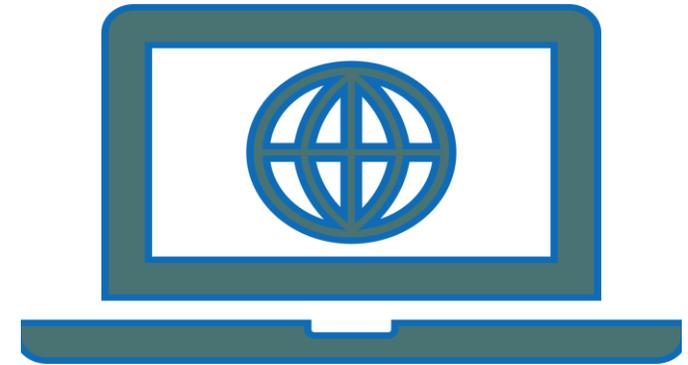
LEAs should ensure policies regarding privacy and sharing of personal information of students and families experiencing homelessness are in place and have been provided to all LEA staff. For more information, please visit:

[FERPA FAQ](#)

# Update Your LEA Homeless Education Webpage

Ensure the following information is included and up to date:

- ✓ Homeless Liaison contact information
- ✓ Program services available to students and families and how to access them
- ✓ McKinney-Vento posters (digital format can be accessed on the [TEHCY COVID-19 Resource page](#))
- ✓ LEA and community resources (e.g. shelters, housing authority, charitable organizations, etc.)



# Section 4: Instructional Continuity for Students Experiencing Homelessness

# Instructional Continuity Resources



## TEA Instructional Continuity Planning

### Instructional Continuity Framework Resources

- [Instructional Continuity Framework Overview \(PowerPoint\)](#) March 30 2020
- [Instructional Continuity Immediate Action Check List \(PDF\)](#) March 20 2020
- [TEA Instructional Continuity Planning Tool \(Excel\)](#) March 24 2020
- [Instructional Continuity Detailed Guidance \(PDF\)](#) April 10 2020



### Instructional Continuity Webinars

- 3/30/2020: Phase 0: Project Management
- 3/31/2020: Phase 1: Conduct Landscape Analysis
- 4/1/2020: Phase 2: Determine At-Home Instructional Model and Monitoring
- 4/2/2020: Phase 3: Operationalize the Instructional Model
- 4/3/2020: Phase 4: Monitor, Support, and Continuously Improve the Model

### Texas Home Learning

The agency has developed at-home learning resources as a contingency option for school districts. These are optional resources intended to assist in the delivery of educational resources in this time of public health crisis. Given the timeline for development, errors are to be expected. If you find an error, please email us at [curriculum@tea.texas.gov](mailto:curriculum@tea.texas.gov).

- [Texas Home Learning Overview \(PowerPoint\)](#) April 7 2020
- [Texas Home Learning \(Website\)](#) April 7 2020
- [Texas Home Learning Deep Dive Webinar Presentation \(PowerPoint\)](#) April 8 2020
- [Texas Home Learning Model Webinar \(YouTube\)](#) April 9 2020
- [Texas Home Learning FAQ \(PDF\)](#) April 14 2020

# Overview of Information-Sharing Systems



# LEA Instructional Continuity Plan

Homeless Liaisons should be included in LEA instructional continuity meetings to communicate:

- Instructional challenges and barriers
- Instructional gaps
- Progress monitoring
- Additional interventions needed

# Instructional Continuity for Students Experiencing Homelessness

LEAs, in collaboration with their local homeless liaison, should consider the following to ensure equitable at-home curriculum:



CURRENT LIVING  
SITUATION



UNACCOMPANIED  
YOUTH STATUS

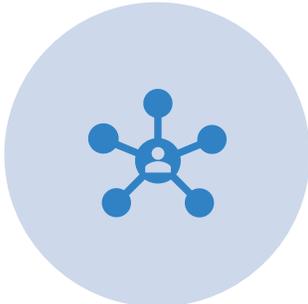


ACCESS TO AT-HOME  
TECHNOLOGY



LOW-TECH OPTIONS TO  
COMPLETE COURSEWORK

# Instructional Continuity for Students Experiencing Homelessness



ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES



IDENTIFICATION FOR  
SPECIAL PROGRAMS



PROGRESS MONITORING



MITIGATE HIGH  
MOBILITY

# At-Home Curriculum Supports and Services

LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should determine what services and supports will be provided when:

- Teachers cannot contact students, parents, or guardians
- Students, parents, or guardians were unable to complete landscape surveys
- Internet access is limited
- Students do not have access to instructional devices, materials, or coursework packets
- Technology support is needed
- Housing instability may impede instructional continuity services and supports

# At-Home Curriculum Supports and Services

Homeless Liaisons should offer virtual office hours to check in with students who have a history of high mobility or who are more at-risk academically.



Flexible coursework deadlines



Academic resources and supports



Community resources and services



FAFSA letters for unaccompanied youth

# Section 5: Identification of Students Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19

# Overview of COVID-19 Identification Strategies



PROVIDE ONLINE MCKINNEY-  
VENTO TRAINING



DEVELOP IDENTIFICATION  
TOOLS



COLLABORATE WITH  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

# Identification Strategies and Best Practices

## Provide

Online McKinney-Vento training to assist in the identification of students and families during COVID-19.

## Develop

Identification tools to increase awareness of indicators and to recognize risk factors of students experiencing homelessness.

## Utilize

LEA information-sharing systems to facilitate prompt identification and services for newly identified students.

# Identification Strategies and Best Practices

Homeless Liaisons should consider LEA approved social media channels (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) and non-traditional method of communication (e.g. LEA hotline, Google Voice, mail and technology distributions, etc.) to connect and share LEA and homeless education program information, services, and resources with students, parents, and guardians.

# TEHCY Sample Forms

**SAMPLE – STUDENT RESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE INFORMATION FORM**

This information will help determine if the student meets eligibility requirements for services under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last School Attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Previous Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Children Enrolled in (ABC ISD) \_\_\_\_\_

Is your current address a temporary living arrangement?  
 Yes or  No

Is this a temporary living arrangement due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or financial difficulties?  
 Yes or  No

Were you displaced from your home due to a Natural Disaster? (hurricane, fire, flood, tornado, etc.)  
 Yes or  No

**Type of Natural Disaster:**  
 Hurricane: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please name)  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please describe)

**Please choose which of the following situations the student currently resides in (choose all that apply):**

House or apartment with parent or guardian  
 Sharing housing with friends or family members (other than or in addition to parent/guardian)  
 Motels/Hotels  
 Shelter or other transitional housing  
 Unsheltered – in a car, park, substandard housing, etc.

**Intake Form 2019-2020**  
**Name of Your Program or LEA**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ ID number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am calling to follow up on the Student Residency Questionnaire that you completed for your child/children. The purpose of my call is to ask a few questions that will assist in determining if your child/children qualify for services under the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

When did loss of housing occur and how long at the current address:  
 What school did your child attend at the time?

Was this the last school attended?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	If not, what was the name? <input type="checkbox"/>
------------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------	--

**The term "homeless children and youths"—**  
**(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and (B) includes—**

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals: <input type="checkbox"/>	(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings: <input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings: <input type="checkbox"/>	(iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii): <input type="checkbox"/>

Is the referred student an unaccompanied youth (UY), not in the physical custody of parent/guardian?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Parent/Guardian/UY has requested school of origin	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have other children, affected by this housing situation, enrolled in Sample ISD?

Name: _____	ID Number: _____	School: _____	Grade: Select One
Name: _____	ID Number: _____	School: _____	Grade: Select One
Name: _____	ID Number: _____	School: _____	Grade: Select One
Name: _____	ID Number: _____	School: _____	Grade: Select One
Name: _____	ID Number: _____	School: _____	Grade: Select One

Intake completed by:	Date:
Intake completed with:	Relation:
Reviewed by Homeless Liaison: _____	Date: _____

# Strategies and Best Practices During COVID-19



## COVID-19 Tool

### Guidance for Students Experiencing Homelessness

The Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program is committed to providing LEAs trainings, tools, and resources to support the identification, enrollment and academic success of students experiencing homelessness. Local Education Agencies (LEAs), when developing identification strategies and to ensure equitable at-home curriculum during the COVID-19 pandemic should consider the following:

- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should review current strategies in place to identify students experiencing homelessness.
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should take the lead on providing services and outreach to students and families experiencing homelessness.
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should:
  - Provide online McKinney-Vento training to school staff (e.g. teachers, counselors, social workers, etc.) to assist in the identification of students during COVID-19
  - Develop identification tools that will provide teachers with increased awareness of indicators and to recognize risk factors of students experiencing homelessness
  - Review current strategies in place for school staff, parents, and students to communicate while school buildings are closed
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should communicate to students and families that they can remain in the school of origin if they move outside of their attendance zone.
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should utilize information-sharing systems to communicate:
  - Student contact information for identified McKinney-Vento eligible students
  - Facilitate prompt identification and services for newly identified students
  - Student safety concerns
  - Disseminate LEA and homeless education program information and resources
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should consider LEA approved social media channels (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) and non-traditional method of communication (e.g. LEA hotline, Google Voice, email and technology distributions, etc.) to connect and share LEA and homeless education program information, services, and resources with students, parents, and guardians.
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should be included in LEA instructional continuity meetings to communicate:
  - Instructional challenges and barriers
  - Instructional gaps
  - Progress monitoring
  - Additional interventions needed (e.g. additional course work materials, supplies, flexible coursework deadlines, etc.)

# Identification Tool for School Staff

## Identification Tool for School Staff



Homeless students are significantly more at risk of losing services during the COVID-19 pandemic. LEAs should consider the following when developing identification tools for school staff (e.g. teachers, counselors, social workers, etc.) that will provide increased awareness of indicators and risk factors of students experiencing homelessness.

### Possible Indicators of Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness

Below are examples of possible indicators to listen for when working with students and families during COVID-19:

- "We are staying with friends right now."
- "I don't know where I will be staying tonight."
- "We have been moving around a lot."
- "We are staying with a family member." (e.g. aunt, uncle, grandmother, etc.)
- "It's a new address, we are far away from school."
- "We were locked out of the house or apartment."
- "It's hard to focus with so many people living here."
- "It's hard to get sleep with so many people living here."
- "I don't feel good, I am really hungry."
- "We had to leave or move quickly."
- "We are living in a shelter."
- "We are living in our car."
- Statements that indicating they are living in unsheltered situations (e.g. cars, parks, abandoned buildings, etc.)

### Possible Indicators of an Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Below are examples of possible indicators to listen for when working with unaccompanied youth during COVID-19:

- "I don't have time for school, I need to work."
- "I cannot live at home anymore."
- "I was locked out of my house or apartment."
- "I am staying with friends right now."
- "We are staying with a family member." (e.g. aunt, uncle, grandmother, etc.)
- "I don't know where I will be staying tonight."
- "It's hard to focus with so many people living here."
- "It's hard to get sleep with so many people living here."
- "I am living in a car."
- "I am living in a shelter."
- Statements indicating, they are living in unsheltered situations (e.g. cars, parks, abandoned buildings, etc.)
- Statements indicating, they are moving from place to place (couch surfing)

# Supporting Students Living in Shelters

# Shelter Information-Sharing Systems

LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should develop information-sharing systems with shelter staff to assist in the following:

- Completion of Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ)
- Date of entry and exit from shelter
- LEA Technology paperwork, distribution sites, and hours
- Current or updated contact information
- Student and family updates, concerns, academic and basic needs
- LEA meal site information

# Shelter Information-Sharing Systems

LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should utilize information-sharing systems with shelter staff to communicate:



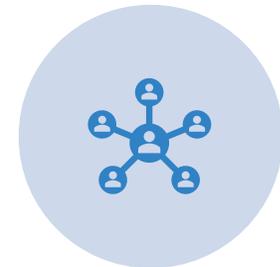
INSTRUCTIONAL  
CHALLENGES



PROGRESS  
MONITORING



INFORMATION AND  
RESOURCES



ACADEMIC  
INTERVENTIONS

# Collaboration with Shelter Staff

Homeless Liaisons should provide online McKinney-Vento training to shelter staff.

Homeless Liaisons should provide McKinney-Vento posters via email to local shelters.

Homeless Liaisons should work with shelter staff to ensure posters are placed strategically throughout the shelter.

# Shelter Safety Protocols

LEAs, in collaboration with shelter staff, should ensure safety protocols are established for dissemination of:

- Technology
- Packet coursework
- Food and other supplies

# Strategies and Best Practices for Students Living in Shelters

**COVID-19 Tool**

## Supporting Students Living in Shelters



Students experiencing homelessness are significantly more at risk of losing services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Listed below are some strategies and best practices for LEAs to support students living in shelters.

- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should develop information-sharing systems with shelter staff to assist in the following:
  - Completion of a Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ)
  - Date of entry and exit from shelter
  - LEA technology paperwork, distribution sites, and hours
  - Current or updated contact information
  - Student and family updates, concerns, academic and basic needs
  - LEA meal site information
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with shelter staff, should ensure safety protocols are established for dissemination of technology, packet coursework, food, and other supplies.
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should provide online McKinney-Vento training to shelter staff.
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should provide McKinney-Vento Posters (digital format can be accessed on the [TEHCY COVID-19 Resource page](#)) via email to local shelters. Homeless Liaisons should work closely with shelter staff to ensure posters are placed strategically throughout the shelter.
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should provide shelter staff any curriculum resources and supports available for students and families.
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should utilize information-sharing systems with shelter staff to communicate:
  - Instructional challenges
  - Progress monitoring
  - Disseminate LEA and homeless education program information and resources
  - Academic interventions needed (e.g. additional course work materials, supplies, flexible coursework deadlines, etc.)
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should collaborate with shelter staff to communicate when students and families will exit the shelter. Homeless Liaisons should work with shelter staff to communicate to students and families that they can remain in the school of origin if they will be moving outside of the attendance zone.
- ✓ LEAs should ensure policies regarding privacy and sharing of personal information of students and families experiencing homelessness are in place and have been provided to all LEA staff. For more information, please visit: [FERPA FAQ](#)

# Supporting Students Living in Hotels and Motels

# Support for Students Living in Hotels and Motels



Students and families who live in hotel and motels are often the hardest families with which to maintain communication.



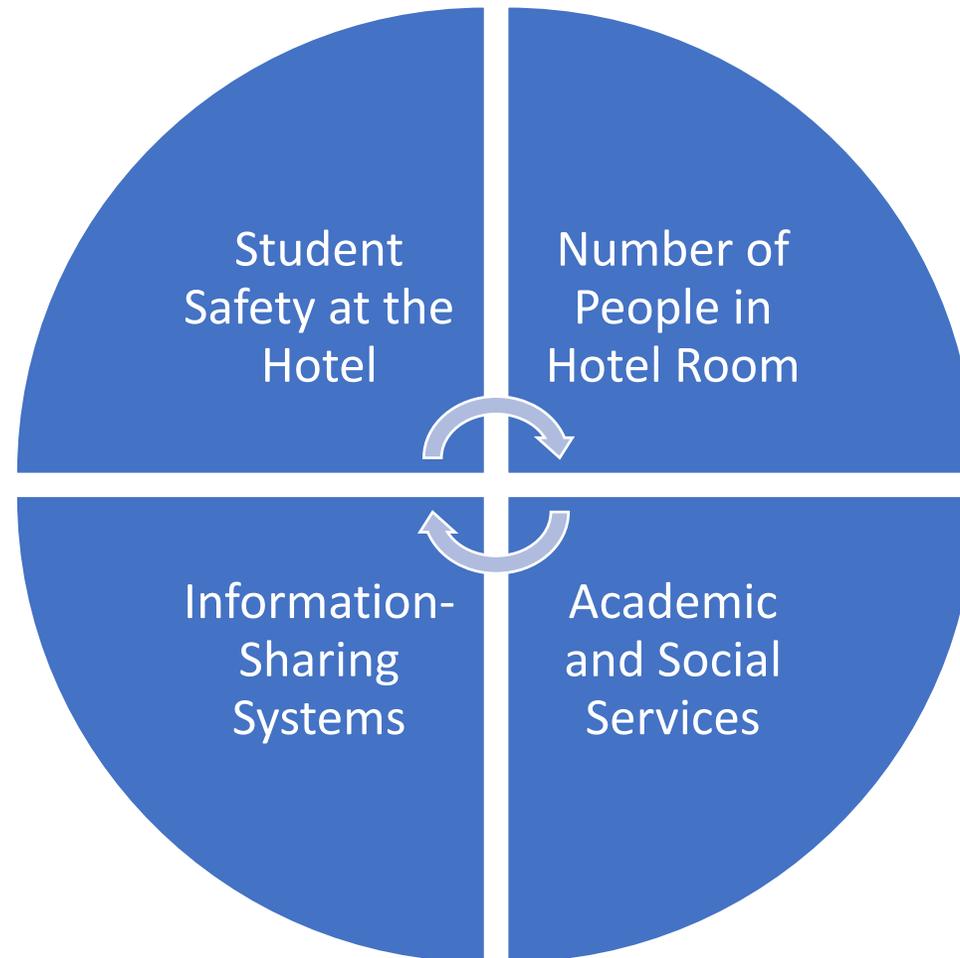
LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaisons, should establish strong communication channels with community partners, hotel, and motel staff to disseminate LEA and homeless education program information, resources, and supplies.

# Collaboration with Hotel and Motel Staff

Homeless Liaisons should provide McKinney-Vento posters via email to local hotel and motel staff.

Homeless Liaisons should work with motel and hotel staff to ensure posters are placed strategically so that students and parents can easily access this information.

# Hotel/Motel Family Assessment Tool



# Strategies and Best Practices for Students Living in Hotels and Motels

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

**COVID-19 Tool**

## Supporting Students Living in Motels and Hotels



Students experiencing homelessness are significantly more at risk of losing services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students and families who live in hotels and motels are often the hardest with which to maintain communication. Listed below are some strategies and best practices for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to support students.

- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should develop tools for school staff (e.g. teachers, counselors, social workers, etc.) to assess the following:
  - Change in housing status
  - Student safety at the home
  - Number of people in the home
  - Academic and social services needed
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should utilize information-sharing systems to communicate:
  - Student contact information for identified McKinney-Vento eligible students
  - Facilitate prompt identification and services for newly identified students
  - Student safety concerns
  - Disseminate LEA and homeless education program information and resources
  - Academic interventions needed (e.g. additional course work materials, supplies, flexible coursework deadlines, etc.)
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should provide McKinney-Vento Posters (digital format can be accessed on the [TEHCY COVID-19 Resource page](#)) via email to local hotel and motel staff. Homeless Liaisons should work with motel and hotel staff to ensure posters are placed strategically (e.g. laundromat area, community information boards, etc.) so that students and parents can easily access this information.
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaisons, should establish strong communication channels with community partners, hotel, and motel staff to disseminate LEA and homeless education program information, resources, and supplies.
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should consider LEA approved social media channels (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) and non-traditional method of communication (e.g. LEA hotline, Google Voice, meal and technology distributions, etc.) to maintain communication students and families.
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should communicate to students and families that they can remain in the school of origin if they move outside of their attendance zone.
- ✓ LEAs should ensure policies regarding privacy and sharing of personal information of students and families experiencing homelessness are in place and have been provided to all LEA staff. For more information, please visit: [FERPA FAQ](#)

Copyright © 2020.  
Texas Education Agency.  
All Rights Reserved.

This resource was developed by:  
Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program  
1-800-446-3142 | [techy.tea.texas.gov](http://techy.tea.texas.gov)

**TEA**  
Texas Education Agency

# Supporting Students Living in Doubled-Up Situations

# Support for Students Living in Doubled-Up Situations



Students and families living in doubled-up living situation are often the most difficult to identify.



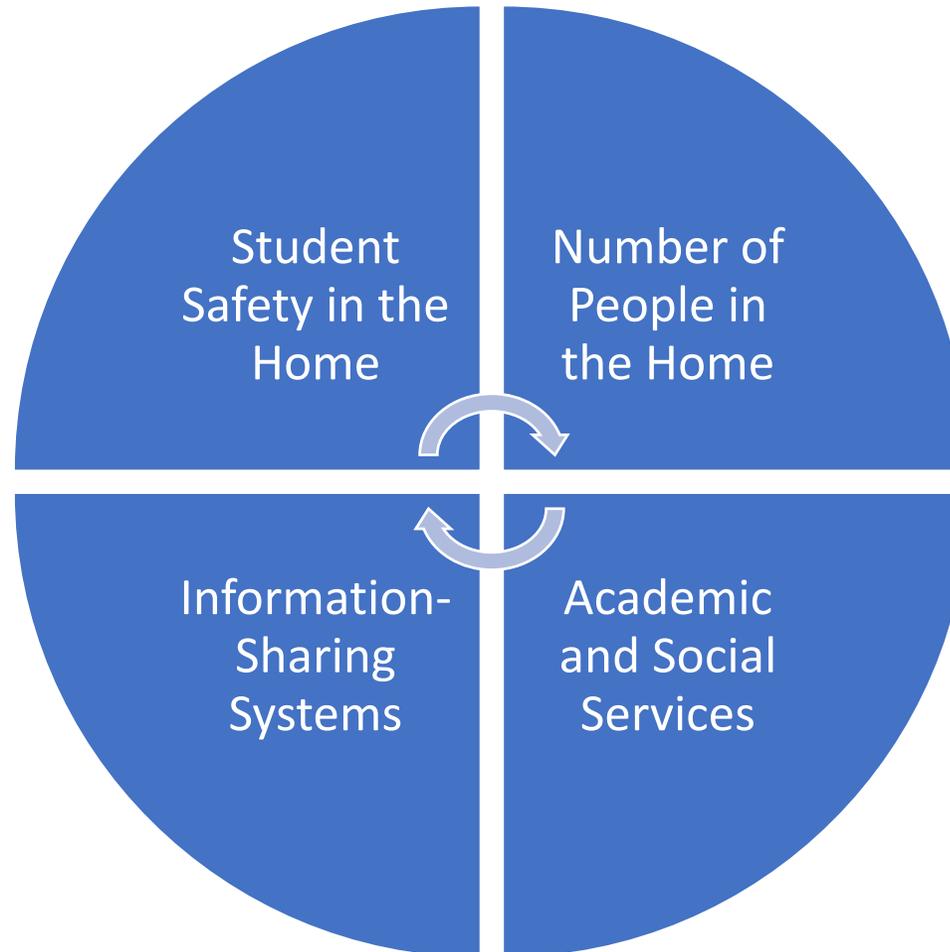
LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaisons, should establish strong communication channels with community partners to disseminate LEA and homeless education program information, resources, and supplies.

# Collaboration with Apartment Staff

Homeless Liaisons should provide McKinney-Vento posters via email to apartment complexes in their local attendance zone.

Homeless Liaisons should work with apartment staff to ensure posters are placed strategically so that students and parents can easily access this information.

# Doubled-Up Family Assessment Tool



# Strategies and Best Practices for Students Living in Doubled-Up Living Situations



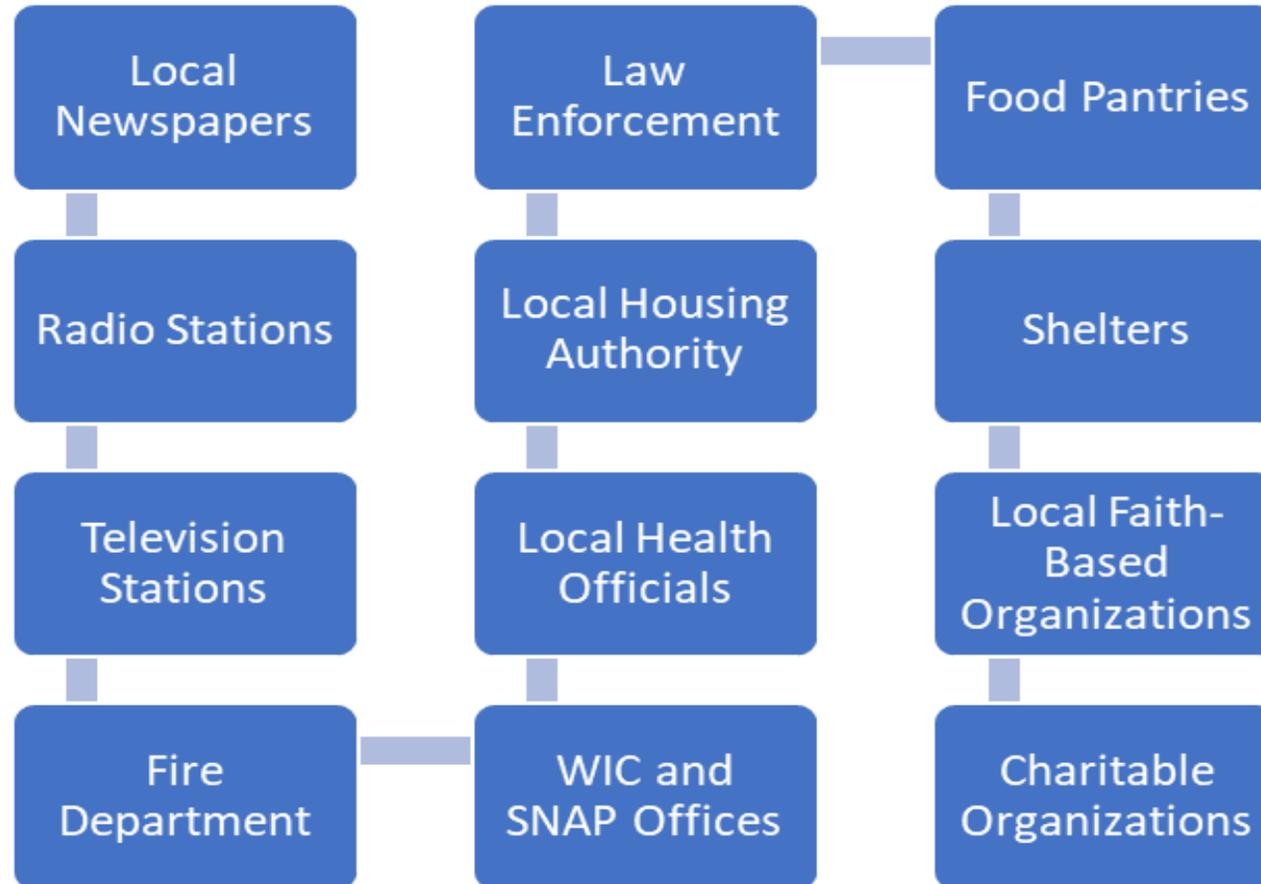
**COVID-19 Tool**

## Supporting Students Living in Doubled-up Situations

Students experiencing homelessness are significantly more at risk of losing services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students and families in a doubled-up living situation are often the most difficult to identify. Listed below are some strategies and best practices for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to support students.

- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should develop tools for school staff (e.g. teachers, counselors, social workers, etc.) to assess the following:
  - Change in housing status
  - Student safety at the home
  - Number of people in the home
  - Academic and social services needed
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaison, should utilize information-sharing systems to communicate:
  - Student contact information for identified McKinney-Vento eligible students
  - Facilitate prompt identification and services for newly identified students
  - Student safety concerns
  - Disseminate LEA and homeless education program information and resources
  - Academic interventions needed (e.g. additional course work materials, supplies, flexible coursework deadlines, etc.)
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should provide McKinney-Vento Posters (digital format can be accessed on the [TEHCY COVID-19 Resource page](#)) via email to apartment complexes in their local attendance zone. Homeless Liaisons should work with apartment staff to ensure posters are placed strategically (e.g. laundromat area, mailboxes, community information boards, etc.) so that students and parents can easily access this information.
- ✓ LEAs, in collaboration with their homeless liaisons, should establish strong communication channels with community partners to disseminate LEA and homeless education program information, resources, and supplies.
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should consider LEA approved social media channels (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) and non-traditional method of communication (e.g. LEA hotline, Google Voice, meal and technology distributions, etc.) to maintain communication students and families living in doubled-up situations.
- ✓ Homeless Liaisons should offer virtual office hours to check-in with students who have a history of high mobility or at more at-risk academically (e.g. unaccompanied youth, students dually identified for other special programs or services, etc.).

# Community Partnerships



# Section 6: TEHCY Resources and Information

# TEHCY Program Webpage

For the latest information on coronavirus, visit our [TEHCY COVID-19 Resources page](#).

[Visit page](#)

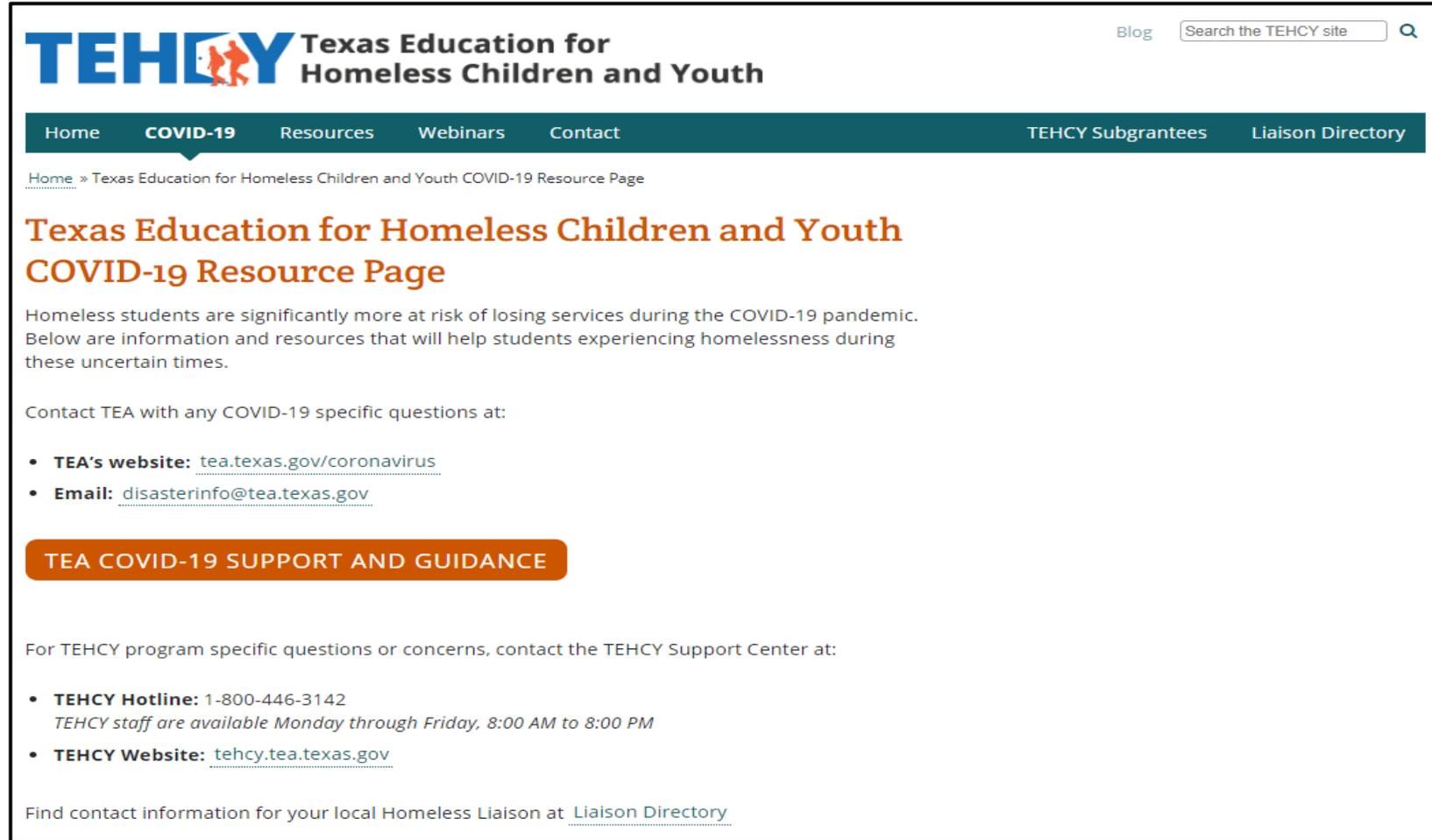
**TEHCY** Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Blog  

[Home](#) [COVID-19](#) [Resources](#) [Webinars](#) [Contact](#) [TEHCY Subgrantees](#) [Liaison Directory](#)



# TEHCY COVID-19 Resources



The screenshot shows the TEHCY website's COVID-19 resource page. At the top left is the TEHCY logo with the text "Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth". To the right is a "Blog" link and a search bar labeled "Search the TEHCY site". A dark teal navigation bar contains links for "Home", "COVID-19" (which is highlighted), "Resources", "Webinars", "Contact", "TEHCY Subgrantees", and "Liaison Directory". Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: "Home » Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth COVID-19 Resource Page". The main heading is "Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth COVID-19 Resource Page" in orange. The introductory text states: "Homeless students are significantly more at risk of losing services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are information and resources that will help students experiencing homelessness during these uncertain times." This is followed by contact information for TEA regarding COVID-19 questions, including a list of links for TEA's website and email. A prominent orange button reads "TEA COVID-19 SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE". Below this, contact information for the TEHCY Support Center is provided, including a hotline number and website. The page concludes with a link to the "Liaison Directory" for local contact information.

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

Blog Search the TEHCY site

Home **COVID-19** Resources Webinars Contact TEHCY Subgrantees Liaison Directory

Home » Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth COVID-19 Resource Page

## Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth COVID-19 Resource Page

Homeless students are significantly more at risk of losing services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are information and resources that will help students experiencing homelessness during these uncertain times.

Contact TEA with any COVID-19 specific questions at:

- **TEA's website:** [tea.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus)
- **Email:** [disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov](mailto:disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov)

**TEA COVID-19 SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE**

For TEHCY program specific questions or concerns, contact the TEHCY Support Center at:

- **TEHCY Hotline:** 1-800-446-3142  
*TEHCY staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM*
- **TEHCY Website:** [tehcycy.tea.texas.gov](https://tehcycy.tea.texas.gov)

Find contact information for your local Homeless Liaison at [Liaison Directory](#)

# Parents of School-Age Youth Posters

## Posters for Parents

### Information for Parents of School-Age Youth



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

-  A homeless shelter
-  Sheltering with other people
-  In cars, empty building, bus or train station
-  In a temporary arrangement

**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 if that is your preference.
- Attend in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment
- Receive free transportation and from the school

*English Version*  
[Download JPG](#)  
[Download PDF](#)

### Información para Padres de Jóvenes en Edad Escolar



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

-  En un albergue
-  Compartiendo o alojándose con otra persona
-  En un automóvil, edificio abandonado, estación o estación de trenes
-  Alojándose en un lugar temporal

**Sus hijos elegibles tienen derecho a:**

- Recibir una educación pública gratuita y apropiada
- Inscribirse en la escuela local o continuar asistiendo a la escuela de origen de acuerdo a su preferencia o inscribirse inmediatamente en una escuela permanente a la misma en un momento de inscripción, o en su escuela de preferencia.
- Inscribirse en la escuela inmediatamente, incluso si no tiene los documentos normalmente requeridos para la inscripción
- Recibir transporte gratuito de la escuela

*Spanish Version*  
[Download JPG](#)  
[Download PDF](#)

# Unaccompanied Youth Posters

## Posters for School-Age Youth

### Information for School-Age Youth



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

-  Homeless student
-  Sheltering with other people
-  Use your empty building, bus, or train ticket
-  Lack of employment

**Eligible students have the right to:**

- Receive a free, appropriate public education
- Attend in the same school, or continue attending their school, or enroll in their next preference
- Attend in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for admission
- Receive transportation to and from the school of choice, if needed

*English Version*  
[Download JPG](#)  
[Download PDF](#)

### Información para Jóvenes en Edad Escolar



**Si vives en cualquiera de las siguientes condiciones:**

-  Eres estudiante sin hogar
-  Compartes tu vivienda con otra persona además de tu familia o tus amigos
-  Usas un boleto, boleto de transporte público, o billete de tren
-  No tienes un empleo

**Estudiantes elegibles tienen derecho a:**

- Recibir educación pública gratuita y apropiada
- Continuar en su escuela actual o continuar asistiendo a la escuela de su preferencia o matricularse en la escuela de su preferencia cuando exista una vacante para matricularse en la TEA o en una escuela de su preferencia, si se abre la capacidad del aula.
- Asistir a la escuela inmediatamente, incluso si no tiene los documentos normalmente requeridos para la admisión
- Recibir transporte a y desde la escuela de su preferencia, si es necesario.

*Spanish Version*  
[Download JPG](#)  
[Download PDF](#)

# TEHCY Program Webinars

The screenshot shows the TEHCY website with a navigation menu and a list of webinars. The main content area features three webinar entries, each with a title, date, and description. A sidebar on the right lists upcoming webinars and includes a button to view all events or schedule training.

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

Blog Search the TEHCY site

Home COVID-19 Resources **Webinars** Contact TEHCY Subgrantees Liaison Directory

Home » Webinars

## Webinars

### TEHCY Subgrantee COVID-19 Webinar

Posted April 13th, 2020

During this webinar subgrantees will receive grant and COVID-19 updates. This webinar is scheduled for April 24, 2020. Resources and a recording of the live webinar will be posted here. Register for the Live Webinar

---

### COVID-19 Webinar

Posted April 13th, 2020

During this webinar several strategies, best practices, tools, and resources to assist the identification and support of students experiencing homelessness during COVID-19 will be provided. This webinar is scheduled for April 17, 2020. Resources and a recording of the live webinar will be posted here. Register for the Live Webinar

---

### McKinney Vento 101 Webinar

Posted February 6th, 2020

This pre-recorded webinar will provide an overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and discuss best practices to serve students experiencing homelessness.

#### Upcoming Webinars

APR 17	COVID-19 Webinar	<a href="#">Webinars</a>
APR 24	TEHCY Subgrantee COVID-19 Webinar	<a href="#">Webinars</a>

[SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS OR SCHEDULE A TRAINING](#)

# TEHCY Program Contacts

## **Cal Lopez**

### **Texas Education Agency**

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education State Coordinator

512-463-9414

[cal.lopez@tea.texas.gov](mailto:cal.lopez@tea.texas.gov)

## **Mary Anne Hettenhaus**

Education Specialist

512-919-5355

[mhettenhaus@esc13.net](mailto:mhettenhaus@esc13.net)

## **Janet Peña**

Administrative Support Specialist

512-919-5463

[jpena@esc13.net](mailto:jpena@esc13.net)

## **Martha Gonzales**

Education Specialist

512-919-5183

[martha.gonzales@esc13.net](mailto:martha.gonzales@esc13.net)

## **Jerretta Jimmerson Davenport**

Education Specialist

512-919-5184

[jerretta.jimmersondavenport@esc13.net](mailto:jerretta.jimmersondavenport@esc13.net)

## **Tonda Turner**

Education Specialist

512-919-5180

[tonda.turner@esc13.net](mailto:tonda.turner@esc13.net)

# TEHCY Program Support Center

- 1-800-446-3142
- 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM CDT
- [tehcy.tea.texas.gov](https://tehcy.tea.texas.gov)
- [tehcy.tea.texas.gov/covid-19](https://tehcy.tea.texas.gov/covid-19)



# Key Actions for Success

## Provide Online Training for LEA Staff

- TEHCY MV 101
- TEHCY sample documents
- TEHCY COVID-19 tools and resources

## Utilize LEA Information-Sharing Systems

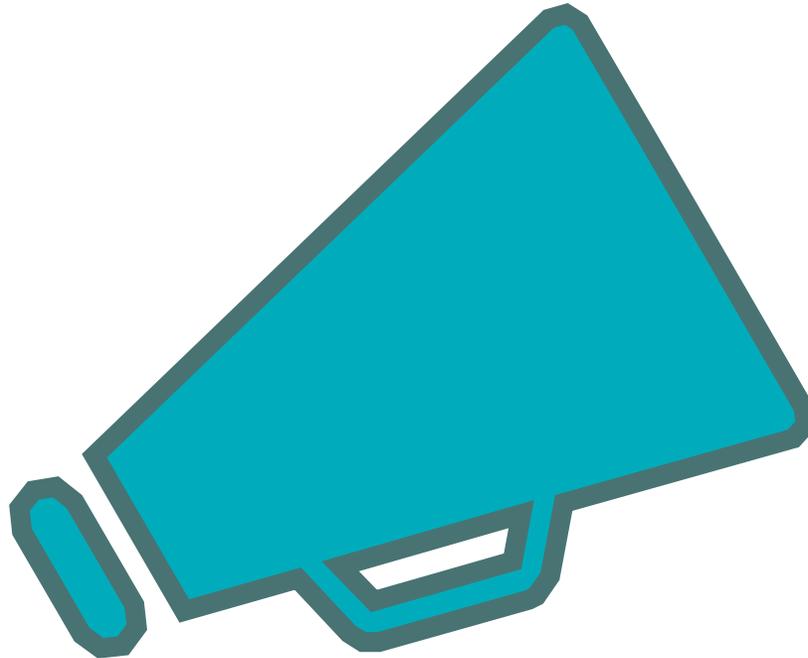
- Identify and support students
- Share student updates, concerns, and resources
- Collaborate with community partners

## Instructional Continuity

- Include homeless liaison in LEA Instructional Continuity meetings

# Shout Outs

---



# Questions

---



# Thank You

