



**MCKINNEY VENTO SUPERSTARS:  
HOW TO NOT BE THE BAD GUY**

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**PHOENIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1**

# ESSA BASICS & BACKGROUND

*“After more than 10 years, members of Congress from both parties have come together to revise our national education law.”*



- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law on Dec 10, 2015
- ESSA reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act
- For more information, visit <http://nche.ed.gov/legis/essa.php>
- 4 major changes; removal of Awaiting Foster Care, adding support for Preschool, Credit Accrual and duties of a Homeless Liaison.

# MCKINNEY-VENTO DEFINITION OF HOMELESS

**CAN THE STUDENT GO TO THE SAME PLACE (FIXED) EVERY NIGHT (REGULAR) TO SLEEP IN A SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE (ADEQUATE)?**

- Children or youth who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence, including:
  - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a 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
  - Abandoned in hospitals
  - Living in a public or private place not designed 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 circumstances
  - Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances

# LOCAL LIAISON REQUIREMENTS

- Every school district must designate a local homeless liaison
  - Must have adequate capacity and training to carry out duties sufficiently
  - Must participate in professional development and technical assistance activities provided by the State Coordinator's office
- Ensure that homeless children and youth (HCY) are:
  - Identified through outreach & coordination
  - Enrolled in, & have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school, including services through
    - Head Start & Early Head Start
    - IDEA, Part C, early intervention
    - Other preschool programs administered by the LEA
  - Assisted in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or required health records
  - Referred to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing, & other services

*NCHE's Homeless Liaison Toolkit*

[https://nche.ed.gov/pr/liaison\\_toolkit.php](https://nche.ed.gov/pr/liaison_toolkit.php)

# SCHOOL SELECTION



- Homeless children and youth have the right to attend

## – The school of origin

- The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed, or
- The school in which the child or youth was last enrolled
- Includes public preschools

## – The local school of residence

- Any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend

# SCHOOL OF ORIGIN (AKA, THE ONLY PLACE THEY GET A BUS!)

- Students may continue attending the school of origin
  - the entire time they are homeless, or
  - until the end of any school year in which they move into permanent housing
- Students who become homeless between school years may continue attending the school of origin the following school year
- LEAs must transport students to & from school of origin when requested by parent/guardian/liaison (for UHY)
  - includes transportation until the end of the school year after a student obtains permanent housing

# SCHOOL OF ORIGIN TRANSPORTATION

- 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
- Based on the amended definition of *school of origin* under ESSA, school of origin transportation rights extend to public preschools and receiving schools



***Must LEAs continue to provide transportation to and from the school of origin for formerly homeless students who have become permanently housed?***

*Yes. LEAs must continue to provide transportation to and from the school of origin to formerly homeless students who have become permanently housed for the remainder of the academic year during which the child or youth becomes permanently housed.*

**EHCY Non-Regulatory Guidance,  
Question J-5**

# DISCLAIMER

- I am not an attorney
- I do not work for ADE
- I have been at this a long time and have had awesome teammates that helped to create a well-oiled machine. We learned because we screwed up.
- Much of what I will talk about today is **NOT** your responsibility. I mention it so you can use it as guidance when you go back to talk to your team.
- Many of the forms I reference I stole. I will try to give them credit as I go. Please don't think I was smart enough to make them up myself.

# MV SUPERSTARS DO THE FOLLOWING:

- **Become best friends with your routing department and drivers**
  - Meet with them, make sure they have the 101 training and understand how important their role is
  - Listen to their concerns. You are not a router for a reason, they are the expert!
  - They are going to see “your kids” each day. Tell them specific example of what you need to know from them:
    - Are kids actually riding, or missing a lot?
    - Are kids out of uniform, do they have a backpack, do they have a jacket?
    - Are kids asking for something to eat when they get on the bus?
    - Is there not a caregiver there to send them off/receive them each day?
    - What is the physical condition of the caregiver?
    - Do children have bruising, cuts, complain to the driver of pain? Drivers are mandated reporters. Make sure drivers know protocol to report any issues.
    - **BE NICE** to “our kids” you have no idea what they are living through. Please just smile and greet them daily!
- Never assume anyone has gone over Parent’s Rights regarding School of Origin with a family
- If they told the school they want a bus, it is still your job to go over their rights and the confines of the law. It has to be in the best interest of the child. **BID are a team decision. You can’t say no to a bus because of no driver or distance...and if you say no, it better be in writing and include the dispute documents and timeline.**
- I have had made lots of calls to parents only to find out we are not really school of origin. School staff may hear MV and just assume they are going to get a bus. **DO YOUR HOMEWORK!**
- Tell them at the time you give them the route that it ends on the last day of school. It does, always. If they still qualify the next academic year, go over that with them in the summer. **But always make sure they know upfront this route is not going to stick with the child their whole educational life.**
- Have an end of year letter.
- Do end of year/summer planning.
  - Talk to Title I Directors about your costs for last year. What do you think you will need for next year.
  - Can we set up a vendor to help if we don’t have a driver/bus to cover a route? Who creates the PO? Where do invoices go? What is our budget?
  - Where can you cut costs? City bus passes, mileage reimbursement?

# AND THIS...

- **Be firm up front that you are not a taxi service. Our responsibility is to get kids to and from school.**
  - **Tell families up front how long it will take you to get the route set up, be realistic.**
  - **Remind parents kids are expected to be in school while you set up the route, do they have a way to make that happen?**
  - **Routing sets the pick-up and drop off time.**
- **Be consistent in your delivery of options**
  - **Always start with “how are they getting to school now?” Can that method be sustained?**
  - **Do you have a car in good repair? Could we pay you mileage reimbursement?**
    - **Explain what the word reimbursement means...we will pay you back for the miles you have driven, not give you money up front!**
    - **Always ask up front if they are in need of both AM and PM services**
    - **Always ask up front if they stay after school for any clubs, sports or activities**
      - **You do not want to find this out after you have the route and are giving the parent the details!**
    - **Is the student familiar with the city bus? Could that be an option?**

# AND THIS TOO...

## **HAVE A TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT!**

**Make sure parents know how this whole thing works.**

- **Who is doing AM, who is doing PM?**
- **What are the rules on the bus?**
- **Who do they call if they are not riding?**
- **What do they do if they move?**
- **Who do they call if the bus is not there at the time promised?**
- **Can bus privileges be taken away?**

# AND EVEN MORE...

- Assume that if the family is “yours” (you are school of origin and originating the request) ALL communication come from you. You call with times, you call with updates, you call with behavior concerns AND you keep the documentation.
  - Those of us in “Central Phoenix” work under the premise if you are requesting the route, you pick whether or not you want AM or PM. I understand those in the East Valley do not do this. Make sure are a flexible as possible (without being a total hard nose or pushover) as often as you can. You scratch my back once in a while and I will scratch yours!
  - If you have a shelter you share kids with annually, make sure you take turns alternating who gets to do AM runs and who will take the PM runs.
  - “the other district” can not tell you “we just can’t do this route”. If they get Federal funding, they are required to follow the law. If you get this answer, move on up the chain. Your chain and theirs! If you have to, take it to the ADE dispute level.

# TIME TO STUMP THE PRESENTER...

- Go ahead, ask me. It has probably happened in Phoenix #1 too
- Alexis isn't here, she will never know you asked...
- I'm not your boss
- I don't judge. Well, I might laugh. But I won't hold it against you 😊

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Arizona Department of Education Website:**

<https://www.azed.gov/homeless/>

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**Phoenix Elementary School District #1**

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