

*Janet Barresi*  
*State Superintendent of Public Instruction*  
*Oklahoma State Department of Education*

## **Oklahoma State Plan**

### **Education of Homeless Children and Youth**

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act  
Title VII, Subtitle B**

**No Child Left Behind  
Title X, Part C**

Revised  
July 2012

**MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT TITLE VII, SUBTITLE B  
No Child Left Behind Title X, Part C**

**STATE PLAN**

**Education for Homeless Children and Youth**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth program is intended to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. The Act calls on states to review and revise their laws and policies to eliminate barriers to the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of children and youth experiencing homelessness and provide such children and youth with the opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Students in homeless situations must not be separated from the mainstream school environment because of their homelessness.

**Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as Amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) [Title X, Part C], McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program**

**OKLAHOMA'S STATE PLAN  
EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

- 1. Describe the SEA's procedures for ensuring that homeless children and youth are given the opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards that all students in the State are expected to meet.**

**Compulsory Attendance - 70 O.S. § 1-114 (School Laws of Oklahoma 2002)**

All children between the ages of five (5) on or before September 1, and twenty-one (21) years on or before September 1, shall be entitled to attend school free of charge in the district in which they reside.

All children who are at least four (4) years of age but not more than five (5) years of age on or before September 1 and who have not attended a public school kindergarten shall be entitled to attend half-day or full-day early childhood programs at any public school in the state where such programs are offered, provided no child shall be required to attend any early childhood education program.

## **Oklahoma's State Academic Achievement Standards**

All students enrolled in public schools in Oklahoma are given the same opportunities to meet the state's challenging academic achievement standards regardless of socioeconomic background. The Priority Academic Student Skills and the Common Core State Standards come under the umbrella of all state standards entitled Oklahoma C<sup>3</sup> Standards - C<sup>3</sup> standing for college, career, and citizen ready. Oklahoma C<sup>3</sup> Standards are available on the Oklahoma State Department of Education Web site <[www.sde.ok.gov](http://www.sde.ok.gov)>.

On June 2, 2010, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) released the final version of the K-12 standards in English Language Arts, Literacy in History/Social Studies and Science, and Mathematics as part of the Common Core State Standards Initiative. These standards, developed together with teachers, school administrators, curriculum content experts and others, seek to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare Oklahoma students for college, the workforce, and responsible citizenship. The State Board of Education adopted the standards in June of 2010 and the Governor confirmed that adoption in July 2010. The rules on this page specify how the Common Core State Standards will affect Priority Academic Student Skills for English Language Arts and Mathematics from adoption to full implementation in the year 2014-15.

The Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS) were adopted by the State Board of Education 70 O.S. § 11-103.6(a). Each area of subject matter curriculum, except for technology curriculum, adopted by the State Board of Education for implementation by the beginning of the 2003-04 school year shall be thoroughly reviewed by the State Board every six (6) years according to and in coordination with the existing subject area textbook adoption cycle, and the State Board shall implement any revisions in such curriculum deemed necessary to achieve further improvements in the quality of education for the students of this state.

The Oklahoma State Standards are reviewed and revised every six (6) years with one curriculum area reviewed annually beginning in 2002-2003. Teachers, university faculty, curriculum directors, and administrators comprise review/revision committees of the state standards.

All identified homeless children and youth enrolled in public schools will participate in state-mandated assessments. Each local educational agency (LEA) will be responsible for disaggregating test scores of children and youth identified as homeless. The LEAs will report to the state educational agency (SEA)/State Coordinator of Homeless Children and Youth the percentage of students scoring proficient on state assessments annually.

The SEA will continue to assist districts in eliminating barriers to ensure that all children including those identified as homeless are meeting the same challenging academic achievement standards.

**2. Describe procedures the SEA will use to identify homeless children and youth in the state and to assess their special needs.**

Each LEA will be required to have a homeless children and youth liaison. The primary responsibility of the liaison will be to locate and identify homeless children and youth within the community. Once the identification has been completed, the liaison shall determine any special needs (i.e., educational needs, health needs, and housing needs) so that the LEA may provide appropriate services and referrals. The liaison will also be responsible for helping to eliminate any barriers for enrollment such as residency issues, immunization or medical records issues, or guardianship issues.

The SEA Coordinator will collaborate with the LEA liaisons to ensure that homeless children and youth are being identified and provided the same educational opportunities as other children and youth. The SEA Coordinator will provide support to districts through onsite visits, consultations, and/or mailing other pertinent program information. Technical assistance may include issues addressing location and identification of homeless students, appropriate educational services, and eliminating barriers caused by:

- immunization and medical records requirements;
- residency requirements;
- lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation;
- guardianship issues;
- clothing and uniforms;
- transportation;
- health needs; or
- school supplies and activity fees.

The SEA Coordinator, and the LEA liaison will coordinate and collaborate with other organizations and agencies to provide appropriate services to homeless children and youth as special needs are identified. This collaborative effort will be necessary to initially assist students with enrolling in school, but also to encourage retention of the student in school. Assisting with basic needs for homeless children and youth (food, shelter, and/or medical attention) fosters a better attitude for learning and achieving.

**3. Describe the State's procedure for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youth.**

- The SEA has a policy in place titled "McKinney-Vento Homeless Dispute Resolution." This policy is provided on the SEA Web site so that all districts and/or families may have access to the document. The policies and procedures will be based on requirements outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act.

**4. Describe the state's programs for school personnel (including principals, attendance officers, teachers, enrollment personnel, and pupil services personnel) to heighten their awareness of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.**

- The SEA Coordinator will furnish available materials (brochures, books, Web sites, and community resource information) to school districts on the subject of homelessness specifically addressing the needs of runaway and homeless children and youth. These materials will be used to inform school personnel of the special needs and situations of homeless children and youth.
- The SEA Coordinator will gather this information from other agencies and organizations that provide services to homeless children and their families.
- The SEA Coordinator will offer support to school district personnel on issues such as eliminating enrollment barriers, providing information or referrals on health and/or housing services, and retaining homeless children and youth in school.
- The SEA Coordinator will conduct workshops at State conferences and meetings throughout the year informing the school districts of their responsibilities to serve homeless children and youth.
- Technical assistance will be provided to the school district liaisons on how to properly identify homeless children and youth. Also, liaisons will receive information on how to eliminate enrollment barriers for homeless children which includes examining housing issues and health issues.

**5. Describe the state's procedures for ensuring that homeless children and youth who meet the relevant criteria are able to participate in federal, state, or local food programs.**

- All children enrolled in a public school district that participates in the Child Nutrition Program will have the opportunity to participate in the program if all eligibility requirements are met. (7 CFR 210 and 220)
- Those students who are identified as homeless by the Homeless Liaison will automatically be enrolled in the free breakfast and lunch program.
- Technical assistance will be provided to the liaison for homeless children and youth on how to enroll students identified as homeless in the free breakfast and lunch program.
- Liaisons for homeless children and youth will be requested to collaborate with the food service director in the district to ensure that homeless students are receiving proper services.
- The SEA Coordinator will collaborate with the SEA's Child Nutrition Program personnel as well as other agencies and organizations assisting homeless children and families to provide information on food and nutrition programs that are available at the state and local levels.

**6. Describe the State's procedures for ensuring that: homeless children have equal access to the same public preschool programs, administered by the state agency, as provided to other children in the state; homeless youth and youth separated from the public schools are identified and accorded equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services; homeless children and youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local before- and after-school care programs.**

- Membership of the SEA Coordinator on the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness is the vehicle for improving collaboration between state and local level service providers and school districts to identify and serve homeless children and youth.
- The SEA Coordinator will collaborate with Title I and additional federal programs at the SEA to develop and disseminate information to districts regarding homelessness and how Title I and additional federal funds can be used to assist in serving this population.
- The SEA Coordinator will collaborate with the Early Childhood personnel at the SEA to develop and disseminate information to districts regarding enrollment of homeless children in prekindergarten programs.
- Collaboration and coordination will occur between the SEA and the State Head Start program to ensure that guidelines are in place for serving homeless children.
- Technical assistance will be provided to district liaisons for homeless children and youth on prekindergarten enrollment.
- A primary responsibility of the liaison will be to identify homeless children and youth of compulsory attendance age who are not enrolled in school. The liaison will develop strategies for identifying homeless students based on requirements in the McKinney-Vento Act.
- If a district offers before- and/or after-school care, all students enrolled in that district are eligible to attend. The liaison will be responsible for notifying the parent or guardian of the available programs and encouraging attendance.

**7. Describe the SEA's strategies for addressing problems set forth in its FY 2000 report provided to the Secretary under subsection 722 (f)(3) of the Act.**

**A. Homeless children in the typical Oklahoma community remain invisible and difficult to identify.**

- The SEA will request annually each LEA to identify a homeless liaison and submit contact information for that individual to the SEA Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth at the Oklahoma State Department of Education.
- The liaison will be primarily responsible for identifying homeless children and youth in the community and providing any enrollment assistance.
- The SEA Coordinator will give support to districts and/or students regarding enrollment procedures and requirements outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act.

**B. Homeless children temporarily living in shelters are not present within a district long enough to be identified and served before moving on.**

- The SEA Coordinator will assist districts in fulfilling the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act by providing core academic instruction at either the school of origin or school of residence. If applicable, only supplemental instructional services can be provided at the shelter sites.

**8. Provide the SEA's strategies for addressing problems with respect to the education of homeless children and youth, including problems resulting from enrollment delays that are caused by: immunizations and medical records requirements, residency requirements, lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation; guardianship issues; or uniform or dress code requirements.**

- Districts will be notified of the federal requirements for enrolling homeless children and youth. Specific emphasis will be placed on eliminating barriers for homeless children to enroll.
- Technical assistance will be provided to districts on methods for eliminating barriers for enrollment as well as retention. Areas of concern are attaining immunization and medical records as well as other documentation necessary for enrollment. The district will be instructed to enroll the child prior to location of the documents.
- The SDE Coordinator will assist with guidance on how to use community resources to locate documents.
- Districts will be made aware that Title I may be used for many of the costs related to these items.

**9. Demonstrate that the SEA and local educational agencies in the state have developed, and will review and as necessary revise, policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth in schools in the state.**

- The SEA and representatives from local educational agencies will review and revise the State's policies that eliminate barriers to enrolling and retaining homeless children and youth.
- The SDE Coordinator will collect information on homeless students and enrollment barriers to disseminate to LEAs.
- The SEA Coordinator will examine the resources available at the state and local level to ensure that all homeless children and youth are given every opportunity to succeed. A child's first and best teacher is their parent. Providing educational opportunities to parents as well as children is essential in breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness.
- The SEA adheres to the federal government regarding enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth.

**10. Describe how the State will ensure that LEAs will comply with the requirements of paragraphs in Section 722 (g)(3) through (g)(7) of the Act.**

- Each subgrantee signs assurance of their compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act as part of the subgrantee application packet.
- The SDE Coordinator will gather and distribute to homeless liaisons resources and materials regarding the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act and state laws pertaining to homeless education with emphasis on paragraphs in Section 722 (g)(3) through (g)(7) of the Act.

**11. Describe the technical assistance that the state will furnish to LEAs and how the SEA will coordinate its compliance efforts with the local educational agency liaisons designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii) in Section 722 of the grant.**

- The SEA will request annually each LEA to identify a homeless liaison and submit contact information for that individual to the State Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth at the Oklahoma State Department of Education.
- The SEA Coordinator will collaborate with the LEA liaisons to ensure that homeless children and youth are being identified and provided the same educational opportunities as other children and youth. The SDE Coordinator will give support to districts through on-site visits, consultations, and/or mailing other pertinent program information. Technical assistance may include issues addressing location and identification of homeless students, appropriate educational services, and eliminating barriers caused by:
  - immunization and medical records requirements;
  - residency requirements;
  - lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation;
  - guardianship issues;
  - clothing and uniform;
  - transportation;
  - health needs; or
  - school supplies and activity fees.
- The SEA Coordinator and the LEA liaison will coordinate and collaborate with other organizations and agencies to provide appropriate services to homeless children and youth as special needs are identified. This collaborative effort will be necessary to initially assist students with enrolling in school, but also to encourage retention of the student in school. Assisting with basic needs for homeless children and youth (food, shelter, and/or medical attention) fosters a better attitude for learning and achieving.
- The SDE Coordinator will furnish available materials (brochures, books, websites, and community resource information) to school districts on the subject of homelessness specifically addressing the needs of runaway and homeless children and youth. These materials will be used to inform school personnel of the special needs and situations of homeless children and youth.
- The SDE Coordinator will gather this information from other agencies and organizations that provide services to homeless children and their families.
- The SEA Coordinator may conduct workshops at state conferences, videoconferences, and meetings throughout the year informing the school districts of their responsibilities to serve homeless children and youth. Additionally, technical assistance will feature information regarding best practices in the delivery of educational services.

**12. Describe how the SEA will use funds it receives under this program to carry out State-level activities and to make subgrants to LEAs.**

- Funds received under the McKinney-Vento Act at the state level will be used primarily on-site visits, purchase necessary information, supplies and attend NCHE and NAEHCY conferences.

- At the state level, funds will be used by the SDE Coordinator for collecting, preparing, and disseminating information relevant to issues involving homeless students and their families.
- Applications for subgrants will be made available by the SEA every three (3) years to all LEAs. Interested LEAs will complete the application and submit to the SEA for review.
- The LEAs will collaborate with Title I and additional federal programs to ensure that all available resources are used for the purpose of assisting homeless students in breaking down the barriers for enrolling and receiving an equal, appropriate education.