

School System Planning

McKinney-Vento Program

2026-2027 Professional Development Guidance for Homeless Liaisons

Purpose

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires public school districts to carefully select and ensure the capacity of the staff they designate to serve as their McKinney-Vento (MV) homeless education liaisons. It is the responsibility of the state coordinator to develop and implement professional development programs for liaisons and other Local Education Agency (LEA) personnel to improve the identification of homeless children and youths, and to heighten the awareness of the liaisons and personnel, and their capacity to respond to specific needs in the education of homeless children and youths. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the LEA homeless liaison to ensure that school personnel providing services receive professional development and other support.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is committed to ensuring that every liaison has access to high-quality, current, and practical professional development necessary to effectively implement the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Professional development offerings consist of a fall McKinney-Vento 101 training for new liaisons and a back-to-school training for all liaisons. Spring trainings are in alignment with updates provided at the national conference held in the fall by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY). In addition to the fall and spring trainings, LDOE provides regular on-site technical assistance support throughout the year, as well as hosts office hours and provides assistance to liaisons via emails and phone calls. A statewide internal professional development platform will be released in June of 2027, which will consist of modules and videos that can be utilized to further build the liaisons' and essential staff's capacity.

As LDOE continues to strengthen its statewide professional development efforts through 2026-2027, local liaisons are encouraged to take advantage of the national resources, webinars, technical assistance, and training opportunities currently available through the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) and NAEHCY.

National Center For Homeless Education (NCHE)

The National Center for Homeless Education serves as the federal technical assistance center for the U.S. Department of Education's Education for Homeless Children and Youth program and should be considered a primary professional development resource for McKinney-Vento liaisons.

NCHE provides local liaisons with access to recorded webinars, on-demand training, implementation resources, professional development materials, and the comprehensive Homeless Liaison Toolkit. NCHE also provides resources that liaisons may use when training school personnel and community partners. Liaisons are strongly encouraged to regularly review the [NCHE training and webinar resources](#) and participate in relevant learning opportunities throughout the school year.

National Association For the Education of Homeless Children and Youth-NAEHCY

NAEHCY provides additional professional learning and networking opportunities for professionals serving children and youth experiencing homelessness. Liaisons are encouraged to review and participate, as appropriate, in NAEHCY's professional development opportunities, which may include webinars, workshops, panels, roundtables, speaker series, specialized learning opportunities, and the organization's annual conference.

NAEHCY's professional learning opportunities are particularly valuable for expanding knowledge of promising practices, learning from practitioners across the country, understanding emerging issues affecting students experiencing homelessness, and developing professional networks with other McKinney-Vento professionals. Liaisons should periodically review the [NAEHCY Professional Development page](#) for current opportunities.

Additional Resources

[Non-Regulatory Guidance](#)

[Collaboration with other agencies](#)

[Higher Education Opportunities](#)

[Local Dispute Policies](#)

[Free and Reduced Lunch](#)

Please contact Dr. Antiqua Hunter, State Coordinator, with questions. antiqua.hunter@la.gov