

Posted: 9/9/16

To: School Food Authorities

Subject: SFS-16-x127 Homeless Student Information

The information below was emailed to all LEAs in the *LDOE Weekly Newsletter* and is being provided for your information. The following link may be used to access the 2015 – 2016 Homeless Contact Information list, under the heading Homeless Education Services:

<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/school-policy>

LDOE Weekly Newsletter

McKinney-Vento Homeless Program

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth in homeless situations. Its key themes are school access and stability, support for educational success, and child-centered decision-making. In light of the recent natural disaster, LEAs need to take the actions below to comply with federal guidance and identify and provide services to students and families who are experiencing homelessness. Students qualify for homeless status if they are sharing housing with other persons, including doubled-up with family members, or are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of adequate accommodations.

- Use and share the Homeless Hotline for inquiries and referrals - **Homeless Hotline: 844-533-4187**.
- Ensure parents or guardians complete the **Residency Questionnaire** for current students, whose residential status has changed, and newly-enrolled/displaced students to identify homeless children and youth.
- Complete the **Title X, Part C McKinney-Vento Referral Form** for eligible students and provide a copy to the LEA homeless liaison.
- Code students experiencing Homelessness due to recent floods in the Student information System (SIS) to code **02- Flooding**.
- Coordinate wrap-around services within the LEA, such as the National School Lunch Program.
- Coordinate and provide transportation services for displaced students to schools of origin, as applicable.
- Update Homeless Tracking System (HTS) to reflect services provided and support federal data reporting.

LEAs should remember to adhere to FERPA, Act 837, and Act 677 when sharing personally identifiable information to protect student privacy.

Eligibility of Homeless Children for Free Meals

Additionally, please refer to the *2016-2017 Eligibility Manual for School Meals* (page 34-35) for information regarding eligibility of homeless children for free meals:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/2016-edition-eligibility-manual-school-meals>