

TEXAS EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH: THE BASICS FOR SERVICE PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS

LOCATION: Webinar for
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs'
Emergency Solutions Grant Subrecipient Agencies

DATE: April 4, 2018

TIME: 10:00 am – 11:00 am.

PRESENTER: Ken Martin, Coordinator, Texas Homeless
Education Office



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 1

Welcome

Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



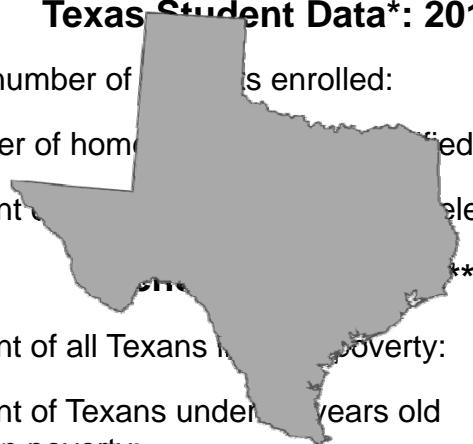
Slide 2

Awareness

Texas Student Data*: 2016-17

- Total number of students enrolled: 5,343,834
- Number of homeless students identified: 116,103
- Percent of all Texans experiencing homelessness: 2.2%
**
- Percent of all Texans living in poverty: 15.6%
- Percent of Texans under 18 years old living in poverty: 22.2%

*Texas Education Agency 2016-17 Consolidated State Performance Report
**www.talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/texas-2016-report/



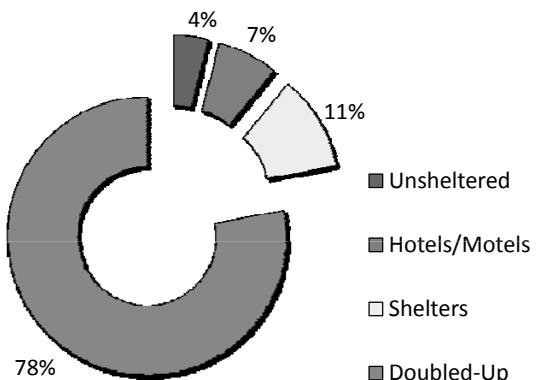
Education for Homeless Children and Youth | TEA | Region 10 ESC | THEC | Slide 3

Awareness

Primary Nighttime Residence at Time of Enrollment

116,103 = Texas Total Students Identified

2016-17 School Year



Residence Type	Percentage
Unsheltered	4%
Hotels/Motels	7%
Shelters	11%
Doubled-Up	78%

■ Unsheltered
■ Hotels/Motels
□ Shelters
■ Doubled-Up

Education for Homeless Children and Youth | TEA | Region 10 ESC | THEC | Slide 4

Awareness

Children living in homeless situations may perform two to three years below grade level in school.

For many children, every move costs them as much as 4-6 months of academic progress.

Casey Family Programs



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 5

Definition of Homelessness

Who is Homeless?



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



McKinney-Vento Act Overview

McKinney-Vento (MV) Homeless Assistance Act

- Originally passed in 1987
- Became part of No Child Left Behind in 2000
- Reauthorized in 2015 by the ***Every Student Succeeds Act*** (ESSA)
- Works hand-in-hand with Title I, Part A and other federal education programs
- \$85 million authorized funding to SEAs
 - SEAs award competitive subgrants to LEAs
 - Largest percentage increase of all federal education programs



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 7

Getting Things Started

The McKinney-Vento Act defines children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to 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

<http://www.theotx.org/resource/tea-hurricane-harvey-crisis-code-faq/>



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 8

Getting Things Started

The McKinney-Vento Act defines children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth:

- 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

<http://www.theotx.org/resource/tea-hurricane-harvey-crisis-code-faq/>



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 9

Children Living in Shelters



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 10

Children Living in Campgrounds, Abandoned Buildings, Motels, or Cars



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVKePwws8J4>

Brandy, Kenny and Kids – Hotel/Motel



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 11

Sleeping in Substandard Housing



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hH60VVWsRE&t=5s>
Olga – Doubled-Up and Substandard Housing



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 12

Definition of Homelessness

“Substandard” or Inadequate Housing

- Communities vary - evaluate housing according to local standards/norms - ***Sample considerations:***

- Health and safety concerns
- Number of occupants per square foot
- Age of occupants
- State and local building codes
- Collaborate with local housing agencies to establish guidelines that incorporate state and local legal requirements and community standards
(i.e., Section 8 criteria)

<http://www.theotx.org/resource/tea-hurricane-harvey-crisis-code-faq/>



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 13

Living Doubled-up Due to Loss of Housing; “Couch Surfers”



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 14

Definition of Homelessness

Doubled-Up Situations

Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason

- Where would you go if you couldn't stay here?
- What led you to move in to this situation?
- Why did the family move in together?
- How permanent is the arrangement meant to be?
- Is it fixed, regular, and adequate?



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 15

How long should a doubled-up family be considered homeless?

Use a Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ) to determine or assess their living situation.



There is no time limit written into the law – situations need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis each academic year.



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 16

Are Migrant Students Considered Homeless?



Migrant students are considered homeless if they meet the criteria met by all students considered homeless; they are most often in doubled-up, substandard, or over-crowded living situations.



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 17

Other Student Situations

- Undocumented and immigrant students may be considered homeless if they meet the definition of homeless in the same way as documented students.
- The 1982 Supreme Court ruling, *Plyler v. Doe*, states that students living in the US have the right to attend the school where they are residing regardless of their immigration status.



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 18

Unaccompanied Youth

The McKinney-Vento Act defines an “unaccompanied youth” as a youth that is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

- “Guardian” is a legal designation representing the person who has legal custody of a student; this designation can only be granted by a judge in a court of law.
- These documents do NOT convey legal guardianship:
 - Power of Attorney
 - Educational Affidavit
 - Notarized document/letter pertaining to a student’s care



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 19

Unaccompanied Youth

An unaccompanied youth’s living situation must meet the MV Act’s definition of homeless in order to qualify for MV services and to be considered a HOMELESS unaccompanied youth...

- A youth may be eligible regardless of whether he/she was asked to leave the home or “chose” to leave their home.
- When assessing their needs, it is the current living situation that is used for the determination of homelessness.

... the circumstances/motivation around a youth leaving their home are inconsequential in determining homelessness; only the youth’s current living situation is evaluated.



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 20

Determining Homelessness

Is the living situation fixed, regular and adequate?

- Does the family consider this a permanent situation?
- Is the family staying there because they choose to, or simply because they have nowhere else to go?
- Ask, “if you couldn’t stay here, where would you go?”



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 21

Identification: Signs of Homelessness

- S**ecreive, afraid to share information
- I**nability to concentrate
- M**oves frequently
- P**oor hygiene
- L**earning gaps, grades fall off
- E**motional crisis

- S**hows up late or is frequently absent
- I**s sometimes anxious, angry or hostile
- G**oes through changes in behavior
- N**oticeably tired, sleeps in class, lacks energy
- S**upplies for school are missing



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 22

Determining Eligibility

Student Residency Questionnaires (SRQs)

The law requires LEAs to have an auditable way to assess the homeless status (living situation) of ALL their students at least once a year.

It is a best practice for districts to use a SRQ. Templates for SRQs and information on assessing the living situations of students to help meet this requirement may be found on the TEA or THEO website at:

<https://tea.texas.gov/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=51539618930>

http://www.theotx.org/resource_type/peims



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 23

Identification: Sample SRQ

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):

<https://tea.texas.gov/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=51539618930>



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Identification: Sample SRQ

"X" all boxes below that best describe where the student sleeps at night, leave those blank that do not apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> In a home that the student's parent or legal guardian owns or rents (C189a-0)
<input type="checkbox"/> In a place that does not have windows, doors, running water, heat, electricity, or is overcrowded (C189a-3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staying with a friend or relative because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (C189a-2) <i>(Examples: eviction, foreclosure, fire, flood, lost job, divorce, domestic violence, kicked out by parents, ran away from home)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> In a shelter (C189a-1) <i>(Examples: living in a family shelter, domestic violence shelter, children/youth shelter, FEMA housing)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> In an unsheltered location, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a tent <input type="checkbox"/> a car or truck <input type="checkbox"/> a van <input type="checkbox"/> an abandoned building <input type="checkbox"/> on the streets <input type="checkbox"/> at a campground <input type="checkbox"/> in the park <input type="checkbox"/> in a bus or train station <input type="checkbox"/> other similar place <small>(C189a-3)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> In a hotel or motel because of loss of housing or economic hardship (C189a-4) <i>(Examples: eviction, foreclosure, cannot get deposits for permanent home, flood, fire, hurricane)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> In a transitional housing program (C189a-1) <i>(Housing that is available as part of a program for a specific length of time only and is partly or completely paid for by a church, a nonprofit organization, governmental agency, or another organization)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> The student lives here because of a natural disaster. "X" the type of disaster below and provide the requested information: <small>Hurricane—Name of hurricane: _____ Flood _____ Tornado _____ Wildfire _____ Other—Please describe: _____</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> Date the natural disaster took place: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Where the natural disaster took place, including county: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> The student does not sleep in any of the places described above. Tell below where the student does sleep:

<http://www.theotx.org/resource/peims-homeless-status-template/>



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Determining Eligibility

Length of Eligibility

- When is a person no longer considered "homeless?"

When they become "permanently housed"

- Have the circumstances that caused the homeless situation been mitigated?
- Has the student/family lived in the current situation long enough to get them past the eviction cycle and it appears they are able to maintain their living situation?
- In the case of a doubled-up situation, is the living situation due to something other than the loss of housing or economic hardship?



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 26

Determining Eligibility

Length of Eligibility

- Once identified, **students are eligible for services for the duration of the school year**, even if they become permanently housed during the school year and are no longer homeless

OR

for the duration of homelessness, eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis and should be re-evaluated at the beginning of every year

- A student's eligibility is assessed annually. Identification and coding lasts for the current school year and does not carry over from year-to-year

(<https://tea.texas.gov/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=51539618928>)



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 27

School District Homeless Liaison Duties



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



The McKinney-Vento Act

Mandates:

- every school district is required to have a homeless education liaison, and
- the liaison is required to perform specific tasks

42 U.S.C. 1432(g)(6)



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 29

Homeless Liaison Duties

- Conduct outreach efforts
- Autonomy to identify and certify as homeless
- Role as homeless student advocate
- Assist with enrollment and help settle enrollment disputes – districts must have a dispute process
Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 30

Homeless Liaison Duties

- Ensure professional development for district staff
- Connect students to district and community services, transportation, nutrition, and resources
- Assistance to access School of Origin transportation
- Assistance to access comparable transportation



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 31

Homeless Liaison Duties

- Assist with post-secondary information and access, including independent student determination for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Participate in professional development



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 32

Notice of Educational Rights

- The McKinney-Vento Act requires public notice of educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness disseminated in every school district at every campus -- and wherever services are accessed
- Place posters and brochures with community partners such as clothes closets, food pantries, laundromats, fast food, convenience stores, hotels/motels, places where families in transition tend to locate



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Notice of Educational Rights

- Posters are currently being edited and revised
- English, Spanish, and Vietnamese versions will be available.
- Let us know if you have the need for translation into a particular language for your school district
- Ordered free of charge at: www.theotx.org



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



THEO Website

<http://www.theotx.org/>

Education for Homeless Children and Youth | **TEA** | Region 10 ESC | **THEO**

Slide 35

Immediate Enrollment

- Enrolled is defined as attending and fully participating, not just the student's name on an enrollment list
- Placement without records: contact previous school and family for information to assist with placement

Education for Homeless Children and Youth | **TEA** | Region 10 ESC | **THEO**

Slide 36

Immediate Enrollment

- Enroll homeless students even if they have no records or documentation
- Contact previous school for records
- 10 days to send records
- 30 day provisional enrollment without:
 - Immunization records
 - Immunizations
 - Birth certificates



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 37

Immediate Enrollment

- Enroll homeless unaccompanied students even if they have no legal guardian
- Enroll homeless students even if they have no proof of residency
- Homeless families/youth cannot be required to complete or sign a dual residency affidavit
- If either the school of origin or attendance zone school is capped, the cap must be lifted



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 38

School Selection Options

- School of Origin is defined as the school the student was attending when they became homeless, or the last school attended.
- Homeless students may remain in their school of origin for the duration of the school year, even if they become permanently housed – should be the default choice, or may enroll in their residency zoned school.
- Parents and students must be informed of their rights. School option information should be given when a student enrolls or when a student withdraws.



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 39

School Selection Options

Texas provides a third option* for students in homeless situations: a homeless family or youth may choose to attend any district in the state:

- The district chooses the campus
- Transportation is not mandated

*this is unique to Texas



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 40

Best Interest Determinations

“Best Interest” Determinations

In determining the school that is in a child or youth’s best interest to attend, LEAs must:

- Make a best interest determination, with a presumption that staying in the school of origin is in the child or youth’s best interest
 - unless it is against the wishes of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.
- Consider student-centered factors, including the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety.



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 41

Best Interest Determinations

“Best Interest” Determinations

Student-centered, case-by-case determinations include:

- age of the child or youth, school grade they are completing
- student’s need for special instruction (e.g., special education and related services)
- length of anticipated stay in the temporary location
- time remaining in the school year



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region 10 ESC



Slide 42

Best Interest Determinations

For more information on “Best Interest” Determinations:

- Use THEO School Selection Checklist:
- http://www.theotx.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Checklist_SchoolSelection_Provision_SchoolOrigin_AttendanceZone.pdf



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 43

Transportation



Transportation to and from the school of origin is mandated.

The law says the districts of origin and residency must arrange. If they cannot agree, the cost must be shared equally.

Comparable services – to those that non-homeless students receive



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 44

Services: Nutrition Programs

- Categorical eligibility for homeless, runaway, and migrant and foster children and youth
- Immediate qualification – remove delays to access
- Homeless documentation can be used to document eligibility
- Income documentation is not required if child/youth is homeless
- Duration of eligibility for the entire school year even if housing is secured or duration of homelessness – there is no end date for homeless qualification in the law – must be reviewed yearly on a case-by-case basis



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 45

THEO'S Role

- **Guidance to Texas' school districts/ESCs for compliance, and service provision**
- **Training to districts, ESCs, community service providers, and community**
- **Technical Assistance and complaints hotline**
- **Dispute resolution assistance**
- **Input on policy at the federal and state level**
- **Advocacy for students and families**



Education for Homeless Children and Youth
www.theotx.org



Region10 ESC



Slide 46

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN The Charles A. Dana Center



Texas Homeless Education Office

Home Resources News & Events About Contact
TEXSHEP Subgrantees Liaison Directory



**Higher Education Access and
FAFSA/Financial Aid**
Assistance for college-bound unaccompanied
homeless youth
[go!](#)

<http://www.theotx.org/>
800-446-3142 in Texas

 Education for Homeless Children and Youth |  |  Region 10 ESC | 

Slide 47

Thank You!

Contact Information

Ken Martin
Coordinator

Texas Homeless Education Office
The Charles A Dana Center
The University of Texas at Austin
3925 W. Braker Ln., Suite 3.801
Austin, Texas 78759

ken.martin@austin.utexas.edu
512-471-7145

 Education for Homeless Children and Youth |  |  Region 10 ESC | 

Slide 48

#	Questions asked during the webinar	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) and Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO) Staff Answers
1	For families that are in Rapid Rehousing Programs, are the districts required to provide transportation?	The district may be required to provide transportation, depending on the student's school of origin or if transportation is provided to non-homeless students. Please work with your Homeless Liaison to determine what services are required to be provided to the student.
2	If double up is homelessness why do we not count them on the PIT?	The point in time (PIT) count uses a definition of homelessness determined by HUD, and not the same definition that Homeless Liaisons use to identify homeless students.