



**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234**  
P-12 Education – Office of Accountability

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Office of ESSA-Funded Programs  
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To: District Superintendents  
Superintendents of LEAs  
Charter School Principals  
Title I Coordinators  
McKinney-Vento Liaisons  
Committee on Special Education (CSE) Chairs

From: Erica Meaker, Director   
Office of ESSA-Funded Programs

Date: September 21, 2021

Subject: Mandatory McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Training

Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act, as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), McKinney-Vento liaisons are required to participate in professional development so they can better identify and meet the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness (42 U.S.C. §§ 11432[f][6] & [g][6][A][ix]). **The New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) requires that the McKinney-Vento liaison from each local educational agency (LEA) attend at least one of the professional development sessions offered by the Department’s technical assistance center, NYS-TEACHS, by June 21, 2022 to comply with the federal training requirement.** While attendance at one session is required, we encourage liaisons to attend several sessions over the course of the school year to continually advance their knowledge and skills. NYS-TEACHS provides free trainings and webinars for school districts, social service providers, and other professionals about the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Information about NYS-TEACHS professional development sessions, which will be held remotely this fall, can be found at: <http://www.nysteachs.org/trainings/>.

McKinney-Vento liaisons are also responsible for ensuring that LEA personnel providing McKinney-Vento services (e.g., Superintendents, registrars, transportation directors, CSE chairs, school counselors, school social workers, principals, school attorneys, and Title I directors, teachers) receive professional development. Liaisons can do this by either providing the training to staff themselves or by ensuring that LEA staff participate in one of the trainings offered by NYS-TEACHS.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Melanie Faby at [melanie.faby@nysed.gov](mailto:melanie.faby@nysed.gov). You may also contact NYS-TEACHS at 1-800-388-2014, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thank you in advance for your support and participation.

c: A. Pressley  
M. Faby