

South Dakota Local School District Homeless Liaison

Title X, Part C, Subtitle B, Section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) requires each school district in South Dakota to designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a liaison for students in homeless situations.

- Under this statute liaisons must ensure that:
 - Children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
 - Students enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the schools of the district.
 - Families, children, and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start, and pre-school programs administered by the district, and referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services.
 - Parents or guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
 - Public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the Act.
 - Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the Enrollment Disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act.
 - Parents and guardians and unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, including to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation services.
- Liaisons must assist children and youth who do not have immunizations or immunization or medical records to obtain necessary immunizations or immunization or medical records.
- Liaisons must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youths' wishes, and provide youth with notice of their right to appeal an enrollment decision that is not their choice.
- Liaisons must ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that might arise over school enrollment or placement.
- Liaisons must collaborate and coordinate with the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to children and youth in homeless situations.
- State coordinators and Districts must inform school personnel, service providers, and advocates who work with families in homeless situations of the duties of the school district homeless liaison.