



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 28, 2024  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Superintendents, District Homeless Liaisons, District Registrars, Building Principals, Business Administrators, Directors of Special Education Services  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

## Important McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Updates

### McKinney-Vento Credentialling Course Registration

The federal McKinney-Vento (MKV) Act, as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), recommends that local education agency (LEA) personnel providing MKV services (e.g., district homeless liaisons (DHLs), superintendents, principals, school attorneys, registrars, transportation directors, school counselors, school social workers, Title I directors and teachers, etc.) participate in professional development to better meet the needs of children and youths experiencing homelessness (42 U.S.C. §§ 11432[f][6] & [g][6][A][ix]).

To assist LEAs, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) continues to offer the [McKinney-Vento District Homeless Liaison](#) training program at no cost to LEAs. These online webinars are self-paced, on-demand, and interactive learning opportunities. Participants learn about identification, enrollment, dispute resolution, transportation, and more under the MKV Act to help move students toward stability and success. Upon completion, participants earn a certificate which may count towards professional development hours.

Registration for the course is completed directly at [McKinney-Vento.org](#). Note:

- Register using your LEA email address; a personal email address is invalid;
- All LEA personnel must select "Homeless program coordinator" whether or not assigned to that role;
- Complete the instructions to establish your account; and
- Contact [support@mckinney-vento.org](mailto:support@mckinney-vento.org) directly if you have issues with the registration process.

### Ongoing Support for LEAs

The NJDOE will continue hosting Office Hours monthly for DHLs and other LEA personnel. We encourage you to join these one-hour sessions on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The sessions are optional, informal discussions providing attendees the opportunity to ask questions of the EHCY State and Regional team and to share best practices. [Click here to join the meeting](#) or call (908) 409-1022, Phone Conference ID: 472 618 87#.

### SY 2024/2025 NJDOE MKV Regional Grantee Directors

In addition to providing quarterly technical assistance to LEAs, Regional Grantees establish formal and informal memorandums of agreement with other service providers, including public and private child welfare and social services agencies, federally qualified health centers, domestic violence shelters, and childcare providers. The NJDOE encourages LEA personnel to collaborate with their respective County Regional Grantee to assist with the timely delivery of services to students experiencing homelessness.

Region	Regional Grantee Director	Email Contact
1. Bergen, Hunterdon, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Warren	Diahann De Ruggiero <i>Bergen County Special Services School District</i>	<a href="mailto:Diader@bergen.org">Diader@bergen.org</a>
2. Essex, Hudson, Morris, Union	Pheobie Thomas <i>Essex Regional Educational Services Commission</i>	<a href="mailto:p.thomas@eresc.com">p.thomas@eresc.com</a>
3. Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean	Alan Ferraro <i>Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission</i>	<a href="mailto:Aferraro@moesc.org">Aferraro@moesc.org</a>
4. Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem	Janette Perez <i>Gloucester County Special Services School District</i>	<a href="mailto:jperez@gcecnj.org">jperez@gcecnj.org</a>

### **Tuition and Transportation**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17-2.8(c)2, when a student's district of origin/residence is outside of New Jersey, the state of New Jersey assumes fiscal responsibility for the student and pays the school district in which the child is currently enrolled. For information regarding the process for tuition reimbursement for state responsible homeless students, please see the [Tuition Reimbursement for State Responsible Homeless Children and Youth Guidance](#).

### **NJSMArt Reporting Responsibilities**

It is important to note that if a student becomes homeless **at any time during the year**, the NJDOE's NJ Standards Measurement and Resource for Teaching (NJSMArt) system data fields must be completed. NJSMArt's homeless status is an indication of whether a student is or has been homeless at least one day during the school year. Students who meet the MKV definition should be coded as follows:

- Y1 = Yes, student was homeless at any time during the school year and has been in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian; or
- Y2 = Yes, student was homeless at any time during the school year and was NOT in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian (unaccompanied); or
- N = No, student was not homeless "Y1" or "Y2".

### **Contact information**

For additional information please contact the MKV EHCY Program Coordinator at [Mckinney.Vento@doe.nj.gov](mailto:Mckinney.Vento@doe.nj.gov).

- c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
NJ LEE Group  
Garden State Coalition of Schools