



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 23, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: District Homeless Liaisons, District Registrars, Building Principals, Business Administrators, Directors of Special Education Services
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

McKinney-Vento (Homeless) Statewide Case Management System

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is launching the statewide Homeless Case Management System (HCMS) as part of its Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) plan. The plan, approved by the United States Department of Education (USED), details how access to timely data on displaced students and their families improves the quality of life and the utilization of needed services.¹ The system is designed to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) in gathering, reporting, and analyzing high-quality data. By utilizing this data, District Homeless Liaisons (DHLs) can more effectively plan, target, and scale interventions tailored to meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness, ensuring that the state's most vulnerable youth receive the necessary services to support their education.

The HCMS will be rolled out in three phases:

- 1) October - the onboarding of NJDOE's Regional Grantees;
- 2) November – January - LEAs within the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC) region that volunteer to pilot the system; and
- 3) February onward - LEAs statewide.

In addition to providing technical assistance for the application, the State Coordinator and ERES's Director will work closely with LEAs during the rollout period. By November 1, 2024, LEAs within the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC) region (Essex, Hudson, Morris, and Union counties) are asked to complete this [form](#) to share their interest in participating in the pilot.

Thank you for your continued support in serving our displaced students and their families.

Contact information.

Please direct questions to the McKinney Vento Unit at McKinney.Vento@doe.nj.gov.

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

¹ Ponka D, Agbata E, Kendall C, Stergiopoulos V, Mendonca O, Magwood O, et al. (2020) The effectiveness of case management interventions for the homeless, vulnerably housed and persons with lived experience: A systematic review. PLoS ONE 15(4): e0230896. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230896>.