

Appendix M: Homeless Education Webpage Development



In the electronic age, the Internet provides a simple, cost-effective way to share valuable information and resources with a broad audience. Use the webpage development form contained in this appendix as a starting point for creating your own homeless education webpage. Also, visit http://www.serve.org/nche/states/state_resources.php and click on your state to see what information is available from your state's Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program that may be useful to include on your school's district's homeless education program website. Additionally, please feel free to browse the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) website at <http://www.serve.org/nche> and link to NCHE resources from your website.

Appendix M contains:

- Homeless Education Webpage Development Form

Additional Resources

■ Sample School District Local Homeless Education Program Websites:

- Central Valley School District (Spokane Valley, WA); visit http://www.cvsd.org/homeless_education_program.asp.
- Madison Metropolitan School District (Madison, WI); visit <http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/hep/>.
- Minneapolis Public Schools (Minneapolis, MN); visit http://sss.mpls.k12.mn.us/Homeless_Highly_Mobile.html.
- Salem-Keizer Public Schools (Salem, OR); visit <http://comped.salkeiz.k12.or.us/homeless/homeless.htm>.
- School District of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA); visit <http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/s/oss/programs--services/homeless-initiative>.



Webpage Development Form

Basic Webpage

When creating a webpage for your school district's homeless education program, collaborate with the district's webmaster. Ask the webmaster if he/she prefers to receive the webpage content you'd like added/changed in electronic format or as a hard copy. Discuss ideas for making the webpage/ website informative, visually appealing, and user-friendly. The items listed below are only the minimum that should be included in a homeless education program's website. You may choose to add other information based on local needs and resources.

Suggested Items to Include

Banner message for the top of the page: Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Have the Right to a Free, Appropriate Public Education

School district name: _____

Name of the local homeless education liaison: _____

Local liaison's telephone number: _____

Local liaison's e-mail address: _____

Name of the state coordinator for homeless education: _____

State coordinator's telephone number: _____

State coordinator's e-mail address: _____

Web address of the state homeless education website: _____

Copies of school district policies and procedures regarding the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness

Tips for administrators on working with homeless children and youth and their parents (see Appendix L)

Tips for teachers on working with homeless children and youth (see Appendix L)



Webpage Development Form (cont.)

Links to other helpful websites; suggestions include:

- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEH CY): <http://www.naehcy.org>
- National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE): <http://www.serve.org/nche>
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP): <http://www.nlchp.org>
- U.S. Department of Education, Education for Homeless Children and Youths (EHCY) Program: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/index.html>

Common Questions and Answers

Q. Who is homeless?

A. Anyone who, due to a lack of housing, lives:

- In a shelter
- In a motel
- In a vehicle
- In a campground
- On the street
- Doubled-up with relatives or friends due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason

A useful link you may want to include for more information is NCHE's *Determining Eligibility for Services Under McKinney-Vento* webpage at http://www.serve.org/nche/ibt/sc_eligibility.php.

Q. Where can homeless children and youth attend school?

A. Homeless children and youth can choose to attend either of the following:

- The school of origin: the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled
- The local attendance area school: any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend



Webpage Development Form (cont.)

A useful link you may want to include for more information is NCHE's School Selection: Choosing Between the School of Origin and the Local School webpage at http://www.serve.org/nche/ibt/sc_sch_select.php.

Q. Can students experiencing homelessness be denied enrollment for lacking paperwork that is normally required for enrollment?

A. No. Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to immediate enrollment, even if lacking paperwork normally required for enrollment, such as:

- Birth certificate
- Immunization or other health/medical records
- Previous academic records
- Proof of residence
- Proof of guardianship

Enrollment tip: In instances where paperwork is lacking, the following strategies may be used:

- Birth certificate: The school district can assist in getting a copy of the student's birth certificate or accept a signed Affidavit for Missing Enrollment Documentation (see Appendix D).
- Immunization and/or other health/medical records: The school district can assist in getting copies of the student's records and/or assist in getting any needed immunizations.
- Previous academic records: The school district can contact the student's previous school/district and arrange for the immediate transfer of the student's records.
- Proof of guardianship: The school district can accept a signed Caregiver Authorization Form (see Appendix D).
- Proof of residency: The school district can accept a signed affidavit stating that the family is staying in temporary accommodations.

According to federal law, while enrollment documentation is being gathered, the homeless student's enrollment and full participation in school must continue uninterrupted.

For additional information on homeless education and for resources to link to on your website, visit the National Center for Homeless Education website at <http://www.serve.org/nche>.

