



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 1, 2025
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

Important McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Updates

McKinney-Vento Credentialing Course Registration

The federal McKinney-Vento (MKV) Act, as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), recommends that local educational 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 in providing professional development, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) continues to offer the [McKinney-Vento District Homeless Liaison](#) training program at no cost. This online webinar is self-paced, on-demand, and interactive. Participants will 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 that counts towards professional development hours.

Registration for the course is completed directly at [McKinney-Vento.org](https://mckinney-vento.org). Follow these steps:

- Visit the link above and select the appropriate region.
- Next, select your LEA. All DHLs must select the “District Liaison” role.
- Complete and submit the liaison registration information.
- Contact support@mckinney-vento.org directly if a liaison’s district is not on the list or if there are issues with the registration process.

Ongoing Support for LEAs

The NJDOE will continue hosting monthly office hours for DHLs and other LEA personnel. We encourage you to attend these one-hour sessions on the 4th Thursday of every month from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The sessions are optional, informal discussions that provide attendees with the opportunity to ask questions of the EHCY State and Regional teams, and share best practices. [Click here to join the meeting](#) or call (908) 409-1022, Phone Conference ID: 572 510 421#.

Interactive Homeless Count Map Now Live

The [NJDOE’s MKV website](#) has been updated to include an interactive New Jersey state map of the number of identified students experiencing homelessness for the 2021 through 2024 school

years. The interactive feature allows users to explore homelessness data by hovering over different counties and toggling between school years.

SY 2025/2026 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 LEAs 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
Bergen, Hunterdon, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Warren	Diahann De Ruggiero <i>Bergen County Special Services School District</i>	Diader@bergen.org
Essex, Hudson, Morris, Union	Pheobie Thomas <i>Essex Regional Educational Services Commission</i>	p.thomas@eresc.com
Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean	Alan Ferraro <i>Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission</i>	Aferraro@moesc.org
Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem	Janette Perez <i>Gloucester County Special Services School District</i>	jperez@gcecnj.org

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](#). Email SRHT@doe.nj.gov with questions on this topic.

Contact Information

For additional information, please contact the MKV EHCY Program Coordinator at 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