



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 19, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: District Homeless Liaisons, District Registrars, Building Principals, Business Administrators, Directors of Special Education Services
From: Kimberly A. Murray, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

District-level Supports for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to share updates and resources to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in implementing the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program during the 2026-2027 school year. These updates include information about the statewide Homeless Case Management System, ongoing technical assistance opportunities, and regional support available to district homeless liaisons (DHLs). Together, these resources are intended to strengthen local capacity, improve coordination of services, and support educational stability for students experiencing homelessness.

Statewide Homeless Case Management System

In Spring 2026, the NJDOE launched the statewide Homeless Case Management System (HCMS) as part of its [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) State Plan](#). The HCMS is designed to help DHLs securely document and monitor the identification, enrollment, and services provided to students experiencing homelessness. By providing access to timely and accurate information, the system supports improved coordination of services, helps identify emerging needs and trends, and enables LEAs to better assess and respond to the needs of students and families experiencing homelessness.

While LEAs are not required to use the HCMS, they are required to collect and maintain data on students experiencing homelessness and the services provided to them. The NJDOE highly recommends that DHLs use the system to meet these requirements, as the system provides a secure and efficient way to document, manage, and analyze student information, support required reporting, and inform local decision-making. The deadline for entering student data for the 2026-2027 school year is November 1, 2026.

Ongoing Support for Local Educational Agencies

The NJDOE will continue to host monthly office hours for DHLs and other LEA personnel. We encourage you to join 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 Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) state and

regional teams and share best practices. Click [here to join the meeting](#) or call (908) 409-1022, Phone Conference ID: 289 434 899#.

SY 2026-2027 NJDOE MKV Regional Grantee Directors

Regional grantees are key partners in supporting LEAs with the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. In addition to providing technical assistance, regional grantees assist LEAs with identifying and supporting students experiencing homelessness, resolving enrollment and school selection challenges, strengthening local policies and procedures, and sharing strategies to improve educational access and stability.

Regional grantees also coordinate with community partners and service providers, including public and private child welfare agencies, social services organizations, federally qualified health centers, domestic violence shelters, housing agencies, food assistance programs, and childcare providers. Through these partnerships, regional grantees help connect LEAs and families with available resources and services that support students' educational success and overall well-being.

The NJDOE encourages LEAs to work closely with their regional grantee to access available resources, receive individualized support, and strengthen local efforts to serve students and families 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

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring students experiencing homelessness and their families have access to educational opportunities, school stability, and supports needed to succeed.

Contact information

For additional information, please contact the EHCY Program Coordinator at McKinney.Vento@doe.nj.gov.