

# Collaborating with Local Homeless Liaisons


An Overview of the McKinney-Vento Act and  
Collaborations With NC Balance of State Continuum of Care Regional Committees

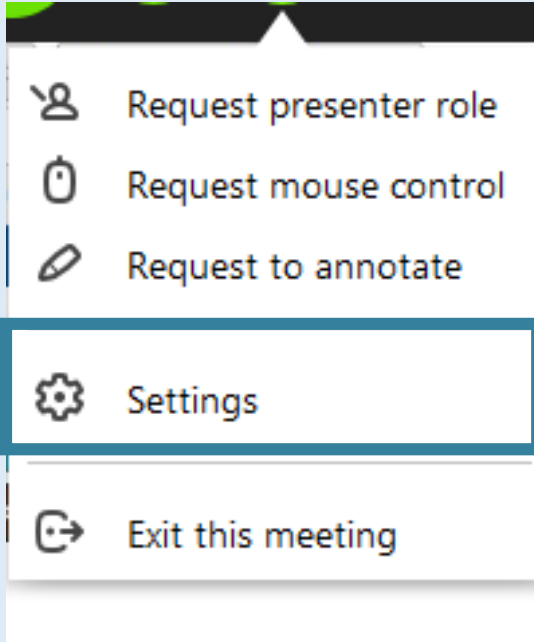
## North Carolina Homeless Education Program

Presenter: Patricia Lentz

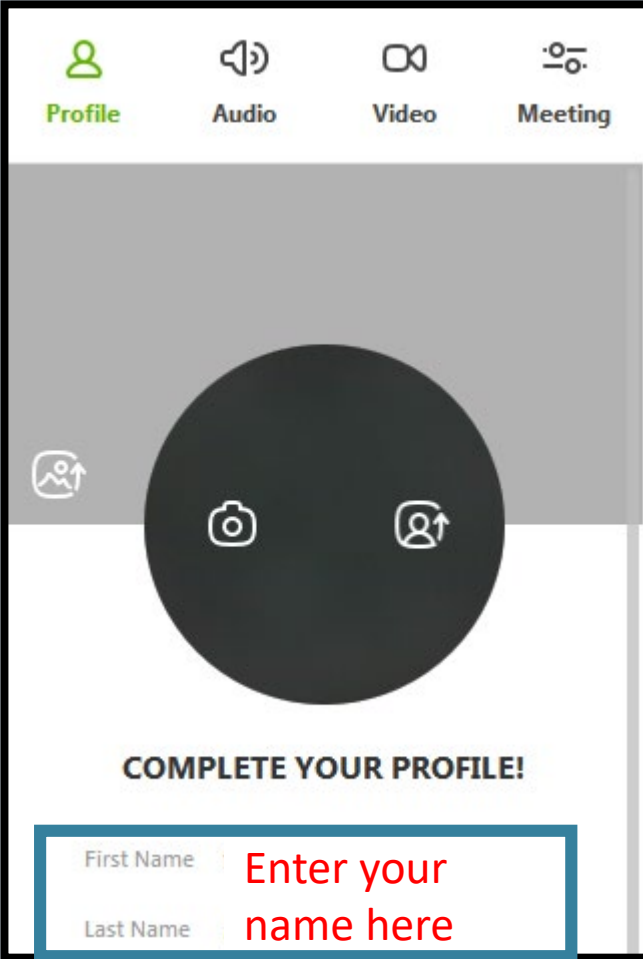
September 25, 2018

# Enter your name so we know who's here

1 Click this icon 

2 

→

3 

# Welcome

- \*6 to mute/unmute line
  - Please do not put us on hold
  - The chat box is available



This box is located in the top, center of your screen

- We are recording today's webinar

# Collaborating with Local Homeless Liaisons

An Overview of the McKinney-Vento Act and  
Collaborations With NC Balance of State Continuum of Care Regional Committees

## North Carolina Homeless Education Program

Presenter: Patricia Lentz

September 25, 2018

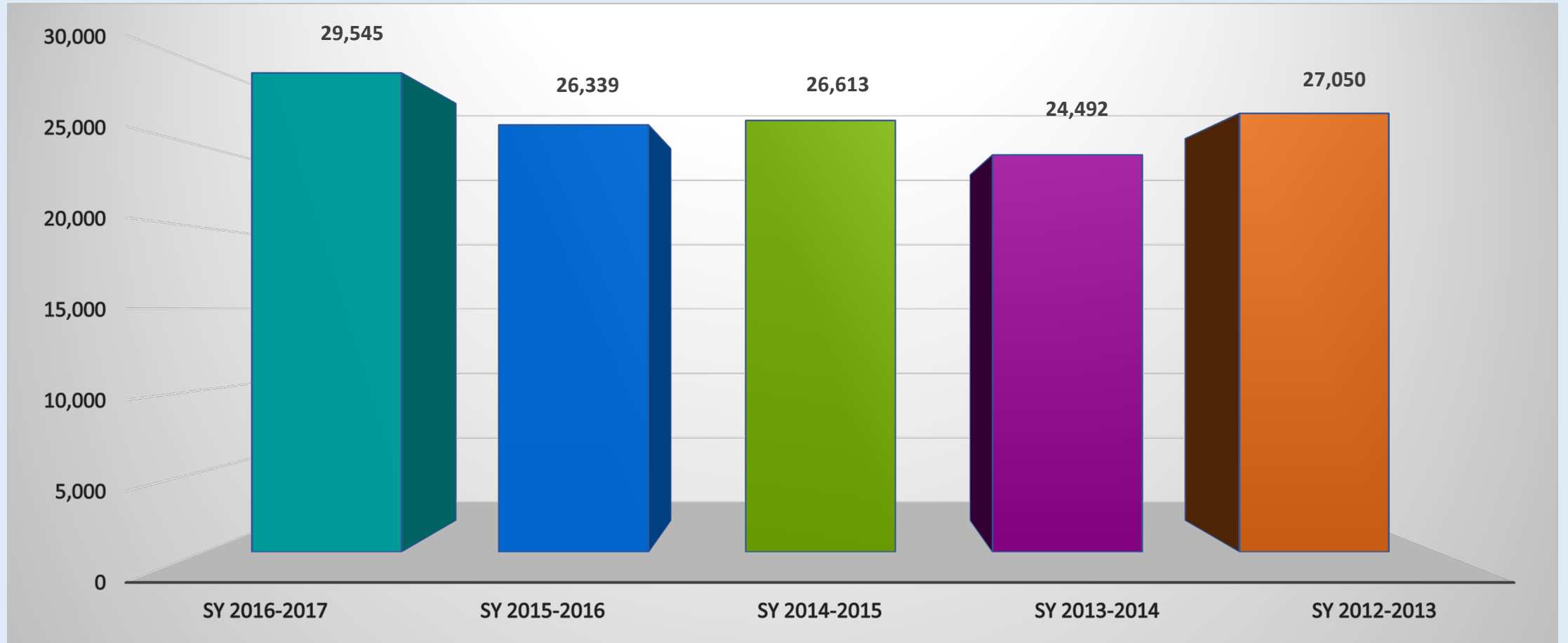
# NC Homeless Education Program (NCHEP)

- NCHEP ensures that all children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to the public education to which they are entitled to under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.
- NCHEP ensures that North Carolina's state policies are in compliance with federal law.
- NCHEP oversees all programmatic aspects of the state homeless education program while the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) oversees the fiscal components of the program.
- NCHEP reports to NCDPI and is part of the Federal Program and Monitoring Support Division.

# NCHEP Main Responsibilities

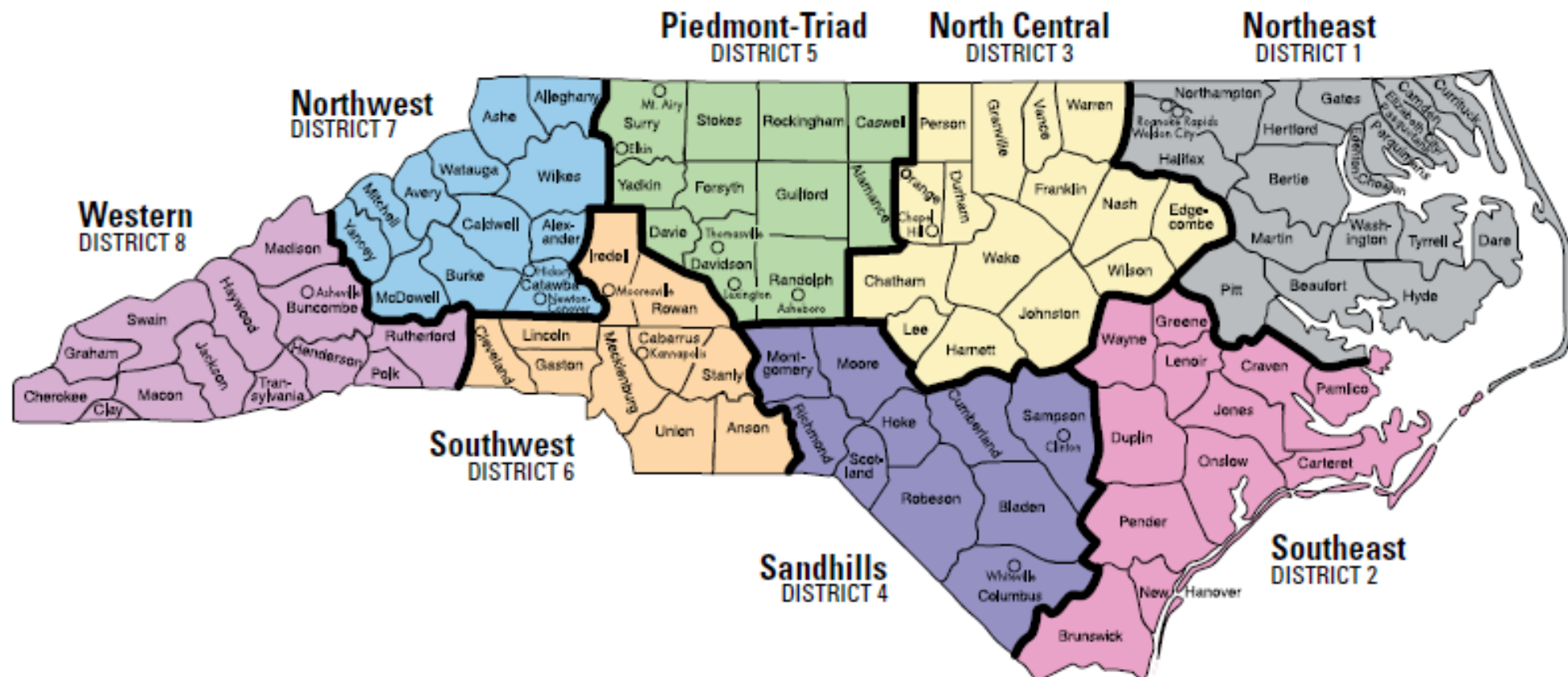
- Provide technical assistance to local education agencies (LEAs) and charter schools on homeless education
- Monitor all LEA and charter school homeless education programs for compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act
- Host compliance meetings and trainings for homeless liaisons and other school personnel
- Handle disputes on enrollment and services provided to homeless students
- Collaborate on activities for compliance with the Regional Title I Administrators

# NC McKinney-Vento Student Counts



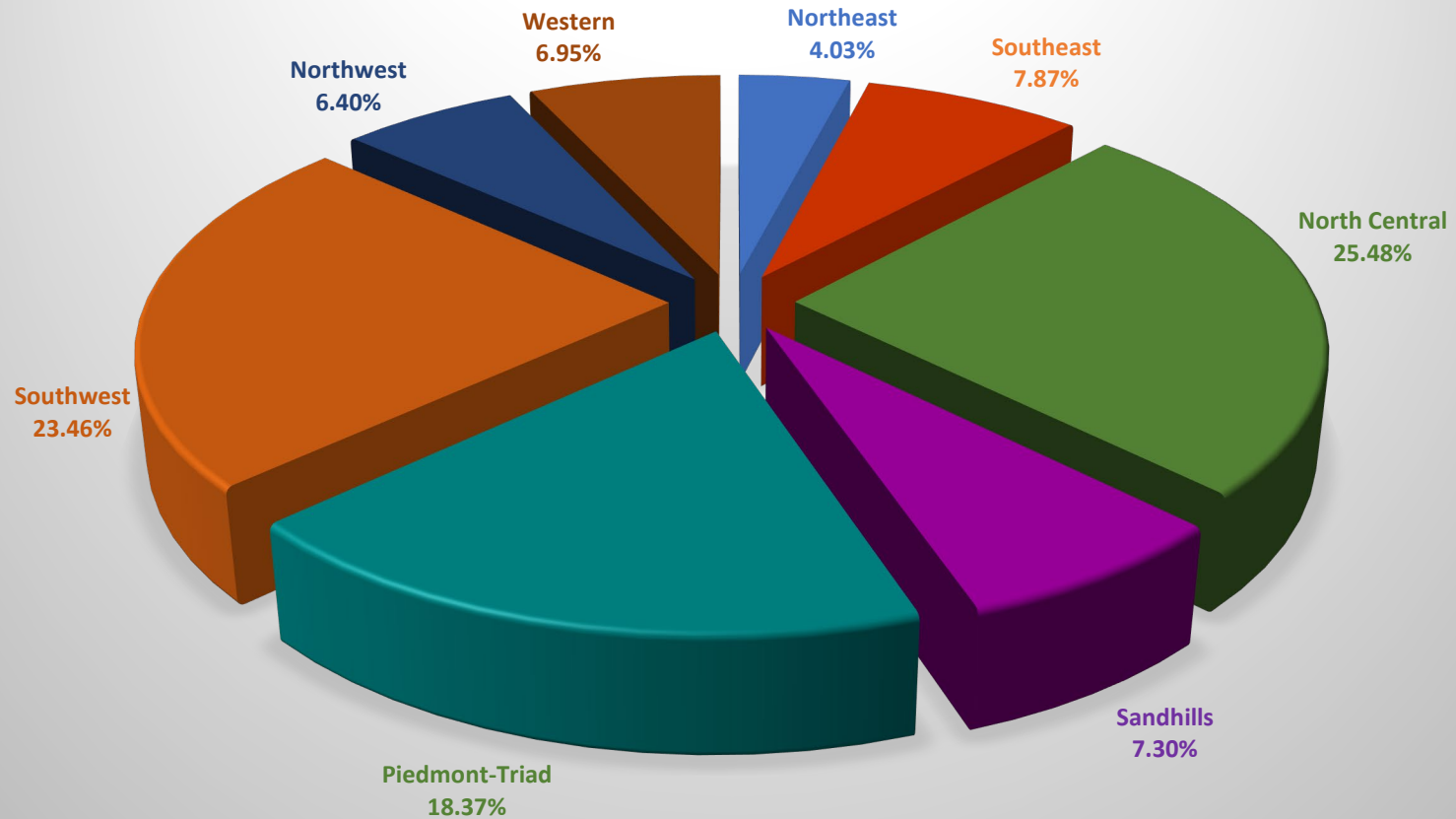
**Unduplicated Counts**

# North Carolina State Board of Education Districts



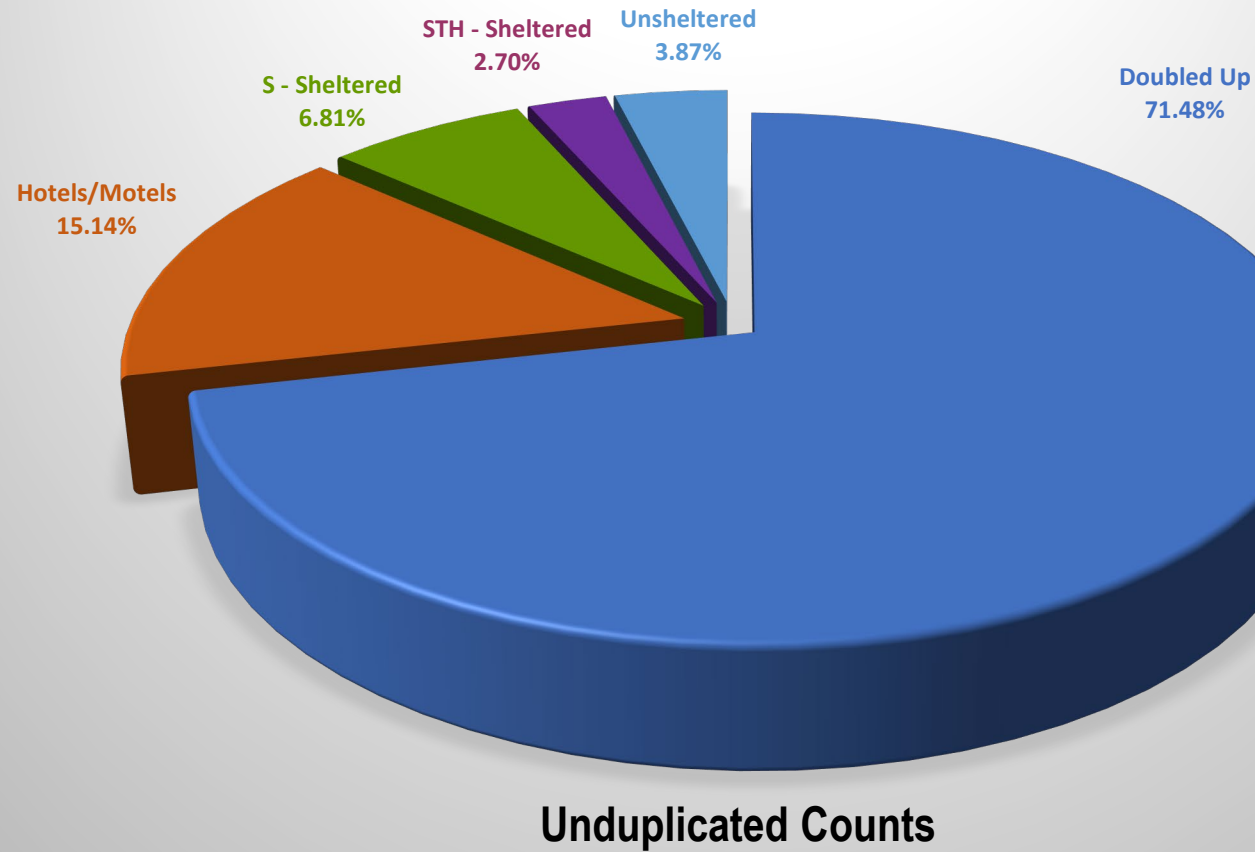


# NC Prosperity Zones: 2016-2017SY



Unduplicated Counts

# NC Primary Nighttime Residency: 2016-2017SY



# Federal Law

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law designed to increase the school enrollment, attendance, and success of children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.



# Brief History of the McKinney-Vento Act

<b>1987</b>	<b>The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is signed into law, requiring states to review and revise residency requirements for the enrollment of homeless children and youth.</b>
<b>1990</b>	The McKinney Act is amended, requiring states to eliminate all enrollment barriers, and provide school access and support for academic success for students experiencing homelessness; McKinney funds may now be used to provide direct educational services for eligible students.
<b>1994</b>	The education portion of the McKinney Act is included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), adding preschool services, greater parental input, and emphasis on interagency collaboration.
<b>2002</b>	The Act is reauthorized as the McKinney-Vento Act (Title X, Part C of ESEA), strengthening legislative requirements and requiring all school districts to appoint a local liaison to ensure the law is implemented effectively at the local level.
<b>2015</b>	Reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Works hand-in-hand with Title IA and other federal education programs. \$85 million authorized funding to SEAs. Largest percentage increase of all federal education programs. Program implementation October 1, 2016.

# McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

## Main themes of the Act:

- Identification
- School access / enrollment
- School stability
- Support for academic success
- Child-centered, best interest decision making
- Subgrant requirements
- Role of the local homeless liaison

## Resource:

US Dept of Education's "Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)" web page:

[http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term)

# Definition of Homelessness

**Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.**

- ✓ ***Fixed residence:*** is one that is stationary, permanent and not subject to change.
- ✓ ***Regular residence:*** is one that is used on a regular basis (i.e. nightly)
- ✓ ***Adequate residence:*** is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

*If a living situation does not meet all 3 (fixed, regular and adequate) then the situation is considered homeless.*

*Decisions should be made on a case-by-case determination.*

# Definition continued...

Sharing a home due to loss of housing\*

Sharing a home due to economic hardship\*

Living in motels/hotels\*

Living in trailer parks\*

Living in a shelter

Abandoned in hospitals

Living in substandard housing\*

Unaccompanied homeless youth\*

Living in cars

Living in parks

Living in camp grounds\*

Living in abandoned buildings

Living under bridges

Living at bus/train stations

Migratory children\*

\*Not included in the HUD definition of "homeless."

# Key Rights of Homeless Students

- Receive a free, appropriate public education
- Immediate enrollment
- Remain in the school of origin, if in the student's best interest
- Receive transportation assistance, when requested
- Receive appropriate educational services comparable to other students
- Free school meals



# Homeless Liaison Responsibilities

- **Identification**
- **Enrollment**
- **Access to Services**
- **Referrals**
- **Parental Information**
- **Public Notice**
- **Disputes**
- **Transportation Services**
- **Professional Development**
- **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**
- **Collaboration**

# Regional Committee: Tips for Collaboration

- Learn about the education portion of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Share information and data on housing programs to increase awareness of challenges and highlight opportunities to address gaps in services through collaboration with local homeless liaisons.
- Become familiar with the educational challenges homeless children and youth face and the educational rights and services provided through the McKinney-Vento Act.
  - What ways can your Regional Committee support this student population?

# Regional Committee: Tips for Collaboration

- Invite local liaisons to Regional Committee meetings and institute a recurring agenda item focused on education; perhaps adding an education subcommittee.
- Develop a protocol for case managers and local liaisons to evaluate the best interest of the child in terms of making housing placements which foster academic success. Strategies may include:
  - Work with the local liaison to find out more about the individual student's needed educational services.
  - Place the student and family in housing which allows continuation in the school of origin, as much as possible.

# Regional Committee: Tips for Collaboration

- Consider academic programs offered by schools when evaluating housing options for students.
- Consider multiple factors when evaluating housing placements, such as:
  - How connected is the student to his/her current school?
  - What services are in place to address the student's needs at the current school?
  - What school of attendance would serve the student best?

# Local Liaisons: Tips for Collaboration

- Learn about the housing portion of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Share information and data on educating homeless students to increase awareness of challenges and highlight opportunities to address needs through collaboration with housing programs.
- When participating in Regional Committees and other housing programs, explain issues relating to the educational needs of homeless children and youth and inquire about how homeless children, youth and families can be better connected to services.

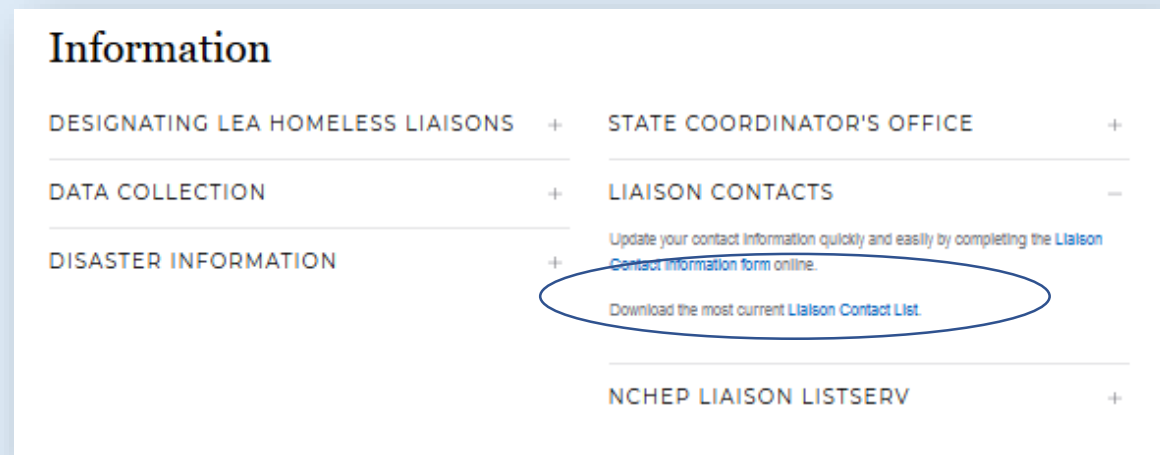
# Local Liaisons: Tips for Collaboration

- Ask the Regional Committee and its members to assist with services that the school cannot provide and in turn reciprocate by offering to provide services to Regional Committee clients.
- Become familiar with housing challenges and requirements for HUD programs and identify ways to streamline referrals to housing programs.
- Learn more about the particular housing services available within the local community.

# Getting Started!

## 1. Get in touch

- NCHPEP website: <https://hepnc.uncg.edu/>
  - Paultett Wall, Program Specialist – [pwall@serve.org](mailto:pwall@serve.org)
  - Patricia Lentz, Program Specialist – [plentz@serve.org](mailto:plentz@serve.org)
  - Lisa Phillips, State Coordinator – [lphillip@serve.org](mailto:lphillip@serve.org)
- NC Homeless Liaison Contact Link: <https://hepnc.uncg.edu/local-liaisons/>
  - Scroll to Liaison Contacts
  - Click on Liaison Contact List



# Getting Started!

## 2. Meet regularly to exchange information

### Local liaisons should:

- Participate in Regional Committee meetings
- Share data on the students they serve (aggregate information)
- Be included in community needs assessments and Point-in-Time counts
- Work with the NC BoS CoC and Regional Committees to develop shelter, housing, and other services for families and youth.

### NC BoS CoC stakeholders should:

- Work regularly with local liaisons to ensure all eligible clients are referred for eligibility consideration
- Ensure that their client's education needs are being met
- Form a child/youth subcommittee, where education and early care issues are considered



# Getting Started!

## 3. Inform parents and youth about available services

Local liaisons should:

- Inform parents and youth of housing and other services provided through housing agencies.
- Have contact information and brochures available to facilitate referrals to housing agencies for additional information.

Homeless service providers should:

- Place educational rights posters in all of their facilities. \*
- Incorporate information about the HEARTH Act's education assurances into standard intake process.
- Host informational sessions about the HEARTH Act's education assurances for staff and clients.

\*NC education rights posters are available free of charge from NCHPEP:

<https://hepnc.uncg.edu/resources/order-form/>

# Getting Started!

## 4. **Develop memoranda of understanding (MOUs)**

Establish protocols for student identification, service referrals, and data or information sharing. Include the following in your MOU:

- Mutually-accepted expectations
- Protocols
- Parameters
- Best practices for achieving the shared goals of Continuums of Care and school districts
- And other points that you decide on

# The Goal

Even though Continuums of Care and local education agencies have differing definitions of homelessness, the overall goal is the same:

To provide pathways out of homelessness!



# NC Homeless Education Program Service Map

Lisa Phillips, State Coordinator – [lphillip@serve.org](mailto:lphillip@serve.org)

NC Department of Public Instruction

Office of the Deputy State Superintendent of Innovation

Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division

Website: <https://hepnc.uncg.edu/> or <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/program-monitoring/homeless/>

Patricia Lentz

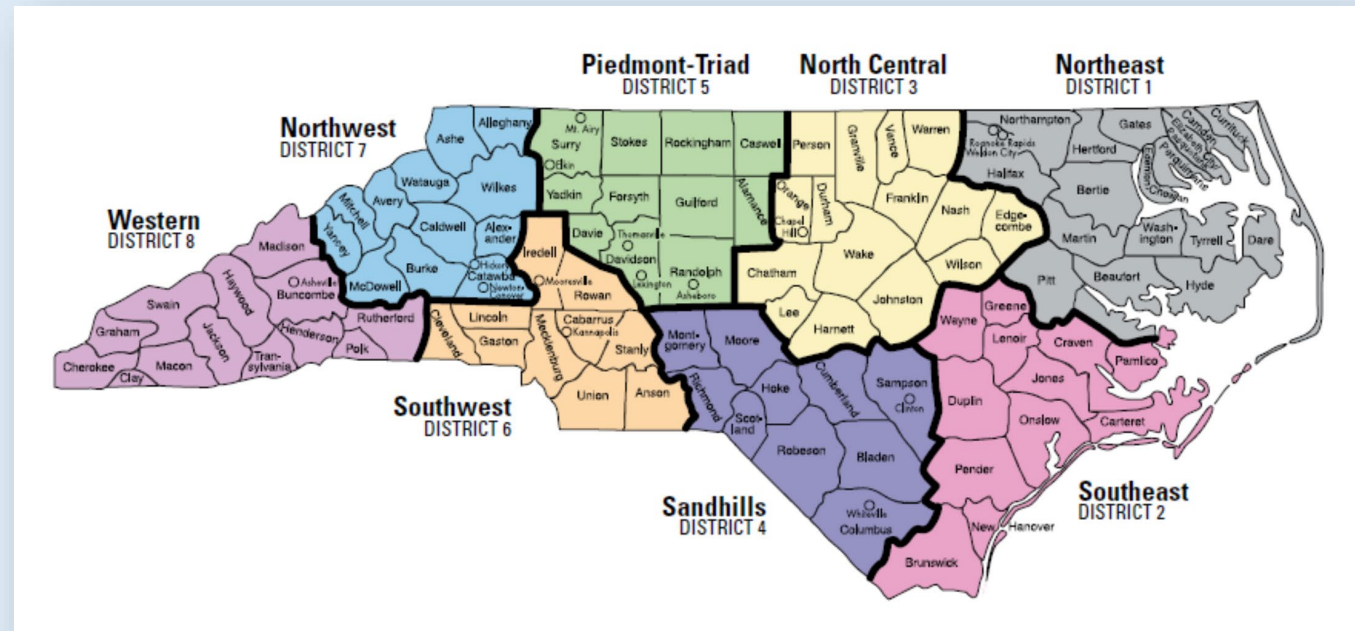
[plentz@serve.org](mailto:plentz@serve.org)

Piedmont-Triad

Northwest

Southwest

Western



Paullett Wall

[pwall@serve.org](mailto:pwall@serve.org)

Northeast

Southeast

North Central

Sandhills

# National Resources

## National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)

Website: <https://nche.ed.gov/>

Related Issue Briefs: <https://nche.ed.gov/pr/briefs.php>

- *Local Homeless Liaisons: Understanding Their Role*
- *Housing and Education Collaborations to Serve Homeless Children, Youth and Families*
- *Coordinated Entry Processes: Building Mutual Engagement between Schools and Continuums of Care*

# National Resources

## SchoolHouse Connection (SHC)

Website: <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/>

Common Questions:

<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/common-questions/>

New Resources: <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/news-and-updates/new-resources/>

# US Dept. of Education Resources

## US Department of Education – Every Student Succeeds Act

ESSA Webpage:

[https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term)

McKinney-Vento Non-Regulatory Guidance:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160240ehcyguidance072716updated0317.pdf>

Section L. Coordinated Services

# Save the Date – Upcoming Webinars!

**October 22, 2018**

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Early Education Resources for Children Experiencing Homelessness

**November 20, 2018**

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Accessing Home Visiting, WIC, and more for  
Children Experiencing Homelessness

*Both webinars will be co-hosted by staff from NCHPEP, NC BoS CoC, NC CCR&R as well as staff from SchoolHouse Connection.*





# Wrap Up

## **Balance of State CoC Team**

NC Coalition to End Homelessness  
(919) 755-4393

[www.ncceh.org/bos](http://www.ncceh.org/bos)

[bos@ncceh.org](mailto:bos@ncceh.org)

NCCEH staffs the NC Balance of State  
Continuum of Care

## **Patricia Lentz, Program Specialist**

NC Homeless Education Program  
Federal Program Monitoring and Support

Services Division with NCDPI

The SERVE Center at UNCG

(336) 315-7402

[plentz@serve.org](mailto:plentz@serve.org)

Websites: <https://hepnc.uncg.edu/> and  
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/program-monitoring/homeless/>