

September 9, 2013

Dear District and School Staff:

I hope the beginning of the 2013-14 school year has been wonderful for you. As many of you are aware, the McKinney-Vento Act for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth requires school districts to designate a local homeless liaison to carry out the duties described in Act and to inform school personnel of these duties. Our district's homeless liaison and contact information is below:

Rhonda Brooks
850-838-2530
Rhonda.brooks@taylor.k12.fl.us
1600 East Green Street
Perry, Florida 32347

The duties of the liaison include ensuring that —

- (i) homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- (ii) homeless children and youths enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools of that district;
- (iii) homeless families, children, and youths receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including Head Start and Even Start programs and preschool programs administered by the local educational agency, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services;
- (iv) the parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
- (v) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated where such children and youths receive services under this Act, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;
- (vi) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act; and
- (vii) the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin (the school the student attended when he became homeless or last school attended) and is assisted in accessing transportation to the selected school.

Last year, our district identified 88 homeless students, mostly through the efforts of school staff. We encourage you to visit the Homeless Education Program website for further information. Also, the liaison will be following up with you in the near future and providing technical assistance and training this

year for school staff. The liaison will also provide you with brochures and posters of the public notice of the educational rights of homeless students. These should be displayed in areas at your school where families and students may frequent such as the registrar's office, main office, etc.

If you need further information, please contact Ms. Brooks.

Sincerely,
Sharon Hathcock
Director of Instruction