

# ***Lakeland School Corporation***

0825 E 075 N  
LaGrange, IN 46761



## ***McKinney-Vento District Plan Including Youth in Foster Care***

***2024-2025***

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## **SECTION 1: OVERVIEW/GENERAL INFORMATION:**

### **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:**

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) (McKinney-Vento Act). The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently reauthorized in December 10th, 2015 by title IX, Part A, of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The McKinney-Vento Act is designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youths have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, State educational agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youths. Homeless children and youths must have access to the educational and related services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. SEAs and local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths.

**Definition of Homeless (McKinney-Vento Act Sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C 11435(2)):** Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:

- ✓ "Double up" - Sharing the housing of others due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.
- ✓ Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
- ✓ Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- ✓ Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live.
- ✓ Migratory children living in above circumstances
- ✓ Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- ✓ Unaccompanied Youth - Children or youth who meets the definition of homeless and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

### **Residency and Educational Rights:**

Students who are in temporary, inadequate and homeless living situations have the following rights in **Lakeland School Corporation:**

- ✓ Immediate enrollment in the school they last attended or the school in whose attendance area they are currently staying even if they do not have all of the documents normally required at the time of enrollment;
- ✓ Access to free meals and textbooks, Title I and other educational programs and other comparable services including transportation;

- ✓ Attendance in the same classes and activities that students in other living situations also participate in without fear of being separated or treated differently due to their housing situations.

### **Procedures for the Dissemination of Educational Rights:**

All schools within the **Lakeland School Corporation** shall ensure that public notice of the educational rights of students and families in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act. Posters in both English and Spanish will be posted in all school buildings, local shelters, local hotels, the local post office building, city hall, local library, and local food banks.

### **Youth In Foster Care:**

While Youth in Foster Care do not necessarily fall under the McKinney Vento program it is important that they are treated with compassion and respect. **Lakeland School Corporation** will make every effort to meet the needs of both the child in care and the caregivers needs.

Determination of appropriate school enrollment will be a joint effort between the school corporations involved and the Department of Children's Services.

## **SECTION 2: IDENTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **Title 1 Services and Funding:**

In **Lakeland School Corporation**, all children and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento services are automatically eligible for Title I, Part A services, whether or not they attend a Title I, Part A school or meet the academic standards required of other students for eligibility (Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Sec. 1115(b)(2)(E); 20 U.S.C. 6315(b)(2)(E)). This automatic eligibility acknowledges that the experience of homelessness puts children and youth at significant risk of academic failure, regardless of their previous academic standing. Additionally, all City School children and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento services who are doing well academically are entitled to receive additional non-instructional education related support services needed to succeed in school.

### **School Selection:**

**Lakeland School Corporation** will keep students in homeless situations in their school of origin defined as the school attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled, unless it is against the parent or guardian's wishes or unless it is determined to be in the student's best educational interest. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to remain in their school of origin for the entire duration in which they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services may also choose to enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.

### **Procedures to Identify and Verify Eligibility of McKinney-Vento Students:**

All local agencies have the potential to identify families in need as do community members and school staff. Students and/or families identified as being potentially eligible will be given the **Lakeland School Corporation** McKinney-Vento Residency Questionnaire and Form (Appendix A). This **Lakeland School Corporation** McKinney-Vento Residency Questionnaire and Form will be utilized to determine if the student is facing a homeless situation. Follow-up contact to verify the information provided on the **Lakeland School Corporation** McKinney-Vento Residency Questionnaire and Form will be conducted within 5 days of the completion of online enrollment by either the district or a building level McKinney-Vento liaison.

### **Protocol:**

Registrars will always get notification when the on-line form is completed (regardless of the answers to the questions) so they can review, and approve or reject.

In addition to the above:

When the question "Do you have a stable home address?" is answered with "No":

- District M-V Liaison will receive an email notification for all grade levels
- Lakeland Primary Liaison will receive an email notification if the student is in grades K-2
- Lakeland Intermediate Liaison will receive an email notification if the student is in grades 3-6
- Lakeland Jr/Sr High Liaison will receive an email notification if the student is in grades 7-12.

The building liaison will reach out to the family or the unaccompanied youth to determine whether their situation qualifies for McKinney Vento. The building liaison will provide local resources that are applicable to the living situation. The building liaison will certify the online form and then the district liaison will approve the form. After approval the information will be shared with Food Services and Transportation.

### **SECTION 3: SERVICES AND STANDARDS**

#### **Transportation:**

Each **Lakeland School Corporation** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including transportation services.

**Lakeland School Corporation** will provide students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services with transportation to and from their school of origin, at a parent or guardian's request. For unaccompanied youth, **Lakeland School Corporation** will provide transportation to and from the school of origin at the request of the District McKinney-Vento Liaison. If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same district, **Lakeland School Corporation** will provide and/or arrange transportation to and from school. If the student is living outside of the **Lakeland School Corporation**, **Lakeland School Corporation** will assume responsibility and coordinate providing transportation to and from school with the student's residential district.

Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive these transportation services for the entire duration in which they are homeless.

*\*\*\*"School of Origin" is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.\*\*\**

#### **Transportation for Youth in Foster Care:**

The Superintendent or designee will be in contact with the DCS Liaison regarding any student in Foster Care. Together they will determine if it is in the student's best interest to attend **Lakeland School Corporation**. Any travel time that is above the normal travel time for **Lakeland School Corporation** routes will be deemed not in the best interest of the student by Lakeland School Corporation. (ie, Bus routes are approximately 1 hour. If travel to school is over 1 hour that would not be in the student's best interest.) Transportation will be determined within a week of notification of the students' placement.

Any youth in Foster Care within **Lakeland School Corporation** is welcome to enroll in Lakeland Schools if that is what is deemed to be in their best interest. If enrolled within **Lakeland School Corporation** the transportation would be comparable to any Lakeland Student. Pick up at foster homes by non-CDL (mini-van or T-bus) or CDL (yellow bus) based upon individual needs.

If a **Lakeland School Corporation** is in Foster Care outside of **Lakeland School Corporation** and it is determined to be in their best interests to continue attending **Lakeland School Corporation** the

Transportation Director will work with school corporation where Foster Care is located to arrange transportation through the use of non-CDL vehicles (mini-van, T-bus) or CDL transportation (yellow bus) as most efficient and cost effective.

**Lakeland School Corporation** will work with neighboring corporations to provide transportation assistance for non-Lakeland students living in Foster Care within **Lakeland School Corporation** boundaries. Any expenses, over and above normal operating costs, for such transportation will be negotiated with the receiving corporation

#### **Food Services:**

Each **Lakeland School Corporation** school's child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including school nutrition programs. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch as offered by each school for the entire duration in which they are homeless.

#### **Textbooks and Technology:**

Each **Lakeland School Corporation** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including access to instructional materials, assessments, and technology. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive free textbooks and technology fees as offered by each school for the entire duration in which they are homeless.

#### **Academic Services & Standards:**

Each **Lakeland School Corporation** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento or Foster care situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including educational services for which the child or youth meet the eligibility criteria (Title I services, pre- school, educational programs for children with disabilities or for students with limited English proficiency), programs in vocational and technical education, and programs for gifted and talented students as available.

## **SECTION 4: ENROLLMENT**

#### **Enrollment Procedures:**

Any child or youth who claims to be homeless will be immediately enrolled in **Lakeland School Corporation** even if they do not have required documents such as:

- ✓ school records
- ✓ medical records
- ✓ proof of residency
- ✓ guardianship papers or other documents.

Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school, and the student must be enrolled in school while records are obtained.

The McKinney-Vento District Liaison will assist unaccompanied youth in choosing and enrolling in a school after considering the youth's wishes, informing the youth of their rights to transportation and assisting the youth in accessing transportation, and informing the youth of their right to appeal school or school district decisions. The McKinney-Vento District Liaison must ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that may arise over school enrollment or placement.

Unaccompanied youth have the right to:

- Remain in their school of origin
- Transportation to and from the school of origin
- Immediately enroll in a new school serving the area in which they are currently living even if they don't have typically required documents (e.g. proof of guardianship)
- Equal access to programs and services such as gifted and talented education, special education, vocational education, and English Language Learner services.

**Lakeland School Corporation** schools shall remove any / all barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations. Students in homeless situations shall be free from segregation, isolation, and stigmatization.

*\*\*\*The term "enroll" is defined as attending classes and participating fully in school activities.\*\*\**

*\*\*\*"School of Origin" is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.\*\*\**

**Youth in Foster Care:**

Youth in Foster Care will be immediately enrolled in **Lakeland School Corporation** even if they do not have required documents such as:

- ✓ school records
- ✓ medical records
- ✓ proof of residency
- ✓ guardianship papers or other documents.

Notification from the Department of Children's Services will suffice, although **Lakeland School Corporation** will request educational records both from DCS and from the school of origin. The foster parent may fill out all registration forms for the child.

**Appeal and Dispute Processes:**

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The child, youth parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows.

- Work with the McKinney-Vento District and Building Level Liaisons to ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney- Vento Act as follows:
  - I. the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;
  - II. the parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal
  - III. the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the Dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
  - IV. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the McKinney-Vento District Liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

\*\*\*The McKinney-Vento District Level Team consists of McKinney-Vento District Liaison, Building Level Liaisons, Director of Staff and Student Success, Director of Transportation, Director of Food Service\*\*\*

If a dispute arises over qualification for McKinney-Vento services, the child or youth shall receive all McKinney-Vento rights and services provided by **Lakeland School Corporation** Schools, pending resolution of the dispute. The child, youth parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act as follows.

- Work with the McKinney-Vento District and Building Level Liaisons to ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows:
  - I. the child or youth shall receive all McKinney-Vento rights and services, pending resolution of the dispute;
  - II. the parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal (Appendix B)
  - III. the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the Dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
  - IV. in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the McKinney-Vento District Liaison shall ensure that the youth receives all McKinney-Vento rights and services pending resolution of the dispute.

## SECTION 5: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### McKinney-Vento Professional Development Opportunities:

Professional development for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act will be provided to all staff members of **Lakeland School Corporation** Schools via the following ways:

- Safe Schools Portal
- School start-up meetings

### District Website:

The **Lakeland School Corporation** Website will include a page that will be used to communicate McKinney-Vento information with students, parents, staff, and community members. Information on the **Lakeland School Corporation** Schools' Website will include:

- Contact information for the McKinney-Vento District Liaison
- Contact information for the McKinney-Vento Building Level Liaisons
- Notice of Rights for McKinney-Vento Families
- Dispute Resolution Documents
- Link to McKinney-Vento Resources

## SECTION 6: EDUCATIONAL STAFFING AND SUPPORT

### McKinney-Vento District Liaison's Roles and Responsibilities:

The Superintendent of **Lakeland School Corporation** serves as the District McKinney-Vento Liaison and will:

- Ensure that procedures are established and followed across the school district and provide each child or youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services with a free and appropriate education.
- Work collaboratively with transportation and food services personnel to coordinate appropriate services for any child or youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services.

- Disseminate critical information concerning the rights of students in homeless situations to all schools.
- Post information regarding the availability of school programs and services for students facing homeless situations in local shelters, local hotels, the local post office building, city hall, local library, and local food banks.
- Maintain a McKinney-Vento District Liaison Log to document the McKinney-Vento process for each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services.
- Plan and facilitate professional development regarding the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to all staff responsible for identifying and working with students facing homeless situations.
- Work with building level staff and administration to facilitate success of the McKinney-Vento program and each student facing a homeless situation.
- Meet with community agencies and volunteers to share resources and information and to evaluate impact of services.
- Monitor all district data collection and reporting requirements on each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services.
- Attend state level professional development opportunities.

**McKinney-Vento District Liaison:**

- **Name:** Dr. Traci Blaize
- **Email:** [tblaize@lakelandlakers.net](mailto:tblaize@lakelandlakers.net)
- Phone: 260.499.2400

**McKinney-Vento Building Level Liaison's Roles and Responsibilities:**

Each school in **Lakeland School Corporation** District will identify one staff member who will serve as a representation on the McKinney- Vento District Level Team and will:

- Identify students that may be facing homeless situations.
- Monitor school attendance.
- Facilitate training at the building level.
- Ensure that building level procedures are established and followed to provide each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services with a free and appropriate education.
- Post public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations at the school.
- Make sure parents feel welcome and set the tone for further parental involvement.
- Establish a trusting relationship with students and parents.

**Building Level McKinney-Vento Liaisons for each school are as follows:**

Lakeland Jr/Sr High School

0805 E 075 N

LaGrange, IN 46761

260.499.2470

High School Liaison: Rachel Stroop [rstroop@lakelandlakers.net](mailto:rstroop@lakelandlakers.net)

Junior High School Liaison: Jennifer May [jmay@lakelandlakers.net](mailto:jmay@lakelandlakers.net)

Lakeland Intermediate School

1055 E 075 N

LaGrange, IN 46761

260.499.2480

Liaison: Kara Huelsenbeck [khuelenbeck@lakelandlakers.net](mailto:khuelenbeck@lakelandlakers.net)

Lakeland Primary School

1 LeMaster Circle

LaGrange, IN 46761

260.499.2430

Liaison: Rebekah Metzger [rmetzger@lakelandlakers.net](mailto:rmetzger@lakelandlakers.net) Heather Richardson [hrichardson@lakelandlakers.net](mailto:hrichardson@lakelandlakers.net)

**Youth in Foster Care:**

The Superintendent of **Lakeland School Corporation** serves as liaison with the Department of Children's Services for all students in Foster Care.

The Building level liaisons for students in Foster Care are the counselors for each building.

## APPENDIX A

Lakeland School Corp. School District Homeless Student Identification Form

### CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT RECORD

Student Living Status	
<p>Select the appropriate response in each category – Current Living Situation and Living Arrangements for Student Information System (SIS) Identification</p>	
<p><b>Unaccompanied Homeless Youth:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p><b>Current Living Situation:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In a shelter <input type="checkbox"/> At a train or bus station, park or in a car  <input type="checkbox"/> Doubled up with relatives or others due to lack of <input type="checkbox"/> In an abandoned apartment or building  housing <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster victim  <input type="checkbox"/> In a motel/hotel, campground, or other similar <input type="checkbox"/> Other: situation due to lack of alternative, adequate housing</p>	
<p><b>Living arrangements for SIS identification:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In a shelter <input type="checkbox"/> In a hotel/motel  <input type="checkbox"/> Doubled up <input type="checkbox"/> Unsheltered (on the street, car, park, campground, abandoned building)</p>	
<p>Notes/explanation of current living situation:</p>	

Student/Family Information								
Student Name	Date of Birth	Grade	School	Special Ed.	Migrant	English Learner	Received Title I-A Services	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<p>Name of parent/legal guardian:</p> <p>Name/relationship of person with whom student or family is doubled up:</p> <p>Name of educational guardian (requires documentation):</p> <p>Main contact phone number:</p> <p>E-mail, if available:</p>
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Current address:	Move date:	Former address(es):	Move date:
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## CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT RECORD

District Information	
School District of Origin:	School District of Residence:
School District where child(ren) attend/are served:	Sharing district contacted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Name of transportation billing staff contacted:	Name of Homeless Liaison Dr. Traci Blaize, Superintendent
Date of contact:	contacted: Notes:
Transportation	
Transportation provided?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Type of transportation:	
<input type="checkbox"/> School bus (including additional or extended routes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxi
<input type="checkbox"/> City bus/public transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracted transportation service
<input type="checkbox"/> Gas reimbursement, mileage calculation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
Transportation costs are shared with	School District
<i>*District of origin and district of residence will share transportation costs evenly (50/50), if no other agreement is in place.</i>	
Notes:	
Resources and Services	
Must be reviewed with parent/guardian/unaccompanied homeless youth in a manner and form that is understandable, including, if necessary and to the extent feasible, in the native language	
<input type="checkbox"/> McKinney-Vento rights reviewed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate enrollment</li> <li>• Rights to attend district of origin/residence</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Free school meals/fees waived</li> </ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Student information shared with the school district sharing transportation costs	
<input type="checkbox"/> School and district staff confidentially received student information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food service</li> <li>• Registration/enrollment</li> <li>• Transportation department</li> <li>• Building social worker or counselor</li> <li>• Building principal</li> </ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community resources available and information shared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food and clothing</li> <li>• Affordable permanent housing</li> <li>• Emergency shelter</li> <li>• Mental health services</li> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Domestic abuse resources</li> <li>• Medical, dental, and other health services</li> <li>• Seasonal/holiday</li> </ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Current order of protection or no contact order	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
<b>Date/time shared with parent/guardian/unaccompanied homeless youth:</b>	

## APPENDIX B

### NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Be advised that you have the right to appeal the decisions made by **Lakeland School Corporation** regarding your student's eligibility and enrollment under Title X, Part C of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Students involved in a McKinney-Vento dispute process have the right to enroll immediately in the school of choice pending resolution of the dispute. Immediate enrollment includes full participation in all school activities.

As the district's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison designee, notification should be made to **Traci A. Blaize** in writing within 10 business days of receipt of this letter if you want to appeal the district's decision outlined above.

Below you will find an appeal form that you can use for this notification. If we cannot reach a resolution at the district-level; As required by Indiana Code 20-26-11-15, the Indiana State Board of Education will hear all appeals on an order expelling a child under IC 20-8.1- 5.1-11 (legal settlement), in addition to all disputes on (A) legal settlement; (B) right to transfer; (C) right to attend school in any school corporation; (D) amount of transfer tuition; and (E) any under matter arising under IC 20-26-11-15 (Transfers and Transfer Tuition).

- A. The party requesting an appeal or resolution of a dispute by the State Board of Education will submit a request in writing to the State Board Liaison at the Indiana Department of Education.
- B. The Board shall hold a hearing on the timely written application of the interested party.
- C. The Board shall make its determination under the following procedure:
  - A hearing shall be held on each matter presented.
  - Each interested party, including (where appropriate) the parents, student, transferor corporation, transferee corporation, or the state, shall be given at least ten (10) days' notice of the hearing by certified mail or personal delivery. The date of giving the notice is the date of mailing or delivery.
  - Any interested party may appear at the hearing in person or by counsel, present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and present in writing or orally summary statements of position, and a written or recorded transcript of the hearing shall be made.
  - The hearing may be held by the Indiana State Board of Education or by a hearing examiner appointed by it who must be a state employee. The hearing, at the option of the State Board of Education or hearing examiner, may be held at any place in Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE) State Coordinator for the McKinney-Vento Act. State Coordinator, Gina Woodward. The phone contact is 317-232-9189 or email at [gwoodward1@doe.in.gov](mailto:gwoodward1@doe.in.gov).

Attached you will find a copy of Indiana's McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Process that provides additional details on the state's McKinney-Vento dispute and appeals process, including key timelines.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions on this decision or the McKinney-Vento dispute or appeal process.

Attachments: <http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/dispute-resolution>

Sincerely,

Dr. Traci A. Blaize, Superintendent