

## TITLE IX—EDUCATION FOR THE HOMELESS AND OTHER LAWS

### PART A—HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- A much stronger emphasis is being placed on “Identification of Homeless Children and Youth” (p. 879). The emphasis will be beneficial to the program as it will be added to
  - Activities and services for which state grants must be used
  - Professional development activities for liaisons and other school personnel that States must provide
  - List of barriers that SEAs and LEAs must regularly review and revise
  - Purpose of coordination among liaisons and community and housing agencies
  - Purpose of LEA subgrants.
- **Enrollment Barriers:** Homeless children and youth must be enrolled in school immediately, even if the student has missed the application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness. SEAs and LEAs must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless students in school, including barriers due to fees, fines, and absences (pp. 886-892).
- **Preschool Children:** An increased emphasis has been placed on Early Childhood homelessness (p. 880). With the Preschool Expansion grant incorporating the McKinney-Vento (MK-V Act) definition of homeless and with efforts to include the MK-V Act definition in the Childcare Development Block Grant, Early Childhood becomes a major focus in professional development and technical assistance.
  - State plans must include procedures that ensure that homeless children have access to public preschool programs, administered by the SEA and LEA, as provided to other children
  - Liaison must ensure homeless families and children can access early intervention services under IDEA Part C, if eligible
  - The definition of “school of origin” includes preschool
- **State Report Cards and Data** must include disaggregated information on the graduation rates and academic achievement of homeless children and youth and of children and youth in foster care. The number of homeless children and youth must be posted on the SEA website annually (p. 876).
- **Foster Care:** “Awaiting foster care placement” will be deleted from the definition of homelessness in the MK-V Act. The SEA will designate a point of contact for child welfare agencies, who will oversee implementation of the SEA responsibilities; the point of contact may not be the same person as the State Coordinator for homeless children and youth under MK-V Act (p. 908).
- **State Plans:** A high emphasis is placed on revising State Plans or to develop an annual action plan, with a focus on needs assessments, goal setting, action planning, and the evaluation of the program (p. 878).

**PART B - MISCELLANEOUS; OTHER LAWS**

**Sec. 9212. Preschool Development Grants (pp. 949 – 971).**

- Authorizes—with significant changes—the Preschool Development Grants (PDG), which had previously been authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.
  - Authorized at \$250 million each year for FY17-FY20
  - Existing Preschool Development Grantees (PDG) will continue to receive funding under the terms of their grants.
- Grant objective is to help states do strategic planning and coordinate better their early childhood programs.
- The program is moved to the Department of Health and Human Services though ED will be a partner in administering the program.
- Initial State Grants
  - One-year grants, with the opportunity to apply for a Renewal Grant (see below)
  - Priority goes to states who have not previously received a PDG
  - Requirements
    - States must provide a 30 percent match to the funds
    - States must have a mixed delivery system for early childhood programs
  - Use of funds
    - Conducting a statewide needs assessment
    - Developing a strategic plan for collaboration, coordination, and quality improvement
    - Activities to maximize parental choice and engagement
    - After all other uses, professional development for staff
- Renewal Grants
  - Previous PDG recipients are eligible
  - Up to a total of three one-year grants with no further opportunity for renewal
  - May be used for subgrants to improve and expand access to quality programs for low-income and disadvantaged children
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services may not define or prescribe:
  - Early learning standards or assessments
  - Specific measures of program quality
  - Curriculum
  - Staff qualifications
  - Class sizes or child-to-adult ratios
  - Scope of programs
  - Staff evaluation systems