

Homeless & Foster Care ESSA Webinar

Office of Federal Programs in Collaboration
with the National Association for the Education
of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)



Vision ---

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

Mission ---

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community

State Board of Education Goals

5-Year Strategic Plan for 2016-2020

- ✓ All Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas
- ✓ Every Student Graduates High School and is Ready for College and Career
- ✓ Every Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program
- ✓ Every School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders
- ✓ Every Community Effectively Using a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes
- ✓ Every School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

Office of Federal Programs Vision, Mission and Goals

Vision

The vision of Mississippi State Board of Education is to create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens.

Mission

In support of this vision, the mission of the Office of Federal Programs (OFP) is to provide leadership in the effective use of federal funds so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community.

Goal 1

To collaborate across the agency in support of state initiatives

Goal 2

To support district planning and implementation

Goal 3

To evaluate and monitor performance

- Nationwide, about 1.3 million students met the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness during 2013-14.
- In Mississippi about 10,309 students were identified as homeless during the 2014-15 school year.

Districts with Largest Homeless Populations (2014-15)

LEA	# of HOMELESS ENROLLED
JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	3284
HARRISON CO SCHOOL DIST	1626
GULFPORT SCHOOL DIST	427
STARKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	407
SIMPSON CO SCHOOL DIST	320

- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Poverty
- Health, Mental Health and Addiction Challenges
- Domestic Violence
- Natural Disasters
- Abuse/Neglect/Family Dysfunction (esp. among Unaccompanied Youth)

- Higher Incidences of Acute and Chronic Illnesses, Depression and Anxiety
- Poor Classroom Engagement and Social Skills
- Achievement Gaps
- About 87 Percent More Likely to Drop Out

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Initially passed in 1987
- Reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Amendments took effect Oct. 1, 2016
- Works alongside Title IA and other programs
- Competitive subgrants to LEAs

Who is considered homeless under McKinney-Vento?



McKinney-Vento Act Definition of Homelessness

- Children who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence –
 - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations

McKinney-Vento Act Definition of Homelessness (cont'd)

- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings

McKinney-Vento Act Definition of Homelessness (cont'd)

- Utilities, infestation, mold and danger should be considered when determining substandard housing
- Awaiting foster care placement (only until Dec. 10, 2016)

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Definition: a child or youth who meets the McKinney-Vento definition and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- May be fleeing abuse or family dysfunction
- About 10 percent of homeless females are pregnant.
- Many are not currently enrolled in school

Determining Eligibility

- Case-by-case determination
- Get as much information as possible (with sensitivity and honoring privacy)

- Considerations for families/youth staying with others:
 - Where would you stay if you couldn't stay here?
 - What led you to move into this situation?

- Avoid using the word homeless with families or youth
 - Alternatives might include “between homes,” “not currently housed” or “living at X location.”
 - Coordinate with community service agencies including shelters, food pantries, law enforcement, legal aid, public assistance, housing and mental/public health departments

- Coordinate with youth-serving agencies, child welfare, juvenile courts, teen parent programs, etc.
- Make efforts to identify preschool children, including asking about siblings of school-aged homeless children.
- Use enrollment and withdrawal forms to ask about living situations.

What are the responsibilities
of the LEA's homeless liaison?



Role of Local Homeless Liaisons

- Every LEA must designate a McKinney-Vento liaison **able to carry out his/her legal duties.**
- LEA administrators should review:
 - The legal requirements for the position
 - Data on prevalence and needs of homeless students
 - Efforts that may be necessary to improve identification
 - Monitoring findings

LEA Liaison Responsibilities (cont'd)

- Ensure homeless students enroll in and have equal opportunity to succeed in school
- Help schools identify homeless students through outreach and coordination with other entities and agencies
- Identification should be part of all LEA needs assessments and school improvement plans.

LEA Liaison Responsibilities (cont'd)

- Public notice of homeless students should be disseminated in locations frequented by parents, guardians and unaccompanied youth in a manner that is understandable to them.
 - Public libraries are specifically mentioned

LEA Liaison Responsibilities (cont'd)

- Liaisons must ensure:
 - School personnel providing McKinney-Vento services receive professional development and other support
 - Children, youth and families have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, **early intervention (IDEA Part C)** and other preschool programs
 - Children and families receive referrals to health care, dental, mental health, **substance abuse, housing** and other services.

LEA Liaison Responsibilities (cont'd)

- Liaisons must ensure:
 - Disputes are resolved and assistance to access transportation is provided
 - Unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school and that procedures are implemented to identify and remove barriers that prevent them from receiving credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed at a prior school, in accordance with state, local and school policies

LEA Liaison Responsibilities (cont'd)

- Liaisons must participate in professional development and technical assistance as determined appropriate by the State Coordinator

What McKinney-Vento Means for Homeless Students



Key Themes of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Identification
- School Stability
- School Enrollment
- Support for Academic Success
- Child-Centered, Best Decision Making

Building Stability for Homeless Students



Each LEA shall, according to each child's best interest:

- Continue the student's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, and until the end of the academic year in which the student becomes permanently housed, OR
- Enroll in any public school that housed students living where the student is living are eligible to attend.

- School of origin is the school attended when permanently housed or school in which last enrolled, **including preschool**.
 - This can include any publicly funded program for children) for which the LEA is a financial or administrative agent, or is accountable for providing early childhood education.
 - Preschools operated, administered or funded by an LEA, including those using Title I or similar grants.

Preschool (cont'd)

- Head Start program receiving LEA funding or for which the LEA is a grant recipient
- Preschool special education
- LEA funded or administered home-based early childhood services

- School of origin includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for feeder school patterns, when the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.

In determining best interest, the LEA shall:

- **Presume** that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest, unless contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, **or unaccompanied youth.**

School Stability (cont'd)

- Consider student-centered factors, including the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health and safety.
- For preschoolers, attachment to teachers, availability and quality of services in the new area, travel time.
- Give priority to the parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth's request

If the LEA determines that it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested, the LEA must provide a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal.

School Stability: The Transportation Connection

- LEAs must provide transportation to and from the school/preschool of origin, including until the end of the year when the student obtains permanent housing, at a parent or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied youth).
- LEAs also must provide students in homeless situations with transportation comparable to those of other students.

- SEAs and LEAs must review and revise transportation policies that may act as barriers to identification, enrollment, attendance or success.

School Enrollment: A Key to Equity for Homeless Students



School Enrollment for Homeless Students

- When not remaining in the school of origin, homeless students are entitled to immediate enrollment in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend, even if:
 - Students do not have required documents, such as school records, records of immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, guardianship, or other documents;
 - Students have missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

Enrollment (cont'd)

- Enrollment includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

Enrollment (cont'd)

- SEAs and LEAs must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the **identification**, enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations, **including barriers due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences.**
- **“Broad, ongoing requirement ... with regular input from homeless parents, youth and advocates so that new barriers do not prevent” students from full, immediate enrollment and services.**

Immediate Enrollment Strategies

- Request all records from the previous school immediately.
 - Parental signature is not required for transfer students.
 - The vast majority of students have been enrolled in school before and have received immunizations.
 - Speak with parents and youth about the classes the student was in, previous coursework and special needs.
 - Ensure that all staff involved in enrollment understand the McKinney-Vento Act and how it relates to enrollment.

Enrollment in Preschool

- State McKinney-Vento plans must describe procedures that ensure that homeless children have access to public preschool programs administered by the SEA or LEAs.
- Preschools are included in the school of origin definition.
- Liaisons must ensure access to Head Start, early intervention (IDEA Part C), and other preschool programs administered by the LEA.

If a dispute arises over **eligibility**, school selection or enrollment in a school (**including full participation**):

- The student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute (**including all available appeals**).
- The parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth must be provided a written explanation of **decisions made by the school, LEA or SEA**, and how to appeal.

- The parent, guardian or youth must be referred to the liaison, who must carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible.
- The liaison shall ensure unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled pending dispute resolution.

Support for Academic Success



- Homeless students are automatically eligible for free school meals.
- USDA policy permits liaisons and shelter directors to obtain free school meals for students immediately by providing a list of names of students experiencing homelessness with effective dates.

Support for Academic Success: Full Participation

- States must have procedures to eliminate barriers to academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet school, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, online learning, and charter school programs.
- LEAs should anticipate and accommodate the needs of homeless students to enter these programs and consider giving them priority on waitlists.

- SEAs and LEAs should develop policies to expedite full participation in extracurricular activities and work with athletic associations to adjust policies to facilitate participation.

- LEAs must have procedures to ensure McKinney-Vento students receive appropriate full or partial credit, such as: consulting with prior school about partial coursework completed, evaluating students' mastery of partly completed courses; offering credit recovery.

- SEAs and LEAs should ensure school personnel consider issues related to homelessness prior to taking disciplinary action.
- SEAs and LEAs should provide training on the traumatic impacts of homelessness and how to provide trauma-informed support.

Support for Academic Success: Transitioning to Higher Education

- All McKinney-Vento youth must be able to receive individualized counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college, including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus supports.
- Liaisons must ensure unaccompanied youth are informed of their FAFSA status as independent students and obtain verification of that status.

Awaiting Foster Care Placement

- As of Dec 10, 2016
- Children awaiting foster care placement will no longer be considered homeless and will therefore not be eligible for McKinney-Vento services unless they meet the revised definition of *homeless*
 - Children in any stage of child welfare involvement will be served under Title I, Part A as part of new ESSA provisions related to educational stability for children and youth in foster care

EHCY Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question A-2

Reporting Homeless Children and Youth in MSIS



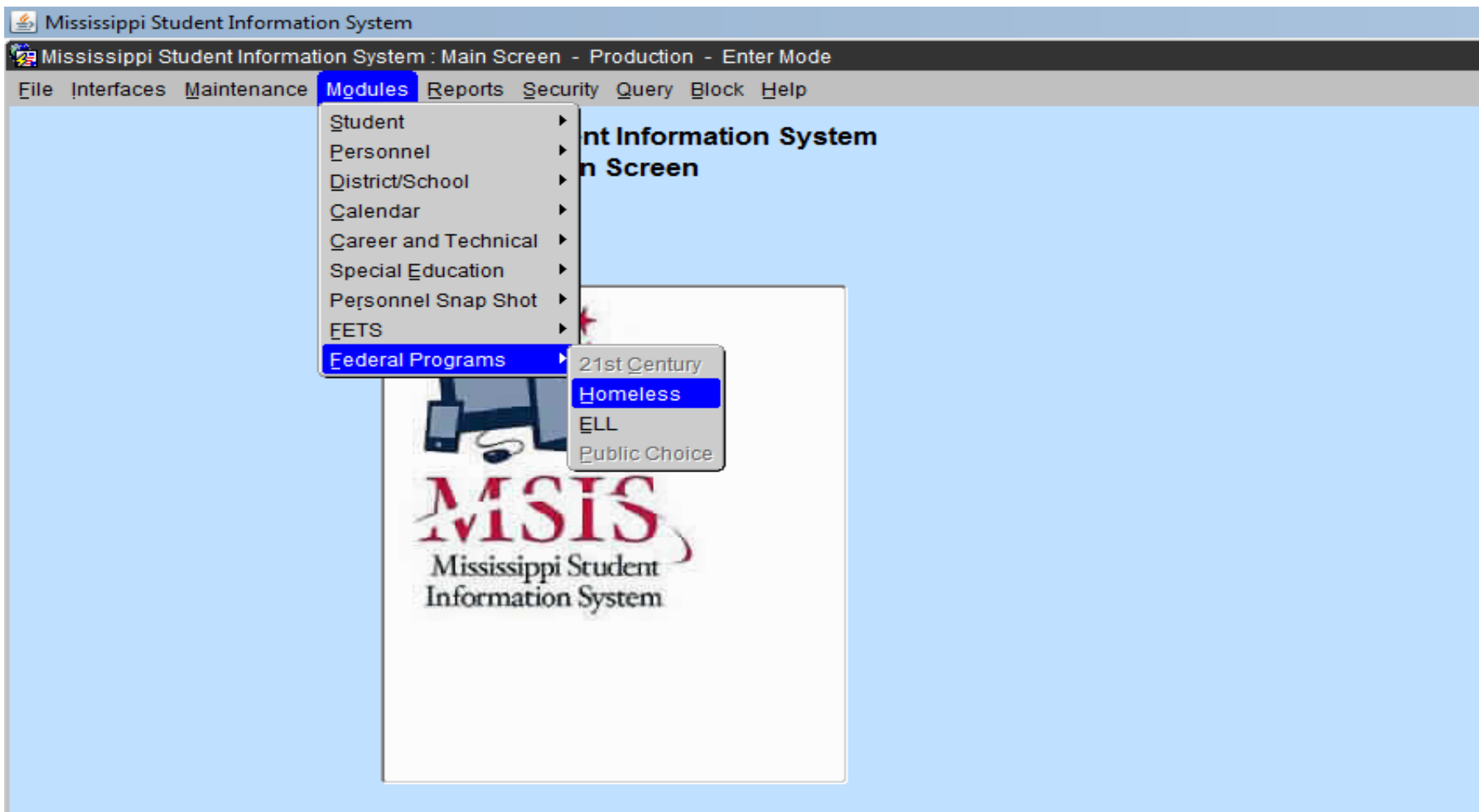
Accessing MSIS

- Go to the MDE's homepage at www.mdek12.org
- Place the cursor on the District tab
- Select MSIS
- Under Applications, click MSIS Log-on
- Enter username
- Enter password
- Enter database: msis



A screenshot of a "Logon" dialog box. The dialog box has a title bar with the text "Logon" and a close button (X). It contains three text input fields: "Username:", "Password:", and "Database:". Below the input fields are two buttons: "Connect" and "Cancel".

Accessing Homeless Screen



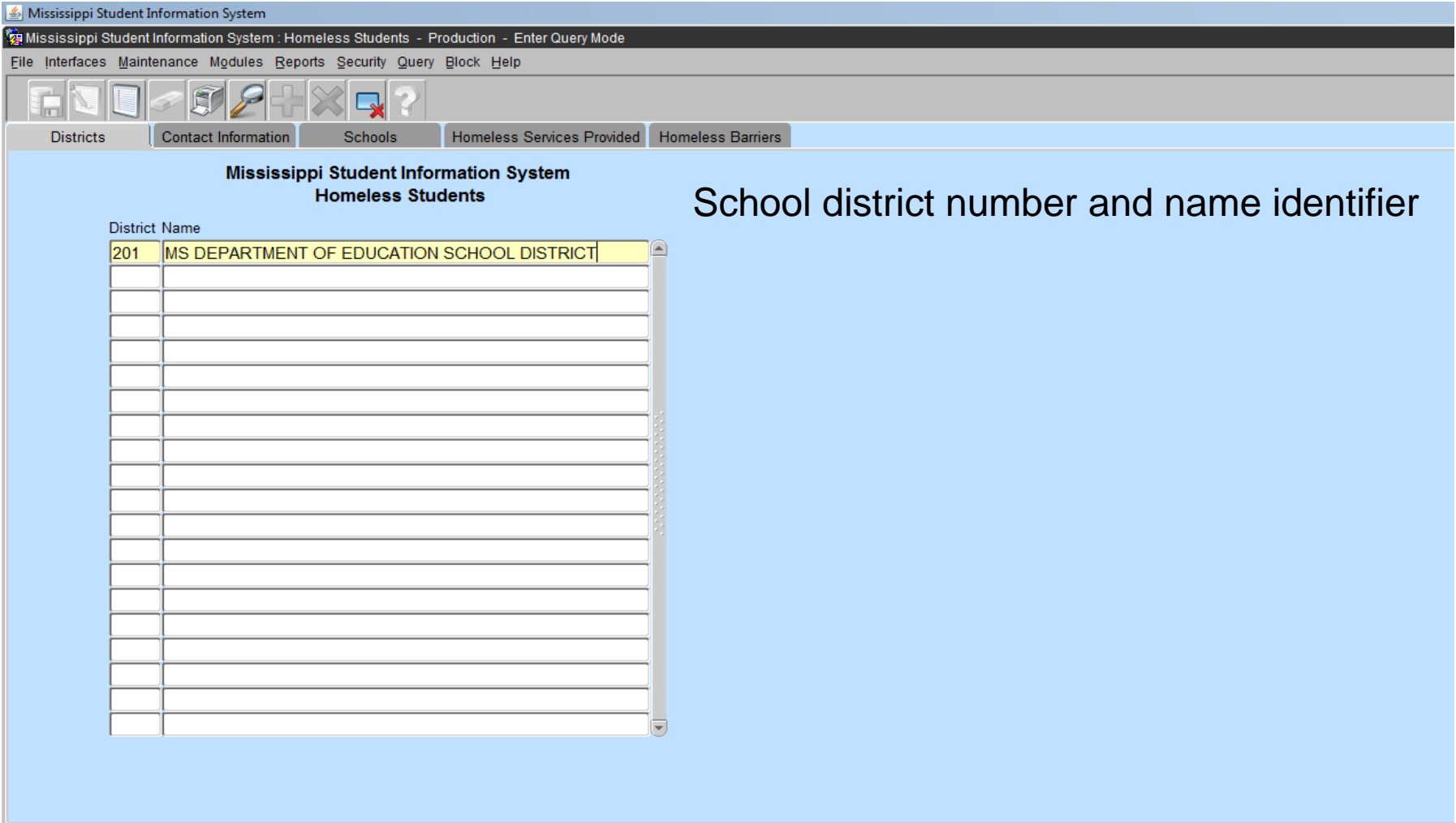
The screenshot displays the MSIS main screen with the following navigation steps:

- File
- Interfaces
- Maintenance
- Modules**
 - Student
 - Personnel
 - District/School
 - Calendar
 - Career and Technical
 - Special Education
 - Personnel Snap Shot
 - EETS
 - Federal Programs**
 - 21st Century
 - Homeless**
 - ELL
 - Public Choice
- Reports
- Security
- Query
- Block
- Help

The Homeless screen content is partially visible, showing the text "nt Information System" and "n Screen". A logo for MSIS (Mississippi Student Information System) is also present in the lower-left area of the screen.

- The school district in which you are currently employed will appear in a box in the District tab.
- **STOP** – if this box is blank or the information of a previous employed staff of the district appears, contact the district MSIS Primary immediately.

Homeless Screen



Mississippi Student Information System
Mississippi Student Information System : Homeless Students - Production - Enter Query Mode
File Interfaces Maintenance Modules Reports Security Query Block Help

Districts Contact Information Schools Homeless Services Provided Homeless Barriers

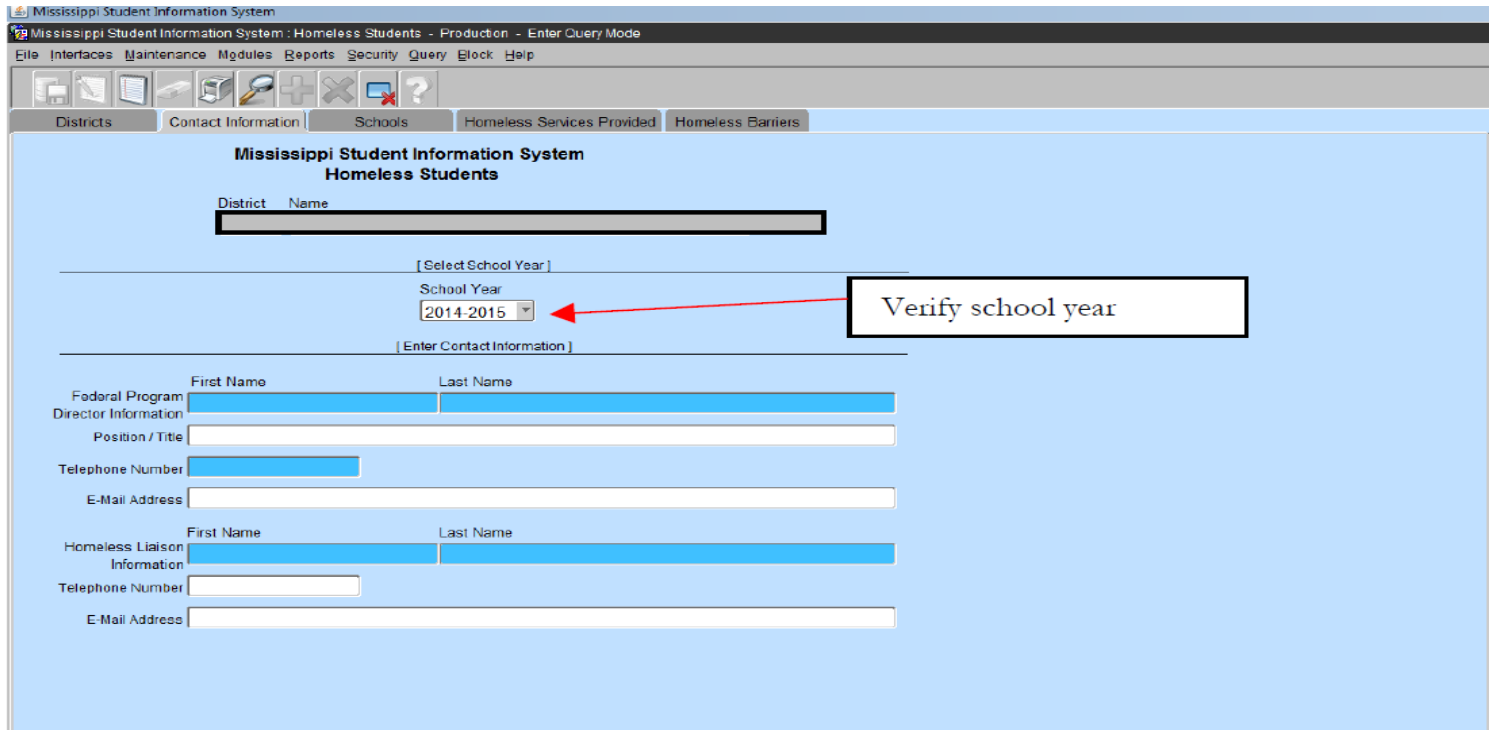
**Mississippi Student Information System
Homeless Students**

District Name

201	MS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT

School district number and name identifier

Please complete all sections of this screen.
Click SAVE –



Mississippi Student Information System
Homeless Students

District Name

[Select School Year]
School Year
2014-2015

[Enter Contact Information]

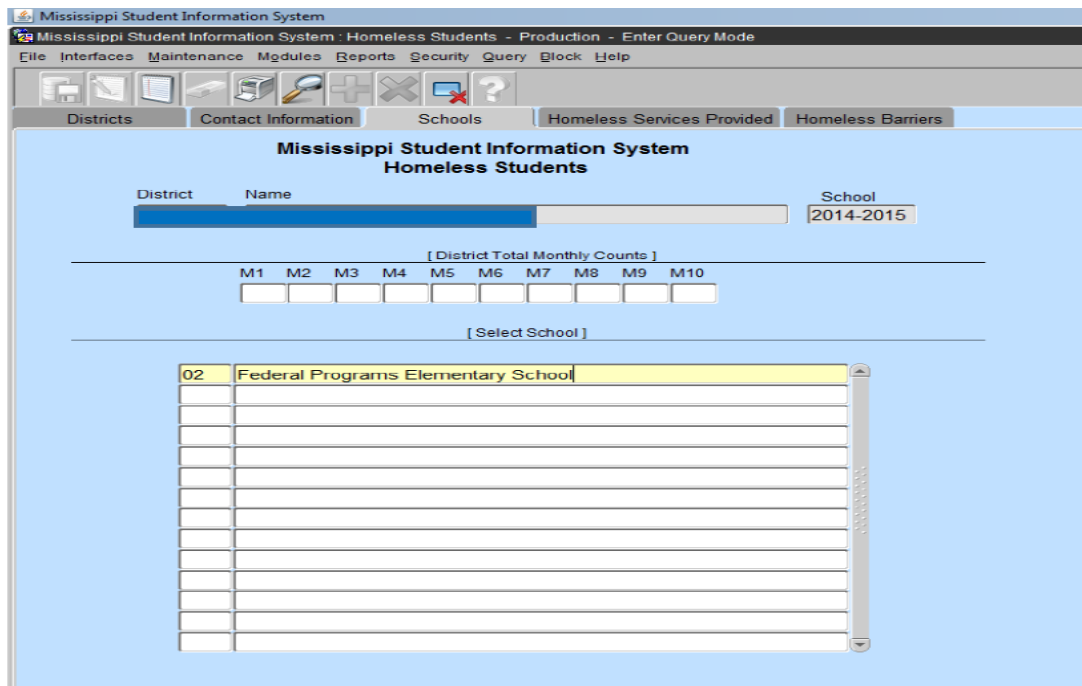
Federal Program Director Information

	First Name	Last Name
Federal Program Director Information		
Position / Title		
Telephone Number		
E-Mail Address		

Homeless Liaison Information

	First Name	Last Name
Homeless Liaison Information		
Telephone Number		
E-Mail Address		

- This tab displays all schools in the district. The yellow highlight indicates the school being selected.



- The indicator in the SAP is selected as “Y” and the student’s information populates on this screen **AFTER** the district has approved the MSD file sent to MDE.
- Select a service as it pertains to the student. Click **SAVE** -



Homeless Services Tab

Mississippi Student Information System

Mississippi Student Information System : Homeless Students - Production - Enter Mode

File Interfaces Maintenance Modules Reports Security Query Block Help

Districts Contact Information Schools Homeless Services Provided Homeless Barriers

Mississippi Student Information System Homeless Students

District: 0400 ATTALA CO SCHOOL DIST School: School Year: 2014-2015

Check the appropriate services provided:

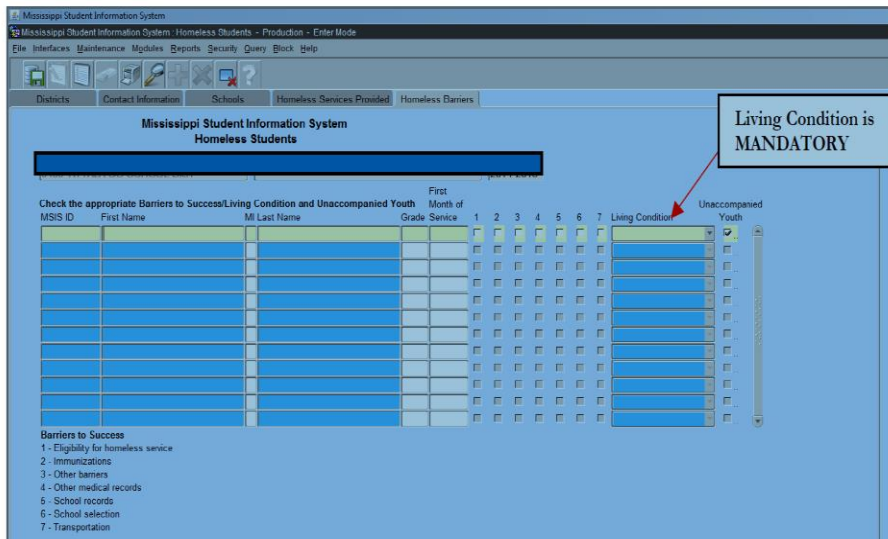
MSIS ID	First Name	MI	Last Name	Grade	Service	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
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Services Provided

1 - Addressing needs related to domestic violence	10 - Obtaining or transferring records necessary for enrollment
2 - Assistance with participation in school programs	11 - Parent education related to rights and resources for children
3 - Before-, after-school, mentoring, summer programs	12 - Referrals for medical, dental, and other health services
4 - Clothing to meet a school requirement	13 - Referral to other programs and services
5 - Coordination between schools and agencies	14 - School supplies
6 - Counseling	15 - Staff professional development and awareness
7 - Early childhood programs	16 - Transportation
8 - Emergency assistance related to school attendance	17 - Tutoring or other instructional support
9 - Expedited evaluations	

Homeless Barrier Tab

- **MANDATORY** - All students must have a Living Condition selected – if they qualify as Homeless. A student can deny services but qualify as Homeless due to living conditions.



Mississippi Student Information System

Mississippi Student Information System - Homeless Students - Production - Enter Mode

File Interfaces Maintenance Modules Reports Security Query Back Help

Districts Contact Information Schools Homeless Services Provided Homeless Barriers

Mississippi Student Information System
Homeless Students

Check the appropriate Barriers to Success/Living Condition and Unaccompanied Youth

MSIS ID	First Name	MI Last Name	Grade	Service	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Living Condition	Unaccompanied Youth
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Barriers to Success

- 1 - Eligibility for homeless service
- 2 - Immunizations
- 3 - Other barriers
- 4 - Other medical records
- 5 - School records
- 6 - School selection
- 7 - Transportation

Mississippi Office of Federal Programs, Title X

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/OFP/title-x>

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

<http://www.naehcy.org/>

U.S. Department of Education Guidance on Homeless Children and Youth

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-releases-guidance-homeless-children-and-youth>

Mississippi Department of Education Contacts

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