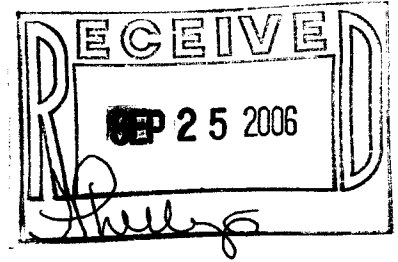




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SEP 20 2006



Dear Chief State School Officer:

By now your State should have received information regarding the upcoming 18th Annual National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference. This conference will convene November 11-14, 2006 at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock Arkansas and is co-hosted by the Arkansas Department of Education.

The theme for the conference, Building Futures Through Education, echoes the real world need for educators to understand the opportunities, challenges and resources available to support children and youth experiencing homelessness.

This conference will provide an opportunity for your State Coordinator and local liaisons to communicate with Federal and State department staff, LEAs, and community service providers as we work together to fulfill the provisions of McKinney-Vento, including ways to improve the academic achievement of thousands of students experiencing homelessness. I strongly urge you to send your State's homeless education coordinator to this national conference. Local homeless education liaisons should be encouraged to attend, as well. Additionally, I encourage Title I educators/officials, early childhood educators, community advocates, counselors, emergency shelter providers, school district administrators, and other service providers in your State concerned with the education of homeless children and youth to join us in Little Rock this November.

Conference details, including registration materials, can be accessed at www.naehcy.org. If you have questions about the conference, please call Gary Rutkin at 202-260-4412 or email him at Gary.Rutkin@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn C. Jackson, Ed.D.

Director

Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs

Cc: State Coordinators for the Education
of Homeless Children and Youth
State Title I Directors