



Early Childhood Screening Documentation for Homeless Students (November 2005)

Minnesota Statutes § 121A.17, Subd. 2 states: *A child must not be enrolled in kindergarten in a public school unless the parent or guardian of the child submits to the school principal or other person having general control and supervision of the school a record indicating the months and year the child received developmental [Early Childhood Screening or a comparable health and developmental screening] and the results of the screening not later than 30 days after the first day of attendance. If a child is transferred from one kindergarten to another, the parent or guardian of the child must be allowed 30 days to submit the child's record, during which time the child may attend school.*

- The McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to immediately enroll children in homeless situations into kindergarten even if they do not have evidence of a health and developmental screening.
- The enrolling district should obtain the child's health and developmental screening record from the previous school, if possible. There is no 30-day limit for obtaining the record. (Minnesota Statutes § 121A.17 is superseded by the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2002.)
- *School districts must provide the mandatory health and developmental screening for a child to continue attending kindergarten or first grade in public school* (Minnesota Statutes 121A. 17, Subd. 1.). School districts are required to provide the health and developmental screening of young children, but the 30 day requirement may be exceeded, if necessary, as a result of the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2002.

Upon intake of kindergarten and first grade eligible students, school districts should:

- Determine any health or developmental problems/concerns that parent or guardian may have about the student. If the parent or guardian identifies a concern, assist with addressing the concern as quickly as possible by working with the school district's homeless liaison and the parent or guardian.

- Obtain an immunization record, if possible. If an immunization record is not available, refer to the MDH “Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Immunizations of Homeless Students” flier for the process of obtaining the student’s immunization record.
- Include a copy of the summary results of a comparable health and developmental screening, if available. This may include: screening through Head Start, Migrant Head Start, Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) clinic visit through public health or a private health care provider, state health care provider (e.g., LACHIP in Louisiana) or a record of a well-child exam through a health care provider.