2026-2027 Program Monitoring Validation Guidance Document

Program: Texas Education of Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY)

Requirement: School Placement of Homeless Children and Youth (LEAs must determine school placement based on the child's or youth's best interest and presume that remaining in the school of origin is in the student's best interest unless contrary to the wishes of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.)

Documentation Requested

Documenting overall compliance for a program requirement may require several forms of documentation to be maintained locally and available upon request by TEA and/or an auditor. To ensure overall compliance with program requirements, LEAs should refer to the Program Guide and/or other program-related resources that reference the multiple forms of documentation required to be maintained locally. The documentation requested for submission during the validation process may not include all forms of documentation required to be maintained locally.

Please include the following selected documentation referenced in the table below to demonstrate compliance with the program requirements described. TEA will utilize the following table during the review of documentation to determine if the LEA submitted sufficient documentation to support LEA compliance.

The documentation submitted for TEA review should show evidence of compliance in the 2025-2026 grant year for the program requirement selected.

The following documentation is requested to be submitted **by 5:00 pm CST on or before December 8, 2026**, via the Federal Program Compliance Division Program Monitoring Validations Smartsheet WorkApp system.

Selected Documentation Required to be Submitted for Review	Year of Documentation Requested	Description of Acceptable Documentation
1.1 The LEA has an established process for making and documenting best-interest determinations that presumes school-of-origin placement is in the student's best interest unless contrary to the wishes of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.	2025-2026	• Description of process the district utilizes to receive input from the family or youth during the best interest determination process. • Copy of school board local policy describing the local dispute resolution process.

Instructions for Assembling Documentation

Assemble the requested material into **one PDF file**.

a. Ensure that the PDF file contains the required documentation as described above.
b. Do not submit extraneous documentation.
c. When compiling the PDF file for submission, please ensure that—
   - the pages are not compressed or reduced in size;
   - any landscape pages are oriented with their right-hand edge at the top;
   - the documentation pages included are **numbered consecutively in the lower right corner.** These page numbers, which may be handwritten if that is most convenient, should be referenced in the online WorkApp Details Form.

Note: Confidential information, including confidential information or personally identifiable information (PII) protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), should not be submitted in any Smartsheet forms, attachments, comments, or uploads. Smartsheet is not an approved system for storing confidential or FERPA-protected data. Uploading or sharing such information on an unapproved platform increases the risk of unauthorized disclosure. To help us maintain compliance and protect student information, ensure all submissions include only non-confidential data/documentation appropriate for the submission.

LEAs may reference the 2026-2027 Program Monitoring Validation Process Handbook for general information about the overall process (i.e., documentation submission instructions, documentation review process, and additional resources).

Resources

Each regional Education Service Center (ESC) is required to offer and provide technical assistance related to the program monitoring validation process. Please consult with ESC staff if there are questions or if additional information is needed. Regional ESC Federal Program staff information can be located at: https://tehcy.tea.texas.gov/mckinney-vento-statewide-regional-contacts

The following resources are also available on the TEA Program Monitoring Validations webpage:

- Program-Specific Training Video and Slides;
- Instructions for Submitting Documentation Training Video and Slides;
- Overview of the 2026-2027 Program Monitoring Validation Process Training Video, Slides, and Handbook

Statutory Requirement References

The requirement is referenced in the following documents.

Citation & Statute Language	42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(B)(i) In determining the best interest of the child or youth under subparagraph (A), the local educational agency shall presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.
TEA Program-Specific Provisions & Assurances	D. The applicant assures to adhere to all Statutory Requirements and Texas Education Agency (TEA) Program Requirements as noted in the 2025-2026 Texas Education of Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Continuation Program Guidelines. L. The applicant provides assurance that all homeless children and unaccompanied youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public prekindergarten programs in accordance with TEC 29.153, as provided to other children and youth. M. The applicant provides assurance that it will review and revise any policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless children and unaccompanied youth; including policies related to outstanding fees, fines, absences, proof of residency, immunizations, birth certificates, guardianships, school records, transportation and other documentation.
TEA Compliance Report Program Compliance Self-Check Item	To be added as a Self-Check item on the PR6400 starting in 2026-2027 compliance report. There is an initial question on the report asking if LEA has a TEHCY grant. If yes, the self-check item should display. If no, the self-check item will not display.

Contact Information

For assistance with questions and/or additional information, please contact the Federal Program Compliance Division at ESSAsupport@TEA.Texas.gov. A directory of TEA program-specific staff contacts is also available: Federal Program Compliance Division Program Staff Contacts.