

Transportation Guidance under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

The U.S. Department of Education continually communicates with state agencies regarding their positions on legal questions. Below is the most recent guidance on transportation issues involving homeless students that were sent to Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program state coordinators.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 expanded the allowable uses of Title I, ESEA funds; school districts may use Title I funds to provide transportation for homeless students to their school of origin.

Funds available under sections 1124, 1124A, 1125, and 1125 A of the ESEA may be used to provide homeless children and youths with services not ordinarily provided to other students under those sections, including supporting the liaison designated pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(iii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and providing transportation pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(iii) of such Act.

In addition to the above, the previous changes in guidance regarding transportation for children and youth experiencing homelessness include:

(1) It is the intent of McKinney-Vento to provide homeless students the stability of staying in their school of origin for the remainder of the school year once permanent housing has been found. However, this intent was not written into the legislation. Therefore, when a student who was once homeless becomes permanently housed, districts may use their own discretion in deciding if they want to continue to provide transportation for that student to the school of origin for the remainder of the school year. (School of origin is defined as the school attended when permanently housed, or the school last enrolled.)

Important: If it is the policy of your district to discontinue provision of transportation for homeless students once permanent housing is found, parents, guardians and unaccompanied youth should be notified of this **at the time of enrollment**. This information may affect a parent, guardian or youth's initial decision regarding attending the school of origin or the new attendance area school.

(2) Once students who were homeless become permanently housed, districts may use Title I funds to pay for their transportation for the remainder of the school year. If districts, at their discretion, continue to transport the previously homeless student, there is not a "supplanting" issue involved with using Title I funds since this transportation service is no longer required.

(3) Districts must follow McKinney-Vento in providing transportation to a preschool student who becomes homeless while attending a preschool program administered by the district if the district provides transportation to "housed" students. This guidance does not include special education requirements for 3-5 year old children.

Visit <http://homeless.dpi.wi.gov/> for more information on homeless issues.