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**Subject:** COVID-19 and Students Experiencing Homelessness  
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Good morning,

We know these are challenging times in our state and country, so we wanted to provide resources to help support students experiencing homelessness.

Last week SchoolHouse Connection released [information](#) on supporting students experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. We wanted to highlight their suggestions on access to learning:

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#### Access to Learning

- Review and implement the requirements of [the McKinney-Vento Act](#), including the requirements for states and LEAs to review and revise policies that act as barriers to identification, enrollment, and retention in school and school activities.
- Provide mobile hotspots and laptops/tablets to shelters, motels, and directly to families and youth who are staying with other people.
- Be flexible with deadlines and participation requirements, accommodating students who are highly mobile and/or cannot participate in online learning opportunities due to homeless living situations.
- Remove barriers that may be caused by guardianship requirements, allowing unaccompanied youth to participate fully in classes and school activities.

We believe that it's most important to be flexible with deadlines and participation requirements. Districts should also consider how all students have access to learning and provide the same resources to students experiencing homelessness.

Additional available resources:

- The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) [resources](#) on supporting students
- DPI's [Child Nutrition Program COVID-19 Information](#)
- DPI's [COVID-19 Webpage](#)

We encourage you to reach out to local community service providers to help ensure needs are met outside of school as well.

We are available to help answer any questions. Thank you for your work to support students.

Be well!

Karen and Kristine

Karen Rice  
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