

## **Title I Reservation Funds for Homeless Students**

Children and youth who are in homeless situations are automatically eligible for Title I services. Title I **must** reserve funds for students experiencing homelessness if they attend nonparticipating schools.

### *Sec-1113 Eligible School Attendance Areas*

#### *(c) Allocations-*

*“(3) RESERVATION- A local educational agency shall reserve such funds as are necessary under this part to provide services comparable to those provided to children in schools funded under this part to serve-*

*(A) homeless children who do not attend participating schools, including providing educationally related support services to children in shelters and other locations where children may live...” (Emphasis added)*

Provided further, That 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.

### Staff Partnerships

Following the district’s official identification and enrollment of children from families lacking fixed, regular or adequate housing, the homeless liaison and Title I coordinator should jointly determine the anticipated services and funds required to meet the academic needs of these students. Consideration should be given to the financial and other supportive resources available from the community, district, McKinney-Vento, and Title I when planning to address the unique needs of these children. It is important that this joint planning take place prior to the start of the school year, and include both previously identified and newly identified students who may enroll at any time throughout the school year.

Staff members involved in this planning should keep in mind that a homeless student is defined as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence. This includes children and youth who:

- are “doubled-up”; sharing housing due to economic hardship (grandparent, relative, friend);
- live in domestic abuse shelters, emergency shelters, or transitional housing;
- teens who “couch surf”; temporarily staying at different friend’s homes;
- are runaway youth;
- live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds;
- are waiting foster care placement;
- live in cars, parks, public spaces, substandard housing, abandoned buildings; and
- migrant children who qualify as homeless because they live in the above circumstances.

Title I Coordinators and homeless liaisons need to consider the above student living arrangements when making decisions about academic needs and support, and use of the Title I reserved allocation or other district and community resources. Districts always have the option to reallocate unused funds reserved for this purpose to support other Title I program functions.

### Minimal Obligations

Homeless students should be assisted if they need additional academic support services not covered in regular district or Title I programs, wherever the student is attending school.

Additional support services might include:

- participation in –before and –after school programs,
- purchase of supplementary instructional materials such as homework tools and calculators,
- translation services,
- transportation to the school of origin
- transportation to educational programs that is not normally provided by the district,
- transportation services to allow a parent to attend school functions, and
- assistance with excess transportation costs to the school of origin, at the district's discretion, for the remainder of the academic year once a formerly homeless student becomes permanently housed.

### Other Considerations

Whether Title I or other district funds are used, the following services are required to be provided by your district under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act (Title X, No Child Left Behind):

- school supplies,
- course fee waivers,
- free school meals, and
- transportation to the school of origin

### Reservation Formula

Through the consolidated grant application process, a district must plan for provisions of Title I services to homeless students in participating schools, and reserve Title I funds to serve homeless students in a comparable manner if they are attending non-Title I schools. If student needs are not met with state or local funds, districts **must** reserve Title I funds to provide students who are homeless attending non-Title I schools services comparable to those provided to students in Title I schools.

There is no mandated formula for determining Title I Part A reservations. Some possible methods to calculate the reservation include:

1. Identify and assess the needs of students in homeless situations and set aside funds accordingly.
2. Obtain the count of student experiencing homelessness and multiply by the Title I, Part A per pupil allocation.
3. For districts with a McKinney-Vento subgrant, reserve an amount greater or equal to the LEA's McKinney-Vento funds.
4. Reserve a specific percentage based on the LEA's poverty level or total Title I, Part A allocation.

A budget revision can be made if it becomes clear that a lesser amount or no Title I funds are required to meet the needs of students who are homeless. For more information about Title I, please contact the district's [Title I Consultant](#).

#### Homeless Information

Please see <http://homeless.dpi.wi.gov/> for the legislative requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, the definition of who is considered homeless under the Act, transportation requirements, "Free Meals," and "Ten Strategies to Serve the Homeless."