

From: [DPI Homeless](#)
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Subject: COVID-19 and Students Experiencing Homelessness- Updates
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Importance: High

Good afternoon!

We have received some guidance from the National Center for Homeless Education that we wanted to share with you.

Many districts have been asking about ensuring access to school meals for students experiencing homelessness. Transportation is generally the number one barrier for students experiencing homelessness, and districts still need to remove this barrier to ensure students can access food. Under McKinney-Vento, transportation must be provided for educationally related services, which includes accessing school meals. Districts need to consider comparable services. If the district is doing deliveries to get meals to other low-income students, then students experiencing homelessness should be included in that delivery process and funded the same way. If the district is not providing that type of service, they could consider other options to remove barriers to accessing food, such as allowing students/families to go to a closer pick-up site or delivering food to students/families via buses or school staff when families can't get to a site. We also want to acknowledge that the supports provided to students experiencing homelessness during this time may be different than what districts typically provide.

In order to further support districts, we have developed a Google sheet to share resources and current practices to support students during these school closures. There are 4 sheets: Sharing Strategies, Resources, Questions and Answers from DPI, and Questions for fellow colleagues to answer. Please note: DPI has not vetted all the information that will be entered into this spreadsheet – it is designed to be a way for the field to connect. **This is a public document so only post if you consent to having what you share available for anyone to see.** [Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness Spreadsheet](#)

We are currently exploring other ways to help connect during this time and will share more in the near future. If you have feedback on ways that are currently helping you connect with colleagues, please email us with ideas.

Please know that there are other resources and PD opportunities available through our national partners. SchoolHouse Connection has a few upcoming webinars regarding [COVID-19](#) – you can view more information here: <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/webinars/upcoming-webinars/>.

As a reminder, we are updating our page with information: <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless>; and for the latest DPI information on COVID-19, please visit: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

Thank you,
Kristine and Karen