

Title I and McKinney-Vento WASBO Federal Funding Conference Presentation, March 1st, 2013



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Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Statistics on family homelessness

- Children are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population
- 3.5 million people will experience homelessness each year; **1.35 million of these will be children**
- More than **85%** of homeless families are headed by **single mothers**
- **40%** of homeless children living in shelters are **under the age of 5**



National Center for Homeless
Education •
www.serve.org/nche

Trend

- The number of homeless children and youth is increasing. From the 2005-06 school year to the most recent data from 2011-12, there has been over a 40% increase in child and youth homelessness in Wisconsin public schools

Data

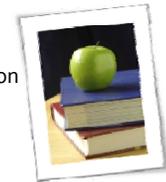
- **During the 2011-12 school year, 15,572 children and youth** were identified as homeless in Wisconsin public schools
- It is important to note that these numbers only reflect students enrolled in public schools, therefore, the actual number of homeless children and youth in Wisconsin is presumably much higher
(Remember that **40%** of children in shelters are under 5 so will not be reflected in the number above and many unaccompanied youth (runaways or 'on their own') are not enrolled in school or in a shelter and therefore also not counted above)

Barriers to Education for Children and Youth in Homeless Situations

- **Enrollment requirements** (residency, school records, immunizations, legal guardianship)
- **High mobility** resulting in lack of school stability and education continuity
- Lack of **access** to programs
- Lack of **transportation**
- Lack of **school supplies**, clothing, etc.
- **Poor health**, fatigue, hunger
- Prejudice and **misunderstanding**

The McKinney-Vento Act

- Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; reauthorized by Title X, Part C of ESEA
- Main themes of the McKinney-Vento Act
 - School access
 - School stability
 - Support for academic success
 - Child-centered, best interest decision making
 - Critical role of the local homeless education liaison



Eligibility—Who is Covered?

- Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**—
 - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason (Doubling up)
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters
 - Abandoned in hospitals

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Eligibility—Who is Covered? (cont.)

- Awaiting foster care placement
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc.
- Migratory children living in above circumstances
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances



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Helpful Definitions

- **FIXED:** A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
- **REGULAR:** A regular residence is one which is used on a predictable or routine basis.
- **ADEQUATE:** An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

• These definitions come from the National Center for Homeless Education in their publication: [Determining Eligibility for Rights and Services Under the McKinney-Vento Act](#).

Local Homeless Education Liaisons

- Every LEA must designate a liaison for students in homeless situations
- Responsibilities
 - Ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified
 - Ensure that homeless students are IMMEDIATELY enrolled in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school
 - Link with educational services, including preschool and health services



Local Homeless Education Liaisons (cont.)

- Inform parents, guardians, or youth of educational and parent involvement opportunities
- Post public notice of educational rights
- Resolve disputes
- Inform parents, guardians, or youth of transportation services, including to the school of origin



School Stability— Key Provisions

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness can stay in their school of origin or enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend, according to their best interest
- School of origin—school attended when permanently housed or in which last enrolled
- Best interest—keep homeless students in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible, unless this is against the parents' or guardians' wishes

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School Selection— Key Provisions

- Students can stay in their school of origin the entire time they are homeless, and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing
- If a student becomes homeless in between academic years, he or she may continue in the school of origin for the following academic year
- If a student is sent to a school other than that requested by a parent or guardian, the district must provide a written explanation to the parent or guardian of its decision and the right to appeal

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Immediate Enrollment

Students experiencing homelessness are entitled to **immediate enrollment**, even if they do not have:

- School records,
- Medical records **including immunization records**,
- Proof of residency,
- Guardianship papers,
- Birth certificate, or other documents normally needed.
- The homeless liaison will assist the parent, guardian, unaccompanied youth in obtaining necessary documents.

Transportation



- Districts must transport homeless students to and from the school of origin, at a parent's or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied youth)
- If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same district, that district must arrange transportation
- If the student is living outside the district of origin, the district where the student is living and the district of origin must determine how to divide the responsibility and cost, or they must share the responsibility and cost equally

Transportation Strategies

- Re-route school buses (including special education)
- Provide passes for public transportation
- Reimburse parents or unaccompanied youth for gas
- Collaborate with the parent for the best mode of transportation at the most economical rate
- Use approved taxi services

Feasibility—USDE Sample Criteria

- Continuity of instruction
- Age of the child or youth
- Safety of the child or youth
- Length of stay at the shelter
- Likely area where family will find permanent housing
- Student's need for special instructional programs
- Impact of commute on education
- School placement of siblings
- Time remaining in the school year
- There is no specific time or distance limit placed on transporting a homeless child to the school of origin; consider the unique situation of the student and how the transportation will affect the student's education
- **THE COST OF THE TRANSPORTATION MAY NOT BE A FACTOR IN THE FEASIBILITY CRITERIA**

Resolution of Disputes— Key Provisions

- Every state must establish dispute resolution procedures that include specific McKinney-Vento provisions
- When a dispute over enrollment arises, the student must be admitted immediately to the school of choice while the dispute is being resolved
- Liaisons must ensure unaccompanied youth are enrolled immediately while the dispute is being resolved

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Homeless Unaccompanied Youth— Key Provisions

- Definition: youth who meets the definition of homeless and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. Often 'couch surfing', runaway, or throwaway youth.
- Liaisons must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youth's wishes, and inform the youth of his or her appeal rights
- School personnel must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.

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Title I and Homelessness— Key Provisions

- A child or youth who is homeless and is attending any school in the district is automatically eligible for Title I A services
- LEAs must reserve (or set aside) funds as are necessary to provide services comparable to those provided to children in Title I A schools to serve homeless children who attend Non-Title I Schools, including providing educational support services to children in shelters and other locations where homeless children may live

Determining the Title I Set-Aside

- The department advises districts to consider reserving a sufficient amount of their Title I funds to provide comparable supplementary academic and support services to homeless students who may be enrolled, at any time during the school year, in non-Title I schools, or in grades not included in the district's Title I programming. There is no federally mandated formula, this amount can be determined in several ways:
 - **Method #1: Needs Assessment** -Identify homeless students' needs, and fund accordingly. The best way to determine the set aside is to figure out how much it costs to pay for the services that homeless children in your district need and reserve that amount of Title I, Part A funds to pay for them
 - **Method #2: Per Pupil Amount**- Obtain count of homeless students, and multiply by Title I, Part A per-pupil allocation.

Using Title IA Set-Aside Funds

- ⊙ Set-aside funds can be used to provide:
 - ⊙ Services to homeless students attending Title IA or non-Title IA schools that are comparable to those provided to non-homeless students in Title I schools
 - ⊙ Services to homeless students that are not ordinarily provided to other Title I students and that are not available from other sources, according to the need of the homeless student (*e.g. comparable may not mean identical*)
- ⊙ Title I funds should be used to support the student in meeting the state's academic standards

Permissible Usages:

* ARRA Guidance*

- ⊙ Used only when not available from other sources
- ⊙ Partial list:
 - ⊙ Clothing/shoes (school uniform/dress code/gym uniform)
 - ⊙ Cap and Gown
 - ⊙ Fees to participate in the general education program
 - ⊙ School supplies
 - ⊙ Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school
 - ⊙ Medical/dental services (glasses, hearing aids, immunizations)
 - ⊙ Counseling for issues affecting learning
 - ⊙ Outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences
 - ⊙ Extended learning time or tutoring support
 - ⊙ Supporting parent involvement
 - ⊙ Supporting the position of the local liaison
- ⊙ Full guidance:
www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/titlei-reform.pdf

Prohibited Usages of Funds

- ⊙ Transportation to/from the school of origin for the regular school day
- ⊙ Extras like yearbooks, letter jackets, or class rings
- ⊙ Rent
- ⊙ Utilities
- ⊙ Clothing for parents

Data

- **Required** by USDE for ALL districts, ESEA End-of-Year Report: Student by grade level and primary nighttime residence. **New:** we will include number of unaccompanied youth in 12-13 school year. **There is no required form but each district should have a formal way of keeping track of this information.**
- **Required** by Title I, ESEA monitoring: Identify all homeless students in Non-Title I schools, track academic achievement of homeless students in Non-Title I schools. Established and written method of determining TI set aside based on need.
- Useful information for needs assessment, (not required): how many homeless students are ELL/Spec. Ed/Migrant/Preschool. What are the unmet academic or physical needs of your school age homeless population. What is the most common primary nighttime residence in your district? How many runaway youth? What are community services? Others?

Access to Services

- Students who experience homelessness must have access to educational services for which they are eligible, including special education, programs for English learners, gifted and talented programs, voc./tech. programs, and school nutrition programs
- Undocumented children and youth have the same right to attend public school as U.S. citizens and are covered by the McKinney-Vento Act to the same extent as other children and youth (Plyler v. Doe)

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Access to Services (cont.)

- USDA policy permits liaisons and shelter directors to obtain free school meals for students by providing a list of names of students experiencing homelessness with effective dates
- The 2004 reauthorization of IDEA includes amendments that reinforce timely assessment, inclusion, and continuity of services for homeless children and youth who have disabilities

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Subgrants - Wisconsin

- Services provided with McKinney-Vento grant funds must not replace the regular academic program and must be designed to expand upon or improve services provided as part of the school's regular academic program
 - Appleton Area School District
 - Ashwaubenon School District
 - Beloit School District
 - Eau Claire Area School District
 - Fond Du Lac School District
 - Green Bay Area School District
 - Janesville School District
 - Kenosha Unified School District
 - Madison Metropolitan School District
 - Marinette School District
 - Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District
 - Milwaukee Public Schools
 - Racine Unified School District
 - Sheboygan Area School District
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 - CESA 6

Helpful Resources (Bibliography)

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- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)
202-364-7392 <http://www.naehcy.org>
- Serving Students Experiencing Homelessness under Title I, Part A (NCHE document)
<http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/files/sped/ffc/titlei.pdf>

Contact Information

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Carolyn Parkinson, EHCY Coordinator
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www.dpi.wi.gov/homeless/
dpihomeless@dpi.wi.gov (this email goes to both of us)

Find us on FACEBOOK! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/WI-DPI-Homeless-Education-Program/166795476753370?ref=pb> or search "WI DPI Homeless Education Program"

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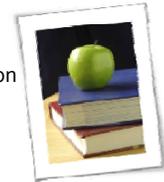
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Determining the Title I Set-Aside

- The department advises districts to consider reserving a sufficient amount of their Title I funds to provide comparable supplementary academic and support services to homeless students who may be enrolled, at any time during the school year, in non-Title I schools, or in grades not included in the district's Title I programming. There is no federally mandated formula, this amount can be determined in several ways:
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 - **Method #2: Per Pupil Amount**- Obtain count of homeless students, and multiply by Title I, Part A per-pupil allocation.

Using Title IA Set-Aside Funds

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Subgrants - Wisconsin

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 - Ashwaubenon School District
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Contact Information

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www.dpi.wi.gov/homeless/
dpihomeless@dpi.wi.gov (this email goes to both of us)

Find us on FACEBOOK! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/WI-DPI-Homeless-Education-Program/166795476753370?ref=pb> or search "WI DPI Homeless Education Program"

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Definition of Homelessness

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate** night-time residence. The term includes children and youth who:

- share the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (often referred to as **doubled up**);
- are living in **motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds** due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- are living in emergency or transitional **shelters**;
- are **abandoned** in hospitals;
- are **awaiting foster care** placement;
- have a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place **not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation** for human beings;
- are living in **cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations**, or similar settings;
- **unaccompanied** youth and **migratory** children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Rights and Services

The McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to remove all barriers to enrollment, attendance, and academic success that may be faced by students experiencing homelessness. Consequently, eligible homeless students have the following rights and are eligible for the following services and supports:

- **Immediate enrollment**, even if lacking documents normally required at the time of enrollment. The district will work with the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth to later obtain required documents and records;
- Right to continue attending the **school of origin** (even if it is in a different district than the district in which the student is temporarily residing);
- **Transportation** to the school of origin when feasible and in the best interests of the student, upon the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth;
- Immediate enrollment in **free school meals** program;
- **School supplies**;
- **Fee waivers**;
- **Before/After school** programs;
- **Tutoring** programs;
- **Referral** to community and social services, including but not limited to housing, food, clothing, medical, and mental health;
- **Preschool** programs;
- **Title I** services

Use of Title I Funds for Students Who Are Homeless

Title I Reservations

Section 1113 (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...

The department advises districts to consider reserving a sufficient amount of their Title I funds to provide comparable supplementary academic and support services to homeless students who may be enrolled, at any time during the school year, in non-Title I schools, or in grades not included in the district's Title I programming.

In addition, when all other resources are exhausted, Title I funds can help remove educational barriers such as:

- Assistance with students who are homeless, and their parents, in school/community learning opportunities that are related to academic achievement goals;
- School districts cannot use Title I funds to provide transportation for students who are homeless to their school of origin since Title I funds cannot pay for services that are a legal obligation under other legislation. However, 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;
- Minimum fees for physical, mental, dental, and other health services necessary for the enrollment and attendance of students who are homeless in school;
- Emergency food for students or families who are homeless;
- Assistance with high school graduation fees, college examination, or application costs when the district's policy is not to provide this support for any of its students for these purposes;
- Barriers to learning that may occur while living in domestic abuse and emergency shelters;
- Interpretation and translations of materials for ELL students and their parents for educational and educational rights and responsibilities purposes;
- Participation in before and after school programs;
- Participation in tutorial programs;
- Printed materials that are needed to support and expand literacy development;
- Purchase of supplementary instructional materials such as books, school supplies, homework tools, and calculators; and
- Remedy or assist with removal of barriers that prevent children and youth who are homeless from having a fair opportunity to attend school, including assistance with medical needs (eye glasses, doctor and dental appointments) and other emergency needs.

For questions about this information, contact one of our State Education for Homeless Children and Youth Coordinators:

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