

Title I and McKinney-Vento

WASBO Federal Funding Conference

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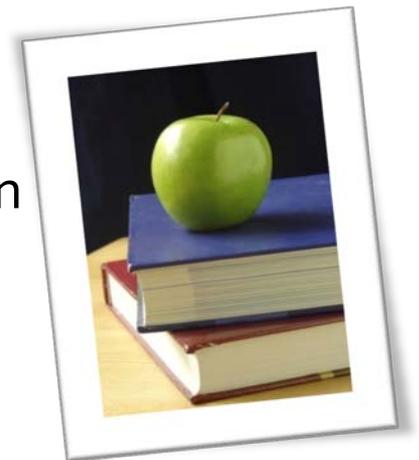


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The McKinney-Vento Act

- 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

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



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 enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school
 - Link with educational services, including preschool and health services
 - Resolve disputes

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

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

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

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

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.

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 amount

- 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

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*)

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

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
- Ashwaubenon
- Green Bay
- Hayward
- Wisconsin Rapids
- Madison
- Milwaukee
- Platteville
- Superior
- Racine
- Tomah
- Kenosha
- Eau Claire
- Middleton-Cross Plains
- Janesville
- West Allis

Helpful Resources (Bibliography)

- National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)
800-308-2145 <http://serve.org/nche>
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP)
202-638-2535 <http://www.nlchp.org>
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEH CY)
202-364-7392 <http://www.naehcy.org>

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