

TITLE I AND HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ESSA, Title I, Part A, Sections 1114, 1115, 1118

Homeless children and youth are to be provided services comparable to those received by other students. The Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was the first and remains the only federal legislative response to homelessness. The mission of KDE's Homeless Education Program is to be a supporter and nurturer of homeless children and youth; to help them achieve educational success; and to prepare them for the challenges of adult life. The following material is meant to provide an overview of the authorizing statute and should be used in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education (ED) [Policy Guidance for Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program](#).

Key Provisions in Title I, Part A, Relating to Homelessness

- Removes “awaiting foster care placement” from the definition of homeless as of December 10, 2016.
- Expands the definition of “school of origin” to include preschool and feeder schools;
- Requires continued enrollment and transportation during any enrollment dispute pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals;
- Expands transportation to the school of origin through the remainder of the school year in which the student becomes permanently housed;
- Requires that all State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) have policies to remove barriers to identification, enrollment and retention of children and youth who are homeless, including barriers to enrollment and retention due to outstanding fees or fines or absences;
- Requires SEAs to have procedures that ensure that students who are homeless and who meet the relevant eligibility criteria do not face barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet schools, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement courses, online learning and charter schools;
- Requires the State Plan describe how youth who are homeless will receive assistance from counselors to advise such youth and improve their readiness for college.
- Requires that the State Plan ensure appropriate access to secondary education including procedures to remove barriers that prevent youth from receiving appropriate for full or partial coursework completed while attending a prior school.
- Requires LEAs to immediately enroll children and youth who are homeless even if they have missed application and enrollment deadlines during any period of homeless.
- Allows LEA liaisons to refer students and their families to needed housing services and to affirm eligibility for students and their families for homeless assistance programs funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development if the liaison has received training;
- Requires that information about a homeless child’s living situation (e.g., homeless status, temporary address) be treated as a student education record and not be deemed to be directory information.
- It targets those students most at risk of failing in school.
- A homeless child/youth attending any school in the district is eligible for Title I services.
- Districts must set-aside funds to provide comparable services to children experiencing homelessness, including providing educationally related support services to children in shelters and other locations where children may live.
- Each district Title I coordinator must include a description and set aside adequate funding on the Title I

Application in GMAP of the services that will be provided to homeless children at Title I and non-Title I schools.

- Children/youth who are in homeless situations benefit from Title I services and programs. However, additional Title I funds may be needed to address specific needs of children who are homeless or highly mobile. For example, an excellent reading program implemented in a schoolwide or targeted assistance school will not be effective for children/youth that are unable to attend school regularly. An appropriate expenditure of Title I funds would be to remove barriers that prevent regular attendance or provide additional support, such as tutorial, before and after school and/or summer school programs. Funds other than those set-aside by Title I, Part A, must be used to provide transportation to school of origin.
- District homeless liaisons are required to be appointed in every school district, and district Title I coordinators must communicate and collaborate on an ongoing basis with the liaison to identify the needs of homeless children/youth, review resources, and plan ways to address needs.

Expanded Availability and Use of Title I, Part A Funds

Expanding the availability and use of Title I, Part A funds increases the resources for homeless students.

- The amount of Title I funds reserved for homeless children and youth may be determined based on a needs assessment and must be based on the total allocation received by the LEA and reserved prior to any allowable expenditure transfers by the LEA.
- Title I funds reserved for homeless children and youth may be used for services not ordinarily provided by Title I.
- Title I funds may be used for local liaisons and transportation to a student's school of origin.

Strategies for Serving Homeless Children and Youth and Title I, Part A

Two principles govern the use of Title I, Part A funds to provide services to homeless students:

1. The services must be reasonable and necessary (as outlined in [2 CFR 200.403\(a\)](#)) to assist homeless students to take advantage of educational opportunities.
2. Title I, Part A funds must be used only as a last resort when funds or services are not available from other public or private sources, such as the USDA's National School Lunch Program and Breakfast Program, public health clinics, or local discretionary funds (sometimes provided by the PTA) used to provide similar services for economically disadvantaged students generally.

The [National Center for Homeless Education](#) at SERVE provided the following strategies for using Title I, Part A, funds for students experiencing homelessness. These strategies are suggestions that may be helpful in addressing the needs of homeless students.

- Establish a formula to allocate Title I set-asides for homeless children/youth.
- Use Title I funds (including set-aside funds) to support the position of a full-time district homeless liaison so that the liaison's duties can be more fully accomplished.
- Use Title I funds to meet basic needs of students experiencing homelessness (clothing, supplies, health) so that they may participate more fully in school. The LEA may use Title I, Part A funds to provide, where appropriate, items or services including, but not limited to –
 - Items of clothing, particularly if necessary to meet a school's dress or uniform requirement;
 - Clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes;
 - Student fees that are necessary to participate in the general education program;

- Personal school supplies such as backpacks and notebooks;
 - Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school;
 - Immunizations;
 - Food;
 - Medical and dental services;
 - Eyeglasses and hearing aids;
 - Counseling services to address anxiety related to homelessness that is impeding learning;
 - Fees for AP and IB testing;
 - Fees for college entrance exams such as SAT or ACT; and
 - GED testing for school-age students
- Use Title I funds for parent and family engagement that makes a special effort to reach out to parents in homeless situations.
 - Extended learning time (before and after school, Saturday classes, summer school) to compensate for lack of quiet time for homework in shelters or other overcrowded living conditions.
 - Tutoring services, especially in shelters or other locations where homeless students live
 - Use set-aside funds for outreach services to children/youth living in shelters, transitional living programs, motels, and other temporary residences.
 - Use Title I funds for evidence based programs that benefit highly mobile students.
 - Collect data on students experiencing homelessness as part of the overall district-wide data collection system.
 - Coordinate Title I and McKinney-Vento grant funds to provide a comprehensive program for children at risk of failure, ensuring that specific needs of children experiencing homelessness or high mobility are met.

Collaboration and Coordination between Title I, Part A, and Homeless Education

Strategies to facilitate collaboration and coordination between Title I, Part A, and Homeless Education include the following. These strategies are suggestions that may be helpful in addressing the needs of homeless students.

- Ensure that district homeless liaisons attend Title I conferences and professional development and that Title I coordinators attend homeless education conferences and in-service
- Share Title I and Homeless Education handbooks with each program.
- Collect and share across the district concrete data on the needs of homeless children/youth.
- Involve Title I coordinators in structured coalition building with homeless education programs and organizations that serve homeless families and unaccompanied homeless youth, and establish common goals.
- Initiate district efforts to make accommodations for homeless children/youth as necessary in such areas as transportation, remaining in the school of origin, records transfer, class scheduling, and special services that will help them enroll, attend, and succeed in school.
- Involve homeless education program staff in school improvement issues; make sure that addressing the needs of highly mobile students is included in the Comprehensive School Improvement Plans, not addressed as a separate issue.
- Emphasize that coordination and sharing of resources is beneficial to the district as a whole because serving homeless children/youth will increase school achievement, lower truancy and dropout rates, and increase overall funding to the district.

- Determine what funding is available to serve homeless children/youth and how it is being used. Identify needs and develop a cross-program approach to address unmet needs.
- Establish and widely disseminate information on district-wide policies, procedures, and guidelines to identify and serve homeless children/youth.
- Ensure district homeless liaison representation on the appropriate district planning committee.
- Include homeless parents in Title I parent and family engagement policies and create opportunities for homeless parents to be involved.

Suggested Documentation

It is recommended that you save the following items in the event of a monitoring visit. This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but rather provide guidance when it comes to documenting Title I funds used for homeless children and youth.

District Monitoring Checklist — Homeless Children and Youth Sample Documentation	
• Homeless Education posters displayed in schools and district office (download posters in English and Spanish from the National Center for Homeless Education)	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Proof that the district has effectively communicated the existence of the homeless liaison (student handbook information, fliers, newspaper postings/articles, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Annual homeless count data	<input type="checkbox"/>
• District policy on identifying homeless families	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Sign-in sheets and minutes on related trainings	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Proof that homeless children and their families receive education services for which they are eligible (information provided to families, referrals from FRYSC)	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Documentation of transportation assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Written statement of school placement decision and the appeal rights	<input type="checkbox"/>
• District enrollment policies	<input type="checkbox"/>
• District set-aside in GMAP for homeless children and youth (including a description of the educational services provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Websites Addressing Homelessness

The following websites contain resources that may be useful to districts and schools in developing and implementing plans to address homelessness:

[Corporation for Supportive Housing](#)

This site includes links to local programs, a legislative action center, a resource page, and a contacts list. Publications and information on supportive housing initiatives are available online as well.

[Kentucky Department of Education McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Subtitle VII-B](#)

This site provides specifics regarding the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in the state of Kentucky.

[National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

This site includes statistics, policy and legislative information, publications, best practices and profiles, fact sheets, links, and other resources on homelessness.

[The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth \(NAEHCY\)](#)

This site is the voice and social conscience for the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Publications related to unaccompanied youth are available at this site under the Educational Resources Link.

[National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\)](#)

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, NCHE operates the Department's technical assistance center for the federal [Education for Homeless Children and Youth](#) (EHCY) Program. NCHE works with schools, service providers, parents, and other interested stakeholders to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness can enroll and succeed in school.

[National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#)

This site has a policy and advocacy section which provides several papers and legislative updates online. Other sections include research, clinical resources, training and education, and publications such as newsletters and fact sheets.

[National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty](#)

This site includes fact sheets on housing, health, and quality of life issues. It also provides a list of its publications and links to other sites.

[SchoolHouse Connection](#)

This site includes key legal requirements for McKinney-Vento liaisons while promoting educational success for children and youth homelessness from early childhood all the way up to post-secondary.

[Technical Assistance Collaborative](#)

This site provides information on a full range of federal and mainstream housing programs and policies. These programs expand on affordable housing for people with disabilities and who may be homeless. The site also features a newsletter and links to other sites.

[U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)

This site contains state and local information on mainstream resources available to assist people who are homeless. News and updates, a library of resources, a phone list of clearinghouses, and links to member organizations and other helpful sites are also available.