

Coordinating Title I Services with Homeless Programs

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Goals of Workshop

- To provide an understanding of the requirements of homeless education programs through McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act
- To provide an understanding of the requirements under Title I to coordinate services with homeless programs
- How the Title I set-aside for homeless students may be used to support McKinney-Vento programs

Agenda

- Overview of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Title I Collaboration with McKinney-Vento
- Allowable Uses of Title I Funds to Support Homeless Education Programs

Overview of McKinney-Vento Act

- Created in 1987
- Issues
 - Homelessness continues to be associated with lower standardized test scores, high absenteeism, multiple school transfers and deep poverty
- Purpose
 - Ensure the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless students

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Basic Components of a Homeless Education Program
 - NCLB Requirements
 - Types of Services
 - Regional and Site Coordinators

Homeless and Title I

- Homeless students are automatically Title I
 - Often experience lower standardized test scores, high absenteeism, multiple school transfers and deep poverty
- Unique educational barriers not common to non-homeless Title I students
 - High mobility, trauma, adverse living conditions
- Collaboration between homeless programs and Title I services is critical to meeting the unique needs

Definition of “Homeless” in NCLB

- Students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- Students living in shelters, hotels, motels and camping grounds
- Students living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings
- Students sharing housing (doubled up) due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Students awaiting foster care placement
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless
- Unaccompanied youth living in the situations above

Role of Regional & Site Coordinators

- Main Goal: Expedite enrollment for homeless in public education
- Clarifying PDE's "Education For Homeless Youth" Basic Education Circular/McKinney-Vento Act
- Develop a network in schools, shelters, agencies, and task forces
- Help to resolve enrollment disputes by educating the public and schools about the program
- Expediting enrollment, school records, immunization records, and transportation concerns

Role of School District Homeless Liaison

- Identify homeless children
- Educate parents/ guardians about a student's educational rights
- Disseminate information about the educational rights of homeless students
- Expedite enrollment and assist with school records, immunizations
- Mediate enrollment disputes
- Implement and support PDE's "Education For Homeless Youth" Basic Education Circular
- Provide equal access to comparable services including Title I

Collaboration Between Title I and Homeless Students

Title I Eligible Students

- LEAs must provide services and programs under Title I to meet the needs of the most educationally needy students
- Services are targeted to these students
- NCLB also mandates that if children meet certain criteria, they are **automatically eligible** for Title I services:
 - Homeless
 - Title I public pre-school
 - Even Start
 - Head Start

Providing Title I Services to Homeless Children

- Schoolwide Programs: LEAs do a needs assessment and address the needs of all students in the school
- Targeted Assisted Schools: LEAs provide services to children with the greatest academic need – homeless children are eligible but are provided services based on educational need
- Different Services: Homeless children may need additional/different services (e.g., after-school or library time)

Homeless Set Aside for Non-Title I Buildings

- An LEA must reserve “such funds as are necessary” to provide comparable services to homeless children who do not attend participating Title I schools and may provide support services to children in shelters and other locations where homeless children live.
20 U.S.C. 6313(c)(3)
- An LEA must provide services in non-Title I schools comparable to those for homeless students in Title I schools.

Determining Set Aside Amounts

- LEAs may choose one of these methods or any other comparable method:
 - Base the amount on current expenditures
 - Multiply the number of homeless students by the Title I per pupil allocation
 - Reserve a proportionate percentage based on the district's poverty percent or Title I allocation
- Requires coordination between LEA Title I and homeless program
- Guidance is available:
http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/calculating_setasides.pdf

Uses of Title I Funds for Homeless

Title I Homeless funds should be coordinated with the McKinney-Vento program in the districts

- Not a “stand alone” program
- Focus of McKinney-Vento is ensuring school stability by ensuring transportation to school of origin
- Focus of Title I is broader and addresses the diverse needs of this educationally at-risk population
 - Title I is to be used after all other funds/resources
 - Services that are not reasonably available from other sources (e.g., school uniforms)
- Both programs are critical to meeting the needs of homeless students

Underlying Principle of Expanded Uses of Title I Funds

Title I funds may be used to provide services that are authorized but not expressly required by McKinney-Vento

- Example:
 - Transportation to school of origin/attendance area while homeless is required, if feasible, using district and M-V funds; Title I is not allowed
 - Transportation to school of origin/attendance area once permanent housing is found (to give continuity for remainder of school year)

Permissible Uses of Title I Funds: Supplemental Instruction

- Services normally provided to Title I students – tutoring, after-school programs, extended learning time, Saturday classes, summer school
- Services to assist homeless students in meeting Pennsylvania’s challenging academic achievement standards
- May be used to provide education-related support services at the shelter or alternate location where they live, or at the school (services outside of school may not be during school hours)

Permissible Uses of Title I Funds: Transportation

- If feasible, reasonable and in the best interest of the student: ensure that formerly homeless students can attend their school of origin/attendance area for the remainder of the year in which they become permanently housed
- Can not be used for other kinds of transportation required by McKinney-Vento or the district

Permissible Uses of Title I Funds: Other Services

- Used with discretion (in the absence of other funds/resources and documented)
- For items not ordinarily provided to other Title I students and not “reasonably available” from other sources to help homeless students effectively take advantage of educational opportunities:
 - Uniforms
 - Health Service
 - School Supplies
 - Eye Glasses

Permissible Uses of Title I Funds: Other Services

- Parent Involvement
- Basic Needs
- Outreach Services
- Counseling Services
- Professional Development
- Coordination with Other Programs to Serve Homeless Children (e.g., response to instruction and intervention)

Examples of Permissible Uses of Title I Funds

Examples of services reasonable and necessary to assist homeless students in taking advantage of educational opportunities:

- Clothing/shoes necessary to participate in physical education
- Fees for SAT/ACT testing
- GED testing for school-age students
- Birth certificates, immunizations needed to enroll in school
- Food, medical and dental services
- Eyeglasses and hearing aids
- Counseling services to address anxiety related to homelessness that is impeding learning

Non-Allowable Uses of Title I Funds for Homeless

- Transportation of school-aged homeless child to school of origin/attendance area
- Prom gowns or tuxedos
- Regular clothing for the student or family members
- Yearbook fees

Coordinating Services

- District Title I Coordinator should work with the Regional Homeless Coordinator to:
 - Discuss and plan what the Title I set-aside will cover and how it fits into the overall McKinney-Vento plan
- Title I staff may attend professional development activities relating to homeless education
- Regional Homeless Coordinators may be invited to attend Title I related professional development
- When in doubt, evaluate the needs of the individual homeless students on a case-by-case basis

Homeless Plan in eGrants

LEAs are required to submit a plan for how they coordinate homeless services

Additional Resources

- Online Training Video: “Homeless Education and Title I: Collaboration and Compliance Training Video” – [http://servepres.serve.org/p79332226 /](http://servepres.serve.org/p79332226/)
- USDE Guidance – <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.doc>
- Division of Federal Programs – Regional Coordinator (717-783-2193)

For more information on Pennsylvania's
Education for Children and Youth
Experiencing Homelessness Program
please visit www.education.state.pa.us or
contact Sheldon Winnick at (717)783-6468
or swinnick@pa.gov

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