

# Title I & McKinney-Vento



Collaborating to Improve  
Educational Outcomes for  
Homeless Students

# McKinney-Vento

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*The McKinney-Vento Act was created in 1987 in response to reports to Congress that up to 50% of homeless children were not enrolled in and attending school.*

*The Act seeks to ensure the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school.*

# Title I and Homeless Students

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*Homeless students are automatically eligible for Title I. They are recognized as an important part of Title I, Part A's target population of disadvantaged students.*

*Homelessness continues to be associated with lower standardized test scores, high absenteeism, multiple school transfers and deep poverty.*

*The high mobility, trauma, and living conditions associated with homelessness create unique educational barriers and challenges that non-homeless Title I students may not face; thus homeless students often require additional supports for academic achievement and success.*

# Collaboration

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*Collaboration between Homeless Programs and Title I Services is critical to meeting the unique needs of these at-risk children.*

*Coordinators of both programs must address these needs in tandem.*

# Goals of Workshop

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

# Agenda

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

# Overview of McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act

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- Purpose
- Basic Components of a Homeless Education Program
  - NCLB Requirements
  - Types of Services
- PA System of Support for Homeless Programs
  - Regional Site Coordinators

# Definition of “Homeless” in NCLB

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



# Role of Regional & Site Coordinators

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Expedite enrollment and remove the barriers that may delay enrollment including:

- ❑ Interpreting the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- ❑ Clarifying the PA Dept. of Education's Education For Homeless Youth Basic Education Circular
- ❑ Developing a network of personnel to work with in schools, shelters, and agencies, including Taskforce meetings
- ❑ Helping to resolve enrollment disputes by continuously educating the public and schools about the program
- ❑ Expediting enrollment, school records, immunization records, and transportation concerns

# Role of School District Homeless Liaison

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Under the Act, a School District Homeless liaison must:

- ❑ Identify homeless children with assistance from school personnel and agencies;
- ❑ Educate parents/ guardians about the student's educational rights;
- ❑ Disseminate public notice about the educational rights of homeless students in schools, shelters, and food pantries;
- ❑ Expedite enrollment and assist with school records, immunizations;
- ❑ Mediate enrollment disputes and assist in accessing dispute resolution process;
- ❑ Explain the PA Dept. of Education's Education For Homeless Youth Basic Education Circular;
- ❑ Provide equal access to comparable services including coordinating to ensure access to Title I services

# Collaboration Between Title I and Homeless Students



# Title I Eligible Students

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- 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
  - Any child participating who participated in Head Start, Even Start or a Title I preschool.

# Why Are Homeless Children Automatically Entitled to Title I?

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- ❑ Children and youth who are homeless are among *the most* educationally at risk:
  - 43% repeat a grade
  - Only one-third read at grade level
  - 50% are failing academically
  - Over 25% have special education needs
  - 45% do not attend school regularly
  
- ❑ Therefore, serving homeless children is an integral part of Title I, Part A

# Title I Is a Legal Entitlement For Homeless Students

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In Title I schools, the needs of homeless children must be considered through:

- ❑ **Schoolwide** programs: LEAs must do a needs assessment and address the needs of all students in the school.
- ❑ **Targeted Assisted** schools: LEAs must provide services to children who have the greatest need for services – NCLB specifically lists homeless children as being eligible, but should be provided services based on educational need.
- ❑ **Different Services**: Homeless children may need additional/different services (*e.g.*, after-school library time)

## In Non-Title I Schools, Funds Must Be Set Aside for Homeless Students

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- 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.

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# Title I Set Aside Funds

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- An LEA may use reserved funds to provide services to eligible homeless students in non-Title I schools that are comparable to those for homeless students in Title I schools.
- An LEA may use reserved funds to provide a homeless student with services that are not reasonably available from other sources (*e.g.*, school uniforms)



# Determining Set Aside Amounts

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- LEAs may choose one of these methods or any other comparable method:
  - Review needs and costs involved in serving homeless students in the current year and project for the following year (be sure to use the NCLB definition of homeless when identifying your students).
  - Multiply the number of homeless students by the Title I per pupil allocation.
  - Reserve a proportionate percentage based on the district's poverty % or Title I allocation.
- Determining this amount requires coordination between LEA Title I and homeless program.
- Guidance is available:  
[http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/calculating\\_setasides.pdf](http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/calculating_setasides.pdf)

# Uses of Title I Set Aside

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- Title I Homeless Set-aside 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;
  - Both programs are critical to meeting the needs of homeless students.

# Underlying Principle of Expanded Uses of Title I Funds

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- Title I funds may be used to provide services that are “authorized” but not expressly required by the McKinney-Vento Act.
- For example, transportation to school of origin is required under the Act and thus M-V funding is used. Providing transportation for the remainder of the school year is “authorized” by McKinney-Vento and Title I funds and district funds may be used.

# Permissible Uses of Title I Funds

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## □ **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 the State's challenging academic achievement standards;
- May be used to provide educationally-related support services at the shelter or alternate location where they live or at the school.

# Permissible Uses of Title I Funds

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- Transportation (supplemental)
  - Ensure that **formerly** homeless students can attend their school of origin for the remainder of the year in which they become permanently housed. (Guidance M-2)
  - Can be used for other kinds of transportation for homeless students, including preschool transportation, Head Start, after-school transportation.

# Permissible Uses of Title I Funds

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## □ **Different Services needed for homeless students**

- May be used with discretion for things 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
  - School Supplies
  - Health Services

# Permissible Uses of Title I Set Aside Funds

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- ❑ Parent Involvement
- ❑ Basic Needs
- ❑ Outreach services
- ❑ Counseling Services
- ❑ Professional Development
- ❑ Coordination with other programs to serve homeless children (e.g., Response to Intervention)
- ❑ Support a homeless liaison
  - *Reasoning: McKinney-Vento requires each LEA to designate a liaison who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs. Because another Federally funded coordinator may perform these duties, an individual paid, in whole or in part, with Title I, Part A funds, may serve as a homeless liaison.*

# Examples of Permissible Uses of Title I Funds

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

- ❑ Clothing/shoes necessary to participate in physical education
- ❑ Student fees necessary to participate in the general ed program
- ❑ Fees for AP and IB testing
- ❑ 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

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

# Coordinating Services

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- Title I Coordinator in the District should touch base 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

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- ❑ LEAs required to submit a plan for how they coordinate homeless services.
- ❑ This began in the 2007-08 application.

# Additional Resources

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

# Questions / Answers



# Contact Information

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