

Veteran Liaison 411

Exploring Advanced Homeless Education Topics

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

Topics for Today

- Title I, Part A
- McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution
- McKinney-Vento and Open Enrollment in WI
- Shared Placement
- Transportation

The session is being recorded

Title I, Part A




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Coordinating with Title I, Part A

- Title I are Federal funds school districts receive to serve economically disadvantaged students and students with the highest academic need.
- Districts choose, based on students living in poverty, which buildings receive Title I funds.
- Children and youth experiencing homelessness are automatically eligible for Title I services, even if they attend a school building that does not have a Title I program.

Title I Homeless Reservation

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness that are not attending a Title I school receive Title I services through the Title I homeless reservation.
 - All districts are required to take a reservation of Title I funds designated specifically to support students experiencing homelessness throughout the district.
 - This is still required even if a district is receiving ARP-HCY funds. ARP-HCY funds should not be taken into account when determining a reservation amount.
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Title I Homeless Reservation

- Services must be reasonable and necessary to assist students experiencing homelessness to take advantage of educational opportunities.
- When taking into consideration barriers that students experiencing homelessness often encounter, districts may provide students experiencing homelessness with services that are not ordinarily provided to other Title I permanently housed students, and are not available from other sources.
- Title I, Part A funds must be used only when funds or services are not available from other public or private sources that provide similar services for students in general.


Determining the Title I-A Reservation

There is not a specific amount of Title I funds a district must reserve. However, it is required that the amount be sufficient to provide services to students experiencing homelessness. Options include:

- a districtwide, per pupil amount for students experiencing homelessness.
- a percentage of the total Title I allocation.
- determining an amount that is reasonable and necessary to provide comparable Title I services to students experiencing homelessness.

[DPI Title I, Part A Homeless Reservation FAQ](#)

Determining the Title I-A Reservation

- Homeless liaisons should work with the ESEA/Title I coordinator to help determine the reservation amount.
 - We recommend a needs assessment occur in the district, or ensure homeless youth are included in needs assessments that are already in practice, to determine the amount.
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Title I Homeless Reservation

Allowable use of funds:

- Homeless liaison's salary
- Excess cost of transportation to and from the school of origin
- Clothing/shoes (school uniform/dress code/gym uniform)
- Cap and gown
- Fees to participate in the general education program
- School supplies
- Birth certificates
- Medical/dental services (glasses, hearing aids, immunizations)

Title I Homeless Reservation

Allowable use of funds:

- Counseling services related to homelessness
 - Outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences
 - Extended learning time or tutoring support
 - Activities/services supporting family engagement
 - Fees for AP or IB testing, SAT or ACT testing
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Title I Homeless Reservation

Note: Students experiencing homelessness are eligible to receive Title I services for the remainder of any school year in which they become permanently housed

Examples from Wisconsin School Districts

- Hired staff to work with students experiencing homelessness in high school on academic needs, such as:
 - Completing coursework
 - Test prep
 - Helping students advocate for themselves
 - Being a trusted adult the students can connect with
- Extended staff time to connect with families experiencing homelessness before school starts

McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution



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Dispute Resolution

Districts must have a dispute resolution policy.

- It is recommended that the dispute resolution process include:
 - notice of educational rights under the McKinney-Vento Act;
 - the right to file an appeal;
 - a step-by-step description of how to appeal a decision;
 - contact information for the homeless liaison and State Coordinator;
 - and relevant timelines.
- Districts must review their policy, and revise if needed.

Dispute Resolution

If a dispute arises over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment the district must:

- Immediately enroll the student in the school in which enrollment is sought pending final resolution of the dispute, including all appeals. While the appeals are pending, the student has the right to full participation in school activities and all McKinney-Vento services, including transportation.
- Provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied homeless youth with a written explanation of any dispute-related decisions, including the right to appeal such decisions. The written explanation must include the reason for the determination and must be in a manner and form understandable to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied homeless youth.

Dispute Resolution

If a dispute arises over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment the district must:

- Refer the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied homeless youth to the homeless liaison, who is required to assist with the district's dispute resolution process.
- Follow a clear process for the dispute and appeal process, including having more than one level of appeal before unresolved disputes are sent to DPI
 - Districts should consider who is the designated liaison in the district.
 - If the superintendent is the liaison then how will the dispute process move forward in the district?

Dispute examples on DPI EHCY Website (under Dispute Resolution):

<https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/forms>

Disagreements about School of Origin for Students with Disabilities

- A student's disability may be a factor in determining if the student remains in the school of origin.
- If the parent believes the student's special education needs cannot be met in the selected school, an IEP team meeting should be held to review the IEP and determine placement.
- If the parent disagrees with the IEP team placement decision, the parent may use the dispute resolution options available under IDEA.
 - Mediation, Complaint, Due Process

Dispute Resolution

Before getting to the dispute process, conversations with the family or unaccompanied youth should occur. If they continue to disagree with the determination of the district, then the homeless liaison must begin the dispute process.

- Written notification from the liaison, including timelines and who the appeal goes to next.
- Written notification of that decision with the same information.
- The homeless liaison should continue to work with the family on making appeals to the correct person.
- If the parent or youth will be appealing to DPI, inform the state coordinator.

Scenario

When a family identifies as being doubled up and we know this is not true, do we still have to enroll them under McKinney-Vento?

What more information do you need?

What processes do you need to follow?

Scenario

A family was previously identified as McKinney Vento in School District **A**. Last year there was a best interest meeting as the family had a history of chronic absenteeism and issues with transportation. It was determined that they should enroll where they are residing in School District **B**, and they did.

The family completed an online registration for this school year and stated that they are once again doubled-up in School District **A**. Does the previous best interest determination still hold or are we resetting their enrollment status as we have entered a new school year?

Do you need more information?

What processes do you need to follow?

McKinney-Vento and Open Enrollment in WI




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McKinney-Vento and Open Enrollment in Wisconsin

Under McKinney-Vento, students have rights to continue in their school of origin or to immediate enrollment in their resident school. But when a family decides they want to attend a school that they don't have rights to under McKinney-Vento, they must open enroll as any other student would.

- Families who are experiencing homelessness can use the Alternative Open Enrollment form.
- The district will follow their typical open enrollment procedures.
- A student experiencing homelessness must be identified and receive services under McKinney-Vento by the enrolling school.

McKinney-Vento and Open Enrollment in Wisconsin

- If a student experiencing homelessness open enrolls, the student **does not** receive transportation under McKinney-Vento since they are attending a school they don't have rights to under the law.
 - Once they start attending the school they are open enrolled into, that is their school of origin under McKinney-Vento. The school the student open enrolled from is not the school of origin since the student wasn't attending or stopped attending that district.
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McKinney-Vento and Open Enrollment in Wisconsin

- If a student's nighttime residence changes **after** they are open enrolled and attending the school, transportation must be provided since the student has established a school of origin.
 - If a family loses permanent housing
 - If a family open enrolled while experiencing homelessness, but they are now in a different temporary living situation
- The responsibility for transportation remains shared 50/50 between the school of origin and the district of residence. The school the student open enrolled from is not involved in sharing transportation.

Scenario

Two young students in a family were having a hard time attending their school of origin within School District **A**. They lived in school district **A**, but across the street from School District **B**. The family applied for Alternative Open Enrollment and the students attended School District **B** for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year. One high school student in the family remained enrolled at School District **A**.

The family are now living doubled up in School District **C**. What is the school of origin for the younger students? What is the school of origin for the high school student?

Do you need more information?


Does Open Enrollment of the younger students change their school of origin?

Scenario

A family is open enrolled into School District **A** and living in School District **B**. They lose housing and are living temporarily in School District **A**. What happens to their Open Enrollment status? Does Open Enrollment get revoked?

Do you need more information?

How would removing this affect the student?



Shared Placement of Students and McKinney-Vento



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Shared Placement and McKinney-Vento

Students are always identified as McKinney-Vento based on their living situation, not the living situation of their parents or family members.

- If a student that has shared placement with both parents has one parent lose housing **and continues the shared placement schedule**, then that student must be identified as McKinney-Vento eligible based on the temporary living situation with one parent.
- While the identification doesn't end, when they are residing with the parent that is permanently housed, they do not receive McKinney-Vento transportation. Nothing about that living situation has changed.

Shared Placement and McKinney-Vento

Students are always identified as McKinney-Vento based on their living situation, not the living situation of their parents or family members.

- If a student that has shared placement with both parents has one parent lose housing **and an arrangement is made for them to only live with the housed parent**, then that student is not identified under McKinney-Vento.
- If they stayed one night in a temporary living arrangement before plans could be made between the parents, then they would be identified based on the temporary living situation.

Scenario

Students have shared placement between mom and dad. Mom lived in our district and dad lives in a different district. The dad provides transportation to school for his children when they are with him since he lives out of our district. Recently, the mother lost her housing and so the children have been identified as homeless while they are living with her. The students' living arrangement hasn't changed while they are with dad.

Does the McKinney-Vento identification follow them to both settings?


Should we be offering transportation to the dad because the mom is homeless?

Transportation



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Sharing Transportation Costs

- Share the cost 50-50 between the district of origin and the resident district, unless another arrangement is made between the two districts.
 - Reach out to the other homeless liaison to have a conversation, before sending a bill.
 - Discuss options each district has for transportation; one may be more cost effective.
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Mode of Transportation

- The **mode of transportation is left to the discretion of the district**, however, the mode and the details of transportation cannot present a barrier to the child's attendance in school.
- Districts may consider other safe transportation options besides school busses, in keeping with state and local pupil transportation guidelines.
- Keep in mind there may be a stigma about showing up to school in an alternative mode of transportation - is it only the students experiencing homelessness who show up in a cab?

Enrollment and Transportation

- McKinney-Vento ensures immediate enrollment of students experiencing homelessness.

[Enrollment and Identification of Students Experiencing Homelessness Webinar](#)

- Transportation must be arranged promptly to ensure immediate enrollment and so as not to create barriers to homeless students' attendance, retention, and success.

Comparable Transportation

Districts must provide students in homeless situations with transportation services comparable to those provided to other students.

- If a student is on a normal bus route, or within the district policy to take public transportation- those typical methods should be used.
- If a student is temporarily living somewhere that is in the walk zone, that student should follow the walk zone policy.
- Exceptions do exist within offering comparable services, usually if there is an unsafe route to school or concerns for the child's safety.

Transportation for Preschool

Preschool is included in the definition of school of origin. If transportation is a barrier, the district(s) must provide it.

- This includes district administered public preschool programs (4K, Head Start, IDEA services, etc.).
- Transportation to the school of origin must be provided even if a child who is enrolled in a public preschool in one district moves to another district that does not provide widely available or universal preschool.

Extracurricular Activities

- Districts must eliminate barriers to, among other things, the enrollment of students experiencing homelessness (including transportation barriers). Enrollment includes attending classes and “participating fully in school activities”.
- Full participation includes participation in extracurricular activities, and McKinney-Vento emphasizes that students must not face barriers to accessing extracurricular activities.
- If transportation is a barrier for a child or youth to participate in extracurricular activities, transportation must be provided.

Funding Transportation

- State and local funds
- Community partnerships
 - Examples: Donations for bus tickets, community fundraising drive to help with transportation
- American Rescue Plan- Homeless Children & Youth
- Other federal stimulus funds
- Title I, Part A homeless reservation funds
 - To cover excess cost

How Far Is Too Far to Travel to the School of Origin?

- Homeless liaisons must consider what is in the best interest of the student
- There is **NO** time or distance limit specified in McKinney-Vento
- Things to be considered:
 - Impact of commute on education
 - Age
 - Safety
 - Need for special instructional programs
 - Length of stay at the temporary location

Gas Cards/Gas Reimbursement

- Recommendations
 - Have a contract
 - Consider paying gas costs up front and monitoring attendance
- Cost of mileage
 - Must be reasonable, comparable to what the district reimburses for staff
- Strategies
 - Fuel only cards
 - Set up accounts with local gas stations

Transportation Contracts

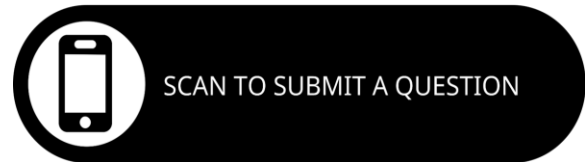
- Transportation contracts are not required in the law
- Helps both the district and the parent/guardian/youth to understand expectations and have a plan if the mode of transportation is not working or there are “no-loads”, etc.
- Clearly outlines what transportation will be provided

[Montello McKinney-Vento Transportation Agreement](#)

Resources

- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Education for Homeless Children and Youth
<https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless>
- SchoolHouse Connection
<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/>
- National Center for Homeless Education
<https://nche.ed.gov/>
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
<http://www.naehcy.org/>

Have questions?
Scan the QR code
and submit them!



Connect!

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