Title I, Part A Reservation Funds for Homeless Education

- Homeless children are automatically eligible for Title I services, regardless of their current academic performance.
- LEAs must reserve funds, as necessary, to provide comparable services to homeless students regardless of their school of attendance.
- Homeless students at non-Title I schools are entitled to academic support comparable to students attending Title I schools.
- Title I does not have a formal definition of comparable services.
- Title I, Part A Reservation Funds for Homeless Education can be used to support homeless students.

LEAs can use Title I, Part A Reservation for Homeless Education to:

- Provide activities other than direct instruction, provided that the activity promotes student achievement.
- Provide academic support as well as non-academic support to homeless students in non-Title I schools.
- Meet basic needs (clothing, supplies, health) of homeless students so that they can participate in school, including p.e. clothing and shoes.
- Support homeless liaison position.
- Hire special teachers, aides, and tutors to provide supplemental instruction.
- Provide Parent Involvement programs that make a special effort to reach out to parents in homeless situations.
- Provide after-school and/or summer programs.
- Provide emergency food while the student is in school, including breakfast, lunch, and snacks.
- Defray medical and dental expenses, including eye glasses and hearing aids.
- Student fees that are necessary to participate in the general education program.
- Pay fees associated with obtaining birth certificates.
- Pay fees associated with obtaining immunizations.
- Pay the cost of GED for homeless students.
- Provide transportation to and from after-school programs.
- Provide transportation to and from the school of origin once the child becomes permanently housed.
- Provide the cost of cap and gown to wear at graduation.
- Pay for school projects and/or field trips.
- Pay fees for AP and IB testing.
- Pay fees for SAT/ACT testing.
- Provide counseling services.

LEAs can not use Title I, Part A Reservation for Homeless Education to:

- Provide rental assistance for homeless families.
- Provide clothing assistance for parents.
- Pay for the cost of prom dresses, sports physicals, or yearbooks.
- Transport homeless students.
- Pay for physical exams to participate in sports.
Homeless Education Overview

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Subtitle B—Education for Homeless Children and Youth), reauthorized in January 2002, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. This overview explains the legislation and offers strategies for implementing it in a school district.

Definition of Homeless: The term homeless children and youth means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition also includes:

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Children who may be living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, shelters, or awaiting foster care placement
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are children who are living in similar circumstances listed above

LEA Requirements:

- Requires LEAs to designate an appropriate staff person as a local educational agency liaison for students in homeless situations
- Requires LEAs to immediately enroll students in homeless situations, even if they do not have required documents, such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documents
- Requires liaisons to ensure that homeless children and youth are identified; that they enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the schools of the LEA; and that they and their families receive educational services for which they are eligible
- Requires LEAs to keep homeless students in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible, unless it is against the parent or guardian’s wishes
- Students are also permitted to remain in their school of origin for the duration of their homelessness, and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing
- Requires LEAs to provide transportation to and from the school of origin, at the request of the parent or guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the district’s homeless liaison
- Requires LEAs to develop, review, and revise their policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations