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Transportation for Students Experiencing Homelessness Reference Sheet

Homeless Education Program Guidance

The following resources have been developed by the WHCS McKinney-Vento Coordinator to assist local education agencies (LEAs) with developing quality procedures to provide transportation for students experiencing homelessness. Guidance and sample documents are developed in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and through consultation with the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) and SchoolHouse Connection.

Resource

Description of Resource

Determining a Need for Transportation

[Student Residency Questionnaire & Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths](#)

As outlined in the ESEA Consolidated Plan, WHCS is required to utilize the Student Residency Questionnaire and Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths in the State of New Mexico. You can access these documents and their corresponding requirements at www.walatowahcs.org

<u>Identification & Eligibility Interview Questions & Checklist</u>	McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons may utilize this checklist to help guide a conversation with the parent, guardian, caregiver, or student to determine if the student's living situation is considered fixed, regular, and adequate, as well as identify what their needs are.
<u>Best Interest Determination (BID) Form</u>	LEAs must make school placement determinations based on the "best interest" of the HCY and student-centered factors. As a requirement, LEAs are to establish a policy and procedure to make best interest determinations (BID), provide transportation, and manage dispute resolutions to ensure school placement.
<u>Establishing Transportation</u>	
<u>Transportation Best Practice Guidance Document</u>	This document provides guidance and shared best practices to ensure WHCS is arranging transportation so that homeless children and youth participate for the full school day, neither arriving late nor leaving before the school day has ended.
<u>Transportation Request Form</u>	This form can be utilized when transportation is needed within WHCS.
<u>Transportation Agreement Form</u>	Once transportation has been finalized, this sample form may be utilized to establish an agreement between the parent/guardian, student, and WHCS to provide and utilize transportation.
<u>Bus Pass Agreement Form</u>	If transportation will be provided via the provision of bus passes, the form may be utilized to establish an agreement between the parent/guardian, student, and LEA to provide and utilize transportation.
Transportation Non-Usage Notification Letter Samples <u>Occurrence Letter</u>	In the event of transportation non-usage or inconsistent usage, form will be utilized to notify and request communication from the parent or guardian to improve transportation usage and school attendance.

Professional Learning

[NM Homeless Education Program Professional Learning Sessions on Transportation](#)

The NMPED Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program provides regular professional learning sessions, which are recorded and shared on the NMPED website. The sessions listed in this section contain information relevant to McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons regarding requirements and best practices to provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation. To access these and other session recordings and materials from the website, select the drop-down menu for the school year that the session was provided.

NMPED Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/student-support-services/at-risk-intervention-response/ehcy-program/>

[2024-2025 Empowering McKinney-Vento Liaisons: Strategies for Success \(New Mexico Virtual Conference\)](#)

[Striving for Equity: Supporting the Education of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)

[New Mexico Education for Homeless Youth Conference](#)

[Introduction – Recording](#)

[Main Presentation – PDF](#)

[McKinney-Vento 101 – Recording](#)

[McKinney-Vento 101 Presentation – PDF](#)

[McKinney-Vento 101 Resources – PDF](#)

[McKinney-Vento 201 – Recording](#)

[McKinney-Vento 201 Presentation – PDF](#)

[Dispute Resolution – Recording](#)

[Reflections – Recording](#)

[Day 2 – October 13](#)

[Recording](#)

[Main Presentation – PDF](#)

[Day 1 Recap/Questions – Immunization Letter](#)

[Increasing Enrollment of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in New Mexico Presentation – PDF](#)

[Helping New Mexico Students Pursue Higher Education Presentation – PDF](#)

[Day 3 – October 19](#)

[Recording](#)

[Main Presentation – PDF](#)

	Fostering Resilience in Our Students Presentation – PDF
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Transportation Tools & Resources	
The following resources will aid McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons in understanding and providing the right to transportation for students experiencing homelessness. It is recommended these links are bookmarked for easy access to be utilized as a point of reference when providing technical assistance to parents, guardians, youth and other stakeholders.	
Resource	Description of Resource

<p><u>Transportation Action Planning Tool</u></p>	<p>This tool is intended to serve as a self-assessment and guide to support the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison, Foster Care Point of Contact, and other pertinent LEA stakeholders develop a comprehensive transportation procedure. Please note that this tool does not serve as the LEA's transportation procedure. It is designed to support with quickly identifying and prioritizing areas where greater capacity is needed to carry out the law.</p>
<p>McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Statute</p> <p><u>42 U.S.C. CHAPTER 119, SUBCHAPTER VI, Part B: Education for Homeless Children and Youths</u></p>	<p>The McKinney-Vento Act strongly emphasizes the importance of school stability for homeless children and youths. Changing schools' multiple times significantly impedes a student's academic and social growth. Therefore, the McKinney-Vento Act calls for LEAs to maintain students in their school of origin to promote school stability and greater educational outcomes overall, unless it is not in the student's best interest.</p>
<p><u>Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance</u></p>	<p>This revised non-regulatory guidance for the McKinney-Vento program replaces the July 2004 guidance and includes new questions that reflect both the amendments to the McKinney Vento Act made by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which took effect on October 1, 2016 and new technical assistance on promising practices for implementing homeless education requirements at the State and local levels. The guidance describes the requirements of the new statute and provides recommendations for addressing many of those requirements.</p>
<p><u>NM ESSA State Plan</u></p>	<p>Section 8302 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires the Secretary to establish procedures and criteria under which, after consultation with the Governor, a State educational agency (SEA) may submit a consolidated State plan designed to simplify the application requirements and reduce burden for SEAs. ESEA section 8302 also requires the Secretary to establish the descriptions, information, assurances, and other material required to be included in a consolidated State plan.</p> <p>NMPED - ESSA https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/essa/</p>

<p><u>National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)</u></p>	<p>NCHE operates the U.S. Department of Education’s technical assistance and information center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program. They develop a variety of guidance and resources related to the McKinney Vento Act. Here is a collection of resources related to transportation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE): Transportation • Homeless Liaison Toolkit, Chapter Seven: Transportation • Transporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness-Law into Practice Brief • Transportation for Homeless Children and Youth: Strategies for Rural School Districts • Extracurricular Activities and Transportation for Students Experiencing Homelessness • Supporting Homeless Children and Youth in Charter Schools
<p><u>SchoolHouse Connection</u></p>	<p>SchoolHouse Connection is a national non-profit organization working to overcome homelessness through education. They provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with early childhood programs, schools, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth. Here are a collection of resources related to transportation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting the Transportation Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness • Steps Toward Solutions: Housing and Transportation Resources • Charter School and Students Experiencing Homelessness: Practices and Recommendations for Success • How Charter Schools can Support Students Experiencing Homelessness