



Office of ESSA-Funded Programs  
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**TO:** BOCES District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public Schools  
Charter School Administrators  
McKinney-Vento Liaisons

**FROM:** Erica Meaker, Director of ESSA Funded Programs *Erica Meaker*

**SUBJECT:** McKinney-Vento Summer School Information

**DATE:** May 30, 2024

**Introduction and Background:**

During the 2023-2024 school year, Local Education Agencies have provided a wide variety of supports to students experiencing homelessness, including those students made homeless by international conflict or economic instability. As Local Education Agencies (LEAs) begin to plan summer programming, LEAs should continue to consider the needs of these students, who regularly face extraordinary academic and social emotional challenges. This memo outlines required actions under the McKinney-Vento Act that LEAs must take to support students experiencing homelessness during the summer break. Additionally, it provides suggested strategies for LEAs to fulfill the requirements described.

As a reminder, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act applies to students in a wide range of temporary living situations, including shelters and emergency or transitional housing; students living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative adequate housing; and, to students who are “doubled-up” with friends or relatives due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or lack of adequate alternative accommodations. Unaccompanied youth who live in these types of arrangements are also included under the protections of the law. Under the McKinney-Vento Act students experiencing homelessness are entitled to immediate enrollment in either their school of origin or in the public school where they are currently living.<sup>1</sup>

Outside of the school year, LEAs are required to ensure that students have access to summer school and programming, and that barriers to attending such programming, such as transportation, are removed. LEAs are also required to ensure that a summer McKinney-Vento Liaison is appointed if the school year liaison is not working during the summer break. By meeting these requirements, LEAs will ensure that students experiencing homelessness have an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive alongside their peers.

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<sup>1</sup> 42 U.S.C. §§ 11432[g][3][C] & 11434A(1); Education Law § 3209[2][f]

## **Access to Summer School and Summer Programming**

Under McKinney-Vento, LEAs “must ensure that homeless children and youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria do not face barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities, including... summer school.”<sup>2</sup> In practice, this means:

- To the extent that an LEA has a summer school policy that limits participation based on a student’s attendance during the regular school year, the LEA must revise such policy to make an exception for students experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Act requires that LEAs “develop, review and revise, policies to remove...barriers to enrollment and retention due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences.”<sup>3</sup>
- If a LEA recommends that a student who is homeless participate in summer school and/or LEA-sponsored summer programming and the student can’t participate without transportation, the LEA where the student is enrolled is responsible for arranging transportation.<sup>4</sup>
- If the LEA where the student is enrolled does not offer a summer school program, but instead offers all students the opportunity to enroll in a summer school program provided by a neighboring LEA for a fee, the LEA where the student is enrolled must offer this program to the homeless student and cover the fee. LEAs can utilize any of the following to pay for fees associated with these students attending summer school: Title I, Part A set-aside, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) grant and/or the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY I, II, and State Reserve) grants.
- If a student should become permanently housed before June 30, 2024, and needs access to summer school, the student is entitled to enroll in the new LEA of residence and participate in that LEA’s summer school program.<sup>5</sup> Please note, however, that if the student becomes permanently housed before June 30, 2024, and the student will be entering their terminal grade in a school building (e.g., 8th grade or a school serving students in grades 6-8 or 12th grade of a school serving students in grades 9-12) next fall, the student may opt to continue enrollment in the same LEA for summer school and for the terminal grade.<sup>6</sup>
- If students experiencing homelessness need access to a remote learning device or internet access to support participating in remote summer learning programming, LEAs may use Title I, Part A, ESSER, and GEER funds or ARP-HCY funds to purchase technology. Funds may also be used to purchase books and to pay any fees associated with summer school for students who are homeless.

These grant funds may also be used to support students working over the summer to satisfy any Regents or graduation requirements. For information on High School, Regents Examinations see <http://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/high-school-regents-examinations>.

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<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][1][F][iii]

<sup>3</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][1][I]

<sup>4</sup> Education Law § 3209[4][e]

<sup>5</sup> Education Law § 3209[2][c]

<sup>6</sup> Education Law § 3209[2]

For more information on allowable uses of funds to support students experiencing homelessness, please review New York State Education Department’s (NYSED or “the Department”) [Title I, Part A: Homeless Set-Aside, Guidance on Allowable and Unallowable Expenditures](#) and the United States Department of Education’s [Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance](#), Sections H and M. For specific questions about allowable uses of Title I or federal stimulus funds (ESSER, GEER, or ARP-HCY) to support homeless students over the summer, please contact [conappta@nysed.gov](mailto:conappta@nysed.gov).

**Please note:** The project period for the ARP HCY I, II and State Reserve grants ends on September 30, 2024. All funds for these grants must be obligated by that date. LEAs are encouraged to utilize ARP HCY funding for summer activities to the greatest extent possible, since any unused funding will be returned to the United States Department of Education (USDE). For more information on how to use ARP HCY funding, please visit the [New York State American Recovery Plan Homeless Children and Youth Rest of State Technical Assistance Center](#), run by SchoolHouse Connection.

**Appointing a McKinney-Vento Liaison:**

All LEAs must ensure that there is a McKinney-Vento liaison available year-round. Due to summer vacation schedules, many LEAs may need to appoint a special interim McKinney-Vento liaison for the summer months if the liaison for the academic year is unavailable. In addition, LEAs must ensure that parents and students in temporary housing have access to up-to-date contact information for the LEA liaison, even during school closures. A comprehensive overview of the responsibilities of the McKinney-Vento Liaison can be found in NYSED’s [Sample Policy on the Education of Students in Temporary Housing](#).

LEAs should provide the summer liaison’s contact information to The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students, [NYS-TEACHS](#). Please check “Summer Liaison ONLY” for staff members who will be the liaison only for the summer months. Updated contact information for summer liaisons should be provided as soon as possible.

**Resources:**

For further information about the McKinney-Vento Act, the rights of students experiencing homelessness, and for strategies that LEAs and schools can implement to meet such students’ needs, please visit [NYS-TEACHS](#) or call **1-800-388-2014**. LEAs can also contact the State McKinney-Vento Coordinator, Jane Fronheiser, at [jane.fronheiser@nysed.gov](mailto:jane.fronheiser@nysed.gov).

cc:

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