



Extracurricular Activities and Transportation for Students Experiencing Homelessness

This NCHE resource will:

- Summarize key provisions in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) regarding the removal of barriers for students experiencing homelessness and how this relates to the definition of enrollment
- Address requirements related to transportation to and from extracurricular activities
- Provides strategies for funding and providing transportation



National Center for Homeless Education
Supporting the Education of Children and
Youth Experiencing Homelessness

INTRODUCTION

Participation in extracurricular activities supports student attendance and can lead to greater overall school engagement, performance and eventually, graduation. However, students experiencing homelessness across the nation sometimes struggle to fully participate in extracurricular activities due to barriers created by lack of transportation. This resource examines requirements for removing those barriers, considerations for defining extracurricular activities, and strategies for funding and providing transportation.

LAW AND GUIDANCE

Two sections of the McKinney-Vento Act are particularly important when considering the participation of homeless students in extracurricular activities. First, the McKinney-Vento Act requires schools to immediately enroll homeless students [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)], with enrollment defined as “attending classes and participating fully in school activities” [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(1)]. Additionally, local and State educational agencies (LEAs and SEAs) must review and take steps to revise any law, regulation, practice, or policy that may act as a barrier to the identification, enrollment, or retention of homeless children and youth [42 U.S.C. § 11431(2)].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

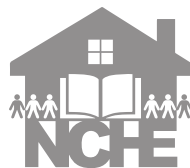
- » If the student is remaining in the school of origin until the end of the school year in which he or she has become permanently housed, the LEA of origin and the LEA in which the child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child or youth with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the local educational agencies are unable to agree upon such method, the responsibility and costs for transportation shall be shared equally. [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)].
- » Both McKinney-Vento funds and Title I, Part A homeless reservation funds may be used defray the excess cost of transportation to and from the school of origin. Other federal education grants may also be used for this expenditure, depending on their respective needs assessments and LEA and SEA approval of those expenditures.¹
- » Besides federal education grant funding, LEA practices to support this effort, assuming they are compliant with other laws and rules relating to student transportation safety, include, but are not limited to:
 - Utilizing community-based solutions such as local business partners and organizations.
 - Utilizing school alumni or sponsor/support organizations.
 - Requesting assistance from team and club parents.
 - Hiring retired teachers to transport students as they are familiar with school policy and procedures and have completed background checks.
 - Utilizing driver's education vehicles at the school when they are not in use.
 - Working with school staff (e.g., club sponsors and coaches) around scheduling of activities.

In reviewing and revising such policies, consideration should be given to the issue of transportation. As students in homeless situations often experience challenges not faced by housed students, the provision of services to homeless students, such as transportation for extracurricular activities, may need to extend beyond what is provided to housed students. Question J-11 of the [Education for Homeless Children and Youth \(EHCY\) Program Non-Regulatory Guidance \(March, 2017\)](#) further clarifies that LEAs must provide transportation to extracurricular activities for homeless students when the lack of transportation is a barrier to their participation.

Extracurricular activities typically include school-sponsored or administered activities outside of the regular academic curriculum. Common examples of extracurricular activities include after-school tutoring, social and academic clubs or teams, sports teams, theater productions, and band or choir performances for which the school or district is providing staff, administrative oversight, or funding. LEAs may be responsible for ensuring that homeless students do not face barriers, including transportation barriers, to full participation in these activities. The McKinney-Vento Act does not, however, require LEAs to remove barriers to homeless students' participation in activities administered by private organizations. For example, if a school or LEA simply rents facility space to a private organization to run summer, weekend, or before or after-school classes or programs, the activities would probably not be considered extracurricular activities within the scope of the McKinney-Vento Act.

For additional information, please see the NCHE issue brief, [Ensuring Full Participation in Extracurricular Activities for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#).

For more information on basic transportation rights for students experiencing homelessness, please see the NCHE issue brief, [Transporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#).



¹Under ESEA section 1113(c)(3)(A), an LEA shall reserve such funds as are necessary from its Title I, Part A allocation to provide services comparable to those provided to children in schools funded under Title I, Part A to serve homeless children and youth. This reservation may be used to provide homeless children and youth with services not ordinarily provided to other students under Title I, Part A, including providing transportation to and from the school of origin. (ESEA section 1113(c)(3)(C)(ii)).

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November 2018

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) operates the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program. NCHE is supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students. The contents of this brief were developed under a grant from the Department; however, these contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department.



For more information on issues related to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness, contact the NCHE helpline at 800-308-2145 or

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