

Allen Parish School Board Homeless Children and Youth Plan

Subtitle VII-B of The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act authorizes the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program and is the primary piece of federal legislation related to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. It was reauthorized in December 2015 by Title IX, Part A, of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Children and youth in many different living situations are considered homeless under Federal law. Homeless is a lack of permanent housing resulting from extreme poverty or from the lack of a safe and stable living arrangement. Children and youth in homeless situations often do not fit society's stereotypical images of homelessness. Therefore, educators may not realize the breadth of students who are considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act, and, as such, qualify for its protections and services. The McKinney-Vento Act contains a specific definition of homelessness that includes a broad array of inadequate living situations.

The term "homeless children and youths"

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and

(B) includes –

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals;

(ii) children and youths 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 (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

The Allen Parish School Board has designated the Title I Director as the local Homeless Education Liaison. The local liaison ensures that:

1. Children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel during the enrollment process. Refer to Policies and Procedures for Enrolling Students under the

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (*Attachment 1*). The enrollment packet contains the Louisiana Student Residency Questionnaire Form (*Attachment 2*), the Confidential Referral Form/Allen Parish Schools Educational Services for Homeless/Transitional Students (*Attachment 3*), and the Caregiver Authorization Form (*Attachment 4*). Identification also occurs through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.

2. Children and youth enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in Allen Parish Schools to meet the same academic standards as all students are expected to meet. The children and youth are given full access to the same curriculum and supplemental programs as all other Allen Parish students.
3. Families, children, and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and Prekindergarten programs administered by the Allen Parish School Board, and referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services.
4. Parents and guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children. Participation is encouraged through school site Title I family involvement activities, as well as, services through the Family Resource Center.
5. Public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the act. Notice is posted at schools, libraries, churches, etc.
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act. Refer to the Allen Parish Dispute Resolution Process Policy, the Dispute Form, and the Official Homeless Dispute Resolution Form in *Attachments 5, 6, and 7*, respectively.
7. Parents, guardians, caretakers and unaccompanied youth are informed fully of all available transportation services, including to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing these services.
8. There will be collaboration and coordination with State Coordinators for Homeless Education and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to children and youth in homeless situations.
9. School personnel, service providers, and advocates who work with families in homeless situations will be informed of the duties of the local liaison including staff development regarding the homeless program.
10. Title I annually reserves funds for the Homeless Education Program to be used in all schools that serve homeless students including Targeted Assistance and School Wide Schools.

Title I ensures that the educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness are met according to Title X, Part C. Allen Parish Title I Homeless Education Program will ensure that the following guidelines will be adhered to:

1. Allen Parish schools must immediately enroll students and unaccompanied youth in homeless situations, even if they do not have required documents, such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, legal guardian supervision or permission, or 'power of attorney' by supervising adult, and other documents. The term "enroll" is defined as attending classes and participating fully in school activities, including provisions for

public preschool and alternative school placement. Students are eligible to enroll in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area are eligible to attend, or in their school of origin.

2. Allen Parish schools ensure that the transfer of homeless students' records between schools attended is expediently completed according to R.S. 17:112; R.S. 17:221.3.
3. Allen Parish schools must keep homeless students in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible, unless it is against the parent or guardian's wishes. Students are permitted to remain in their schools of origin for the duration of their homelessness or until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing. "School of Origin" is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
4. Allen Parish School Board must provide transportation to the school of origin, at the request of the parent or guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied child or youth, at the request of the district's Homeless Liaison. Title I funds may NOT be used for this purpose.
5. Allen Parish policies and practices will not segregate or stigmatize homeless students in separate schools or in separate programs within schools.
6. The Allen Parish School Board will post public notice of educational rights of homeless children and youth in places where families and youth are likely to be present (e.g., schools, welfare offices, public libraries, etc.) and comprehensible formats (e.g., in Spanish, geared for low literacy, or other community need).
7. The contact information for the Allen Parish Homeless Liaison, description of how information about the role of the Liaison, and the rights of homeless students will be conveyed to school district staff, homeless families and unaccompanied youths.
8. The Allen Parish School Board must review and revise any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths in schools. In reviewing and revising such policies, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records, other documentation, and guardianship.
9. If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent, guardian, caregiver or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision. (*Attachment 8*)
10. Allen Parish assures that federal and state data collection and reporting requirements on homeless children and youth are met.
11. After assessing the needs of homeless students, the Homeless Education Program and Title I program staff, along with other district-level administrators, may consider funding the following:

- Before-school, after-school, and/or summer programs
- Outreach services to students living in motels and other temporary residences to help identify homeless children and youth and advise them of available school programming
- Basic needs such as clothing, uniforms, school supplies, and health-related needs
- Counseling services
- The hiring of teachers, aides, and tutors to provide supplemental instruction to students whose achievement is below grade level
- The work of the local liaison
- Parental involvement programs that make a special effort to reach out to parents in homeless situations
- Research-based programs that benefit highly mobile students
- Data collection to assess the needs and progress of homeless and other highly mobile students

12. To facilitate collaboration between Title I and McKinney-Vento, Allen Parish School Board will:

- Develop systems to facilitate cross program collaborations on state and local plans for both McKinney-Vento and Title I.
- Provide Title I and McKinney-Vento personnel with cross program trainings and materials.
- Collect and share data across programs on the needs of homeless and other low-income students along with information on effective programs to address these needs.
- Involve homeless education personnel in the creation of schoolwide Title I programs, targeted assistance programs, and plans for school improvement within those plans.
- Include homeless parents in Title I parent involvement policies and create opportunities for homeless parents to be involved.

Allen Parish School Board assures access to Title I services by homeless students in all public schools, whether Title I funded or not. The Allen Parish Unified Application for Federal Funds reserves set-aside funds for providing designated services to homeless students. The Title I Program in Allen Parish has a variety of supplemental programs and services designed to help at-risk students find success in the classroom, including homeless children and youth attending both Title I and non-Title I schools. There is a process in place to help students experiencing academic difficulties achieve grade-level success. This is accomplished by a team effort of the school staff, student, and parents. The students are eligible for supplemental services and resources of the program. Services are delivered

within the regular classroom setting and also after school with the Take Home Program through the Family Resource Center.

The following chart outlines the supplemental services and programs that are funded through the Title I Program in order to better address the special needs of Title I and homeless students.

Student Success Plan for Supplemental Services and Programs

Program/Service	Grade	Subject Areas	Accessibility
Brainchild Handheld Units	1 – 8	LA / Math/Sci/SS	Family Resource Center
Classroom Connections	PK – 8	All Subjects	Title I Schools & Family Resource Center
Comprehension Packet	K-8	Reading	Family Resource Center
Family Resource Center	PK – 8	All Subjects	Media Center – Oberlin
FlashMaster – Math Facts	3– 8	Math	Family Resource Center
Hot Dots	2-6	Reading & Math	Family Resource Center
Math Shark	1-8	Math	Family Resource Center
Math Whiz	1-8	Math	Family Resource Center
One Minute Reader	1 – 6	Lang. Arts	Family Resource Center
Paraprofessionals	K - 6	Lang. Arts / Math	Title I Schools
Parent Information Guides	PK-12	Social/Emotional/Academic	Family Resource Center
PreK Program	PK	Developmentally Appropriate	EHS, FHS, KES, OKES, OBES, RHS
Pupil Progression Checkup	K-12	All Subjects	Family Resource Parent Liaison
Radius Audio Learning	PK – 6	All Subjects	Family Resource Center
Reading Library	1-8	Reading	Family Resource Center
Secret Stories	K – 2	Reading	Title I Schools & Family Resource Center
Summer Bridge Workbooks	PK-8	ELA & Math	Family Resource Center