

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program

### Tips for Supporting the Transportation of Homeless Children and Youths (Part-1)

**All school staff have the opportunity and the charge to support homeless students and families.**

While every LEA must have a McKinney-Vento liaison, the number of homeless students and the scope of their needs may be challenging for just one person to address. That is what makes the role of teachers (including early childhood educators), school leaders, counselors, and other staff so critical. Though homeless children and youths may face great challenges, a caring adult who can ensure that a student's rights are upheld and can connect him or her to other supports can make a world of difference.

**Transportation has been reported as one of the main barriers to the education of homeless children and youths; thus, coordination between State and school district staff is crucial.**

**Below are some tips for effectively implementing this requirement:**

- Convene a meeting of local liaisons and transportation directors to establish a plan that may be immediately implemented when transportation is needed for a homeless child or youth. Addressing issues of cost, responsibility, and logistics before the need occurs will prevent delays in a homeless student's school attendance.
- Use technology, such as a transportation database, to make electronic transportation requests, maintain current records of homeless students receiving transportation, and determine what specialized bus routes have been established.
- Develop forms, such as homeless student transportation requests, parent agreements, and inter-district transportation agreements that may be accessed easily at any school or online.
- Explore flexible bus routes that can be implemented easily. Maintain a list of shelters, hotels, motels, campgrounds, and other areas where homeless families may live so that these locations can be included in bus routes on short notice, recognizing that establishing a stop directly in front of these locations can stigmatize students.
- Be aware that students in homeless families and unaccompanied homeless youths move frequently and that transportation plans must be adjusted accordingly. Encourage families and youths to inform the local liaison when they are moving.
- Identify a transportation staff member who will serve as the point person to arrange transportation for homeless students.
- **Learn more about the McKinney-Vento Act and connect with your local liaison.** Visit your SEA website: <http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/mckinney-vento-homeless> for a list of McKinney-Vento liaisons and their contact information, and help homeless students and parents know about their rights.
- **Connect homeless students and families to services and housing assistance in your community, including through non-profit and faith-based organizations.**