

Supports for Homeless Students

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Homeless Students

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

Under McKinney-Vento, state educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) must ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths. Immigrant children and youth are also covered under McKinney-Vento.



Which Students are Covered?

Homeless Youth: Any child or youth who lacks a fixed, regular or adequate night-time residence is considered homeless and McKinney-Vento eligible for assistance and services. This includes temporarily sharing housing with others, living in bus or train stations, hotels, campgrounds, or similar settings.

Unaccompanied Youth: Youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian; this includes **youth** who have run away from home, have been kicked out of their homes, or have been abandoned by parents.



Supports Provided

- Identification/Referral
- Immediate enrollment with or without records
- **Pre-K and kindergarten children may enroll after state/district deadlines.**
- Transportation to school of origin or new school
- Travel reimbursement for parents
- School supplies, materials, fees, and uniforms
- Wraparound service coordination/access



Supports Provided

- Aftercare for school-aged children (in certain hardship cases)
- IEP support for parents and students
- Access to all school and extra-curricular activities and programs
- Confidentiality of living arrangements, hardship, and records
- School-based point of contact support
- ELL support for enrollment assistance and school meetings
- Progress monitoring
- Post-high school planning



Questions or Remarks



Foster Care Students

ESSA:

- December 10, 2015, *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) was signed into law.
- ESSA amended Title I, Part A of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*.
- **Specifically, ESSA provides guidelines and resources to support children in foster care.**



Other Key Players (DCS)

- **FAMILY SERVICE WORKER:** State-recognized custodian for the child. Must attend all meetings, hearings, and medical appointments for the custodial child. (Parent One)
- **EDUCATION SPECIALIST:** Oversees the educational aspects of the case. Must be involved in all school meetings. (Parent Two)
- **AGENCY WORKER:** Appointed by DCS and act as an extension of the DCS case manager.



Other Key Players (DCS) cont.

- FOSTER PARENT: Provides care and shelter for the custodial child.
- GUARDIAN AD LITEMS: Court appointed advocate for students in DCS custody.
- CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES: Investigators of allegations of child abuse or neglect.
- Local Contracted Agencies-No Home Visits At School!



Supports Provided

- MSCS POC
- Students must be enrolled immediately...With or without records
- Deadlines for kindergarten and Pre-K enrollment **do not apply**
- School of Origin Protection/BID/Transportation Plans



Supports Provided

- Obtaining and sharing records (immediate with no holds on records)
- State POC oversees implementation of the educational stability provisions (DCS Education Specialists)
- Coding and data reporting on students in foster care is required
- Progress Monitoring



Resources

- [Effective Collaboration Webinar PowerPoint](#)
- <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/edhhsfostercarenonregulatorguide.pdf>
- [Transportation Procedures Webinar PowerPoint](#)
- [Best Interest Determinations and Immediate Enrollment PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [An Overview of the ED/HHS Joint Guidance PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Foster Care Guidance](#)
- [Dear Colleague Letter on Foster Care Guidance](#)



Questions or Remarks



Overview

The scope of this area of work is to provide mental and behavioral health resources to support families experiencing trauma related to homelessness, foster care, unaccompanied youth, or migrancy.

We work collaboratively with Memphis-Shelby County Schools (MSCS) resources and Continuum of Care (COC) agencies to build stability and re-establish positive family relationships necessary for student to thrive mentally, socially, and academically.



Overview Cont.

Once students have been identified as displaced, migrant, foster care, or unaccompanied, the wrap-around services specialist assigned to that school will forward the information to the senior advisor as a behavior/mental health referral.

An Individual Needs Assessment (INA) is conducted with the family to identify which level of support is needed at that time. This may include a referral to the counselor, social worker, assigned to the school, reset room, behavior specialist, referral to the Family Wellness Center, agency referral or a combination of services.



System Navigators

- Provides support for unaccompanied youth/individuals ages 14-24
- Provides mentoring and support for accessing resources for basic needs, money management, housing, home making needs, medical/health needs and job readiness preparation
- Collaborates with Special Populations to ensure school-aged youth remain connected to school processes
- Provides resources for youth throughout Memphis and Shelby County
- Identifies community agencies to meet the needs of unaccompanied youth
- Works with Wraparound Services Advisors and Senior Social Emotional Health Advisor to connect unaccompanied youth with appropriate MSCS wraparound services
- Uses an anti-adultism approach to empower individuals to advocate for themselves and make productive decisions regarding their outcomes
- Ensures the rights of youth are protected in IEP, 504, and discipline meetings
- Assists youth with goal setting, developing self-advocacy skills, and life planning
- Promotes wellness, recovery, and more complete community integration
- Assists youth with coping with their situations and understanding their situations are not permanent
- Promotes problem-solving and leadership skills



Supports Provided

- Provide training for school staff regarding manifestation of trauma and/or mental anguish related to displacement, foster care, unaccompanied youth, or migrancy.
- Advocate for access and rights for families and students to receive mental health services and counseling to cope with identified trauma. This may mean attending S-Team, IEP, 504, SART, or any meetings directly related to a student's specific needs.
- Develop and monitor individualized support plans to ensure effectiveness.
- Document/review tracking of students receiving Tier 2/3 behavior supports.
- Implement strategies to increase school connectedness.



Questions or Remarks

