

Using the Title I Homeless Set Aside Funds

All public schools and districts receiving federal fund must ensure that services are provided to children and youth who are experiencing homelessness. To assist with these services, the law requires that school districts set aside Title I funds, as necessary, to provide services comparable to those that are provided to children in Title I, Part A funded schools. These funds can also support educationally related services to children in shelters and other locations where homeless children may live. The services provided with these funds should support homeless students to succeed in school and to meet the academic achievement standards.

Comparable services may not necessarily mean the same services; therefore, these funds may also be used to provide services that are not ordinarily provided to other Title I students.

If a district has students who meet the definition of homelessness according to McKinney-Vento, listed below are some strategies on how Title I homeless set-aside funds may be used. These funds can be used to assist homeless students in Title I and Non-Title I schools.

Allowable Uses of Title I set aside:

- Tutoring services (remedial or accelerated instruction), especially in shelters or other locations where homeless students live
- Before-school/after-school, and/or summer programs
- Services to enable students to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school
- Personal school supplies such as backpacks and notebooks
- Items of clothing to meet a school's dress or uniform requirements
- Shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes
- Student fees necessary to participate in the general education program
- Graduation cap and gown / graduation fees
- Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school
- Counseling services / domestic violence counseling services
- Parental involvement specifically oriented to reaching out to parents of homeless students
- Costs for attaining a GED for parents participating in Head Start or Even Start
- Homeless awareness activities
- Research-based programs that benefit highly mobile students
- Fees for SAT/ACT testing if not waived by college or university
- Cost of GED for an unaccompanied homeless youth
- Health related services may be allowed if funds are not reasonably available from public or private sources (as a last resort, health, nutrition, other services such as eyeglasses and hearing aids, immunizations, and dental needs.

Not Allowable:

- **Transportation** of homeless students to & from their school of origin (**not allowed**).
- Physicals for sports participation or sports uniforms
- Clothing for family members
- Rent/motel/hotel (any housing expenses)
- Prom dresses/tuxedos
- Yearbooks fees

Supplement, Not Supplant

It is a requirement that federal Title I funds cannot supplant other state or local funds, but should supplement (expand on or increase) the current services offered. In other words, Title I funds cannot be used for initiatives that are a part of the core services provided by public schools and services that schools are required to provide (even in the absence of Title I funding).

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For more ideas on allowable uses of Title I set aside for Homeless Education/Title I Coordination:

http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=422&Itemid=654

Title I, Part A and Homeless Education Coordination

Mandatory Reservation of Title I, Part A Funds for Homeless Education

Section 1113 (c)(3)(A) of NCLB states, "A local educational agency shall reserve such funds as necessary under this part to provide services comparable to those provided to children in schools funded under this part to serve homeless children who do not attend participating schools, including providing educationally related support services to children in shelters and other locations where children may live."

The LEA must identify set aside funds for services to homeless children as part of the online Title I application. This set aside is required when students that attend non-Title I buildings are identified as meeting the McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness. The set aside funds may then be used to serve the needs of any homeless students in the district.

School districts must establish their own method for allocating Title I, Part A, set asides for homeless children and youth who are not attending Title I schools. Generally, these methods involve conducting a needs assessment for homeless students in the school district or basing the set-aside amount on a formula, such as a per pupil expenditure. Determining an appropriate amount requires coordination between the Title I Coordinator and the Homeless Education Liaison.

Iowa requires districts to indicate the Title I, Part A homeless set-aside amount and formula on the annual Title I application

Below are some methods that may be used to calculate the local Title I, Part A set aside

Method #1: Reserve the set aside amount based on anticipated needs of homeless student. Based on the district's prior years expenses related to fulfilling the requirements set out in §722(g)(6) of McKinney-Vento, set aside an amount that will allow the district to provide appropriate services.

Method #2: Reserve the set aside amount based on the homeless student count and Title I, Part A per-pupil allocation. To reserve funds by using this method, take the homeless children & youth count multiplied by the Title I, Part A per-pupil allocation.

Method #3: Reserve the set aside amount on percentage. A specific percentage of funds for homeless children and youth can be reserved based on the Title I, Part A allocation, or on the district's poverty data. Generally, if the district has a higher poverty percentage, the district will also have a higher number of homeless children and youth.

Method #4: Reserve the set aside amount based on free/reduced lunch count. Statistically, 10% of children living in poverty will experience homelessness within any given year. * Using the free/reduced lunch count, estimate the number of homeless students in your district who may experience homelessness this school year. For example:

- a. The district's free/reduced lunch count=100 students
- b. 10% of whom could become homeless=10 students
- c. The district's Title I Part A per pupil allocation is \$755 per student
- d. Using this method the Title I, Part A Homeless set-aside would be \$7,550.00

As part of the Title I, Part A on-line application, all districts will:

- indicate the method chosen to set aside an amount for homeless children and youth.
- indicate the Title I dollar amount set aside for Homeless Student Services in non-Title I buildings (including middle schools and high schools).
- describe how the services for homeless students attending non-Title I buildings will be coordinated and integrated with Title I, Part A services and relate to the set aside funds.

Homeless Education Assurances

If the school district has not identified homeless children and youth, it is not required to reserve Title I, Part A funds. However, all districts must assure the following requirements for outreach & identification have been met according to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2001:

- The local school district has appointed a homeless education liaison.
- Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children/youth is disseminated where such children and youths receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens.
- The liaison collaborates with local service providers such as social services, shelter staff, and other community support services to ensure identification of homeless children and youth.
- The school district has established a process to identify homeless students in its local student data record system.