

Title I Homeless Set-Aside Mandatory Reservation of Funds

Children and youth in homeless situations are automatically eligible for Title I services whether or not they live in a Title I school attendance area or meet the academic standards required of other children for eligibility. Homeless children may receive Title I educational or support services from schoolwide and targeted-assistance school programs. The LEA must provide comparable services to a homeless student who does not attend a Title I school.

LEAs may provide support services to children in shelters and other locations where homeless children live. Services should be provided to assist homeless students to take advantage of educational opportunities.

An LEA must reserve Title I funds to make sure that homeless students receive Title I services regardless of their school of enrollment. LEAs can develop formulas for reserving the appropriate amount of Title I funding for homeless students as required Section 1113 (c)(3)(A) of NCLB. However, Title I funds can not be used to support the costs of transporting homeless students to or from their school of origin; this is an LEA responsibility and cannot be supplanted.

An LEA has the discretion to use reserved funds to provide a homeless student with services that are not ordinarily provided to other Title I students and that are not available from other sources.

➡ ***New for 2012-13:*** Iowa requires Title I districts to indicate the Title I, Part A homeless set-aside amount and formula on the annual Title I application.

Prior to making decisions about the use of homeless set-aside funds, LEAs must consider the following:

Supplement, not Supplant:

- Title I funds never pay for items or services required by another federal, state, or local law. For example, Title X (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act) of NCLB requires districts to transport homeless students to their school of origin. Title I funds may not be used to pay for this service.

Homeless liaison:

- Title X permits the use of Title I funds to pay all or part of the salary of the district homeless liaison, but this person must also be assigned Title I duties not related to homeless duties.

Title I as a last resort:

- Title I may be used to pay for non-educational services, including medical care supplies, such as eyeglasses or social services, but only if these services are not available from any other source in the community. Services must be linked to the student's educational needs.

No food, no housing:

- Title I funds may never be used to pay for a homeless family's lodging or food.

Other Ideas for use of Title I set-aside funds:

- Pay for tutors for homeless students (can include remedial or accelerated instruction).
- Purchase school supplies.
- Pay fees for school-sponsored field trips or school-related family activities.
- School clothing to meet district requirements (Uniforms, PE Clothes).
- Pay for medical/dental services that if unmet, would present a barrier to school attendance (eyeglasses, dental care, immunizations).
- Reimburse mileage for staff who have to travel in order to provide direct services to homeless students

For additional information contact:

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

Section 1113 (c)(3)(A) 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. 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 Coordinator.

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 Section 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 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 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 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2001 requirements for outreach and identification have been met:

- 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.