

TITLE I, PART A HOMELESS SET-ASIDE AND MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT

The purpose of Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.) is to provide all children with a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps. Title I, Part A is designed to meet the educational needs of low-achieving children in schools with the highest levels of poverty.

The McKinney-Vento Act ensures that children experiencing homelessness have access to the same free, appropriate public education -- including a public preschool education -- and related services as their permanently housed peers so that they have an equal opportunity to meet the same challenging academic standards.

The McKinney-Vento Act addresses many of the challenges faced by students experiencing homelessness, but Title I, Part A also plays a significant role in supporting their academic achievement. Both statutes include requirements for coordinating the two programs.

The McKinney-Vento Act specifies that homeless liaisons must coordinate and collaborate with other school personnel responsible for providing services to students experiencing homelessness [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(C)]. All districts receiving Title I, Part A funds must include in their local plans a description of how the district's Title I, Part A program is coordinated with its McKinney-Vento program [20 U.S.C. § 6312(a)(1)(B)]. The development of the local plan should include timely and meaningful consultation with the homeless liaison [20 U.S.C. § 6312(a)(1)(A)] and must describe the Title I, Part A services that will be provided to students experiencing homelessness, including through the homeless set-aside (20 U.S.C. § 6312(b)(6)).

Determining Title I, Part A Set-Aside Amounts

Determining an appropriate homeless set-aside amount requires coordination between the school district's Title I, Part A and McKinney-Vento programs. The set-aside may be determined based on an assessment of the needs of students experiencing homelessness within the district, considering both the number and needs of these students [20 U.S.C. § 6313(c)(3)(C)(i)]. Further, the set-aside must be determined based on the total Title I, Part A allocation received by the district and reserved prior to any allowable expenditures or transfers by the district [20 U.S.C. § 6313(c)(3)(B)].

Tips for Facilitating Collaboration Between Title I and McKinney-Vento Act Programs

The Title I, Part A program is a significant federal education resource for the education of homeless children and youths. Effective coordination between these two programs (given the requirements in both programs to serve homeless children and youths) can have substantive

impacts on many homeless students. Consider the following recommendations for facilitating stronger collaboration:

- Ensuring that Local Education Agency (LEA) homeless liaisons attend Title I conferences and in-service days and that Title I coordinators attend homeless education conferences and in-service professional development days;
- Encouraging local Title I coordinators and LEA homeless liaisons to work together to develop and implement a plan that identifies ways that Title I funds and programs will serve children and youths experiencing homelessness;
- Sharing Title I and homeless education handbooks with other program staff;
- Collecting and sharing concrete data on the needs of homeless children and youths within and across districts;
- Leading districtwide efforts to make organizational accommodations for eligible students, as necessary, in such areas as transportation, remaining in the school of origin, records transfer, class scheduling, and special services that will help them enroll, attend, and succeed in school;
- Ensuring that the needs of highly mobile students are included in School Improvement Plans and not addressed as a separate issue;
- Establishing and widely disseminating information on districtwide policies, procedures, and guidelines to identify and serve eligible students;

Visit the [National Center for Homeless Education McKinney-Vento Authorized Activities webpage](#) to find an extensive list of authorized activities.