
TRANSPORTATION FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS & STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE



NATIONAL CENTER FOR HOMELESS EDUCATION

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Operates U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center

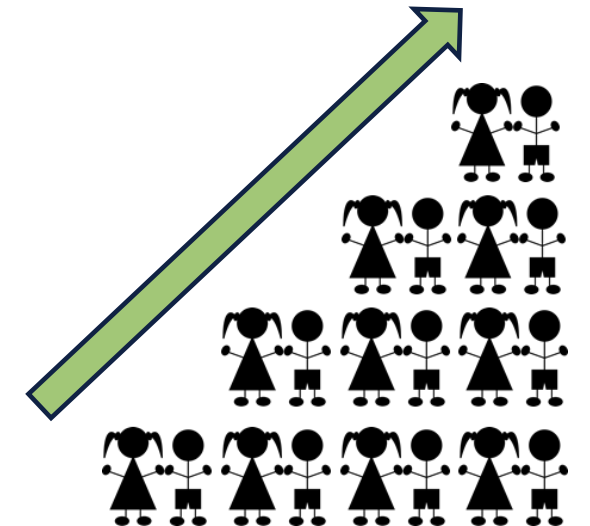
- Comprehensive website: nche.ed.gov
- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org
- Listserv: Visit nche.ed.gov/listserv.php for subscription instructions
- Free resources: Visit nche.ed.gov/products.php

IMPORTANT LAWS TO KNOW

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
 - Has required transportation since 2001 for homeless children & youth (HCY)
 - Requires liaisons to assist families with accessing transportation
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act
 - Includes new requirements for foster students
 - Includes new information on excess costs related to homelessness

THE BIG PICTURE

- 1,263,323 students identified as HCY during 2014-15
- 683,487 substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect (2015)





STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

DEFINITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS



HOMELESSNESS DEFINED

Those who lack fixed, regular, & adequate nighttime residence,
including:

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds
- Emergency & transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals

HOMELESSNESS DEFINED

- Public or private places not designed for humans to live
- Cars, parks, bus or train stations,
- Abandoned buildings, substandard housing
- Migratory children living in the above situations
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above situations

LIAISONS

- Decide who qualifies as homeless
 - Work with others, including school transportation to identify students
- Assist families with enrollment, including making school placement determinations
- Assist families with services, including transportation

TRANSPORTATION FOR HCY

- HCY are eligible for transportation
 - For the duration of the homelessness or
 - Until the end of the school year in which they obtain housing
 - This is a change; make sure your transportation directors are aware
- Must provide transportation to HCY even if you do not provide it for other students or if they are staying outside the district

TRANSPORTATION FOR HCY

- Can use *safe* options other than school buses
- Avoid stigma
- Transportation should be comparable to what others receive

TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR HCY

- If a student is temporarily staying in another district, the districts can split the cost & responsibility
 - Can use a common agreement
 - If can't come to agreement, then the split is 50-50
- Can use MV or Title I, Part A funds to cover excess cost
 - Some states limit the amount of the grant that can be used



FOSTER CARE

DEFINITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS



FOSTER CARE DEFINED

- 24 hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians
- The state has placement & care responsibility
- The home doesn't have to be licensed or receive support payments
- Includes: foster homes, group homes, emergency shelter, residential facilities, child care institutions, pre-adoptive homes

POINTS OF CONTACT

- Each state educational agency (SEA) must have one
 - Cannot be the state coordinator for homeless students
- Each local educational agency (LEA) must have one if notified by the child welfare agency that they have one for the schools
 - May be the homeless liaison

TRANSPORTATION FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

- Must have clear, written procedures that ensure...
 - Students in foster care promptly receive transportation in a cost effective manner
 - When additional costs are incurred, the LEA provides transportation if
 - The child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the district or
 - The LEA agrees to pay the cost or
 - The LEA & child welfare agency agree to share the cost

DURATION

- LEAs must ensure foster students receive transportation for the duration of the time the student is in foster care
 - Even if the LEA doesn't provide it for other students
- When students exit care, continue to provide transportation until the end of the school year when possible

COST EFFECTIVE MANNER

- Title IV-E maintenance payments may be used for reasonable costs of transportation
- Consider:
 - If a child may be dropped off at a bus stop near the existing transportation system
 - Public transportation
 - Foster parents or other family can transport the child
 - Buses that already cross district lines

OTHER COST CONSIDERATIONS

- Title I, Part A funds can help cover the excess cost
- SEAs are encouraged to provide guidelines for funding
 - Michigan: all funding comes from the state child welfare agency

CONTACT NCHE

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- NCHE Helpline
 - homeless@serve.org or 800-308-2145