

Back to School with Homeless Services

Office of Federal Programs

mdek12.org



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens



MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



1

ALL Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

EVERY Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

EVERY Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

EVERY School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



EVERY Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

5



EVERY School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

6



Microsoft Teams Reminders

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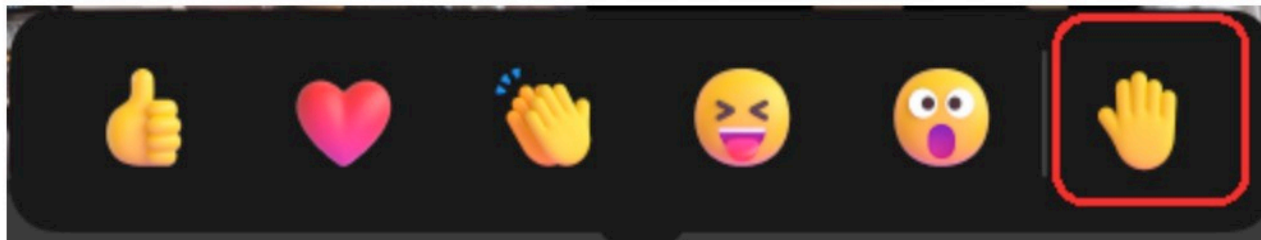


- Please mute yourself unless you have a question to reduce
- background noise
- Please cut the camera off to save bandwidth to reduce technical glitches
- Please ask questions throughout the presentation via chat or “raise hand” feature

“Raise Hand” Feature

Raise your hand

In the meeting controls at the top of the screen, select **Reactions** 🙌 > **Raise your hand** 🙋. Everyone in the meeting will see that your hand is raised.



"Chat" Feature

- To use the **chat** feature in Teams, simply click the “Chat” icon. The **chat box** will appear on the right. Type your message in the chat box and click the “Send” icon to send your question.

In your meeting controls, a red dot on the **Show conversation** icon indicates that someone posted a message.



- To view the message, select **Show conversation** .

The meeting chat window opens to the right of the main screen.

- This session will be recorded to increase availability and access to the technical assistance session.
- Recording will be available as a resource.
- Presentation and recording will be updated in MCAPS, MDE Document Library, Technical Assistance Sessions, FY24 folder.

Agenda

- The goal of this session is to provide LEAs information regarding the required services for homeless children and youth.
- The objective is to ensure 100% of all LEAs provide support services to individuals (including youth and families) experiencing homelessness.

- Required Services
- Comparable Sources
- Transportation
- Nutritional Programs
- Homeless Barriers
- Allowable Uses and Funding
- Questions
- Resources

Required Services



- All school districts are required to maintain compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act which provides specific rights for homeless students.
- Every school district must designate a McKinney-Vento Liaison to assist in identifying , supporting, and ensuring the rights of homeless students and families.
- These rights include waiving certain requirements, such as proof of residency, when students are enrolling and allowing categorical eligibility for certain services, such as free lunch.

- Children who lack a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”
 - Fixed: Stationary, permanent, not subject to change
 - Regular: Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis
 - Adequate: Lawfully and reasonably sufficient; sufficient for meeting the physical and psychological needs typical met in a home environment

Can the student go to the **SAME PLACE** (fixed) **EVERY NIGHT** (regular) to sleep in a **SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE** (adequate)?

Those identified should be informed of all rights and entitlements under McKinney-Vento:

- Comparable Services
- Transportation
- Access to Nutrition Programs, and
- Any other services needed to **remove barriers and to ensure** students have equal access to free, appropriate public education

Comparable Services

Comparable Services - Homeless children must have services available that are comparable to those offered to non-homeless children.

- Academic Courses including advanced courses, dual credit/dual enrollment, gifted, special education, etc.
- Extracurricular Activities includes sports, clubs, organizations, etc.
- Tutoring services, counseling, interventions, before/after/summer programs, etc.

Transportation



- Homeless students are entitled to transportation services to and from school. Transportation also includes extracurricular activities and programs outside of normal school hours.
- Transportation must be offered to homeless students who live outside of the attendance zone.
 - Transportation should be considered during the "Best Interest Determination."

- Transportation should not be used in a manner that stigmatizes homeless students.
- The LEA must ensure transportation personnel are trained to accommodate homeless students and families.

Nutritional Programs

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act establishes that certain children, including those who are homeless or runaway youth, are categorically eligible for free meal benefits under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. These students and their families do not have to complete an application for free meals. Rather, USDA policies allow for automatic enrollment of these students, which is known as “direct certification,” to ensure they receive meals quickly.

- LEAs must provide effective services for children and youth experiencing homelessness that will enable them to access food and avoid hunger.
- LEAs must provide the same free, nutritional meals to students experiencing homelessness.

Homeless Barriers

LEAs must provide services to **remove barriers and to ensure** students have equal access to free, appropriate public education.

- Uniforms/Clothes
- School supplies
- Hygiene kits
- Health care referrals
- Fees (graduation, lab, technology devices, etc.)
- Records (immunization, birth certificates, etc.)

Allowable Uses



The McKinney-Vento Subgrant Authorized Activities Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act allows the following activities:

1. Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services
2. Expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths

3. Professional development designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children
4. Referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services
5. Assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation
6. Development of early childhood education programs not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding

7. Services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children
8. Before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individuals provide tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities
9. Payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children

- 10. Education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children
- 11. Development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children
- 12. Specialized instructional support services and referrals for such services
- 13. Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems

- 14. Adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any non-school facilities made available
- 15. School supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations
- 16. Extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children to attend school and participate fully in school activities

- ARP Homeless funds are specifically dedicated to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness, including wrap-around services.
- Specific and urgent needs due to the extraordinary impact of the pandemic including academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

1. Providing wrap-around services (which could be provided in collaboration with and/or through contracts with community-based organizations, and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services);
2. Purchasing needed supplies (e.g., personal protective equipment, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items);

3. Providing transportation to enable children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities;
4. Purchasing cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied, homeless children and youth to enable such children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities;

5. Providing access to reliable, high-speed internet for students through the purchase of internet-connected devices/equipment, mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, or installation of Community Wi-Fi Hotspots (e.g., at homeless shelters), especially in underserved communities;
6. Paying for short-term, temporary housing (e.g., a few days in a motel) when such emergency housing is the only reasonable option for COVID-safe temporary housing and when necessary to enable the homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school); and

7. Providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.

Overall, costs must be “**reasonable and necessary**” and align with the purpose of, and other requirements in the law.

- An LEA may combine their District Homeless Set Aside (Title I funds - MV) with the following funds:
 - McKinney-Vento Grant (as applicable) - MV
 - ESSER I - MV
 - ESSER II - MV
 - ARP Homeless I (as applicable) – MV & ARP Homeless
 - ARP Homeless II (as applicable) – MV & ARP Homeless

POP QUIZ

- A. School Supplies
- B. Couches
- C. Floor Lamps
- D. Extra Curricular Activities
- E. All of the Above

- A. Calculators
- B. School Required Attire
- C. Course Fees
- D. Career and technical Education (CTE) Fees
- E. All of the Above

- A. Air Mattress/Beds
- B. Food
- C. Heaters
- D. Sports Uniforms
- E. ACT Testing Fees

- A. Counseling Services
- B. Graduation Fees
- C. 6-Month Rent Payment
- D. Dental Surgery

Resources

- [Use of Funds Tip Sheet](#)
- [Providing Wraparound Services Under ARP Homeless](#)
- <https://nche.ed.gov>
- <https://schoolhouseconnection.org>
- [USDE](#)



LaDewayne Harris

Homeless State Coordinator

laharris@mdek12.org

Christopher Ranson

ARP ESSER Homeless Specialist

cranson@mdek12.org

mdek12.org



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