

Homeless Information Update FY12

Keywords: Homeless Education, PACTS

Attention: Superintendents, Treasurers, and Consolidated Application Contacts, Homeless Coordinator

Summary: Homeless information on data collection, Title I Part A Homeless Set Aside, PACTS requirements, LEA Liaison Responsibilities for FY12, Head START and IDEA requirements

As the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year has taken place, it seems that this is an opportune time to review various requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The following is a listing of some of the specific requirements of this law that apply to all LEAs whether or not the LEA receives a McKinney-Vento subgrant.

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY (LEA)LIAISON - SEC.722 (g)(1)(J)(ii) requires local educational agencies to designate an appropriate staff person ... as a local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, to carry out duties described in paragraph (6)(A). The requirement for LEAs to make this designation is met through the CCIP consolidated application process which requires a person to be listed as the LEA contact for homeless education. The person so identified in the CCIP is one of the recipients of this communication. The law indicates that the local education agency liaison shall ensure that –

- Homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination of activities with other entities and agencies.
- Homeless children and youth enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in schools of that LEA.
- Homeless families, children and youths receive educational services for which such families, children and youths are eligible, including Head Start and Even Start programs and preschool programs administered by the LEA, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and other appropriate services.
- The parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated where such children and youths receive services under this Act, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens.
- The parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school that the youth has a right to attend.

To assist LEAs in meeting these responsibilities, a collection of information from various sources can be found on the ODE Web site. To find an overview of the McKinney-Vento program and links to external resources, including dispute resolution policies in the event of enrollment disputes please click:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=1037&Content=6312>

The link will also direct you to the Homeless Resources for Awareness page, which includes a new downloadable parent brochure.

PROGRAM AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE TRACKING SYSTEM (PACTS)

The requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act for all LEAs are part of the PACTS review system. Districts will find review items within the Self Evaluation addressing these requirements. Additionally, those involved in the telephone survey and the on site review will find homeless considerations now included.

TITLE I PART A SET ASIDE (EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH)

Below is a copy of CCIP Note # 78 explaining this required set aside within the CCIP. It can also be downloaded at the following link:

<https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=887>

CCIP Note #78

Center for School Improvement, Office of Federal Programs

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Title I Part A Set Asides (Education of Homeless Children & Youth)

NCLB SECTION 1113(C)(3)(A) requires districts to reserve funds to provide services to homeless children who are not attending a participating Title I schools. These services must be comparable to the services the district provides to children in Title I schools.

In keeping with these statutory requirements, all local education agencies receiving Title I allocations must “set aside” an amount equal to the estimated number of homeless children and youth in non-Title I served buildings or grade spans times the “Per Pupil Amount” as indicated on the “School Allocation PPA List” page in the CCIP. Districts not identifying any homeless children and youth in non-Title I served buildings or grade spans must set aside an amount equal to one student at the listed Per Pupil Amount. (The estimate should be a full-time equivalent number for the previous school year - i.e. two homeless students having attended for ½ of the school year would equal one full time equivalent) This required set aside amount is to be entered in the “Homeless” category on the “Set Asides” page in the CCIP.

HEAD START and INDIVIDUALS with DISABILITIES EDUCATION (IDEA)

Please note that the servicing of students experiencing homelessness is included in the reauthorization of both Head Start and IDEA. Both acts include a definition of homelessness that matches the definition of homelessness in the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which applies to all schools.