



Ira Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Accountability  
55 Hanson Place, Room 400  
Brooklyn, New York 11217  
Tel. (718) 722-2796 / Fax: (718) 722-4559

**NYS FIELD MEMO**  
**Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**  
**McKinney-Vento**  
**#03-2015**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public Schools  
Charter School LEA Administrators  
Homeless Education Liaisons

**FROM:** Ira Schwartz

**SUBJECT:** McKinney-Vento Summer School Information

**DATE:** June 2015

---

Summer school offers an especially valuable opportunity for students to make up for lost time, re-take failed courses, gain extra credits and work toward timely graduation. As the end of the school year approaches, and as your Local Educational Agency (LEA) begins planning for summer school, it is of the utmost importance to consider the summer school needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC §11431 *et seq.*, “McKinney-Vento”) applies to students in a wide range of temporary living situations, including shelters and emergency or transitional housing; students living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative adequate housing; ***and also to students who are “doubled up” with friends or relatives due to loss of housing or economic hardship.*** Unaccompanied youth who live in these types of arrangements are also included under the protection of the law. Students who are protected by McKinney-Vento are entitled to immediate enrollment in their school of origin or their local school.

**Access to Summer School:**

Students in temporary housing have important rights related to summer school. All students who experience homelessness and who are required to attend summer school to advance to the next grade or to graduate on time with their peers *must* be provided the opportunity to do so. If your

district does not offer a summer school program, but permanently housed students are able to attend summer school in a neighboring district for a fee, students in temporary housing should be afforded this same opportunity, and they should not be charged the fee. Instead, your district may be asked to cover the summer school fee for such students.

In addition, McKinney-Vento also requires that LEAs eliminate barriers to homeless students' full participation and success in school. With this in mind, if a homeless student is advised to attend summer school to ensure academic success, the LEA must eliminate barriers to the student's enrollment and participation in the summer school program. Accordingly, a homeless student who is enrolled in the LEA should be provided with transportation to summer school, if the student needs summer school to ensure academic success. The lack of such transportation would be a barrier to the student's attendance, even if the district does not provide transportation to permanently housed students.

Title I set-aside funds may be used to help offset some of the abovementioned costs. Homeless students are automatically eligible for Title I, Part A services, even if they do not attend a Title I school. LEAs must also set aside funds to provide comparable services to homeless students who are not attending Title I schools. In many cases, these funds may be used to provide summer school transportation and educationally related support services to children in temporary housing where they are residing. With passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act in 2014 ([http://www.nysteachs.org/media/Title\\_I\\_ExpansionMVSet-AsideFunds6-30-2014.pdf](http://www.nysteachs.org/media/Title_I_ExpansionMVSet-AsideFunds6-30-2014.pdf)), Title I funds available in the 2014-15 school year may now be used to cover the cost of transporting students in temporary housing to and from their school of origin.

A partial list of services to which Title I set-aside funding may be applied include tutoring, counseling, school supplies, school uniforms, transportation once the student is permanently housed, and other services that are not ordinarily provided to permanently housed Title I students and are not available from other sources (Title I of ESEA Section 1115(b)(3)). For more information about the use of Title I funds, please visit our New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS-TEACHS) website at [www.nysteachs.org/info-topic](http://www.nysteachs.org/info-topic).

In some circumstances, the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) is required to provide transportation to and from school for students who are placed by the LDSS in emergency housing outside their designated school district. If the LDSS declines to provide transportation for a student attending summer school and if lack of summer school is a barrier to academic success, the designated school district should provide the student with summer school transportation.

### **Appointing a Homeless Liaison:**

All LEAs must ensure that there is a designated LEA Liaison (also known as a Homeless Liaison) year-round. Due to summer vacation schedules, many LEAs may need to appoint a special interim LEA Liaison for the summer months, if the Liaison for the academic year is unavailable. LEAs should provide the summer Liaison's contact information to NYS-TEACHS by visiting <http://www.nysteachs.org/liasons/contact.html> and completing the required fields. Please check "Summer Liaison ONLY" for staff members who will be the liaison only for the summer months. Updated contact information should be provided before the end of the current school year.

**LEA Policies and Resources:**

For further information about McKinney-Vento, the rights of students in temporary housing, and strategies that schools can implement to meet students' needs, please visit the NYS-TEACHS website, [www.nysteachs.org](http://www.nysteachs.org), or contact NYS-TEACHS toll-free at **1-800-388-2014**. Additional information may also be obtained through the Department's Homeless Education Program Office in Albany, New York by contacting Melanie Faby, Homeless Education Program Associate, at (518) 473-0295.

cc: Maxine Meadows-Shuford  
Melanie Faby