

TO: Special Committee on Homelessness
FROM: Kansas State Department of Education
SUBJECT: Funding for Homeless Students

McKinney-Vento

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law created to support the enrollment and education of homeless children and youth. The term “homeless children and youth” is defined in Subtitle UII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as:

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and includes–

- (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
- (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- (iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

Total McKinney Vento Identified Students in Kansas*:

- 2018 – 2019: 8,357
- 2019 – 2020: 7,645
- 2020 – 2021: 5,623
- 2021 – 2022: 6,688
- 2022 – 2023: 8,160

*Does not include early childhood students

McKinney-Vento Subgrants

Under the McKinney Vento program, State Educational Agencies (KSDE) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth. Homeless children and youth should have access to educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging state student academic achievement standards to which all students

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

are held accountable. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. States and districts are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth. Each state is awarded funds on an annual basis and is required to hold a competitive grant process to determine which school districts will receive a McKinney Vento subgrant. In Kansas, any public school district with a minimum enrollment of ten homeless children may apply for the grant program through a competitive grant process. On average, ten to twelve districts in Kansas receive McKinney-Vento subgrants.

Local Educational Agencies may use funds to assist homeless children and youth in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. In particular, the funds may support any of the activities authorized under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act, including the following:

- Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services linked to the State academic content standards.
- Services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain Homeless Children and Youth and unaccompanied youth, in public school programs and services.
- Before-and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs.
- Specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services

Before expending federal funds, school districts are encouraged to seek funding from local sources, including Parent Teacher groups, local businesses, and local faith-based groups.

KSDE received the following awards to fund LEA competitive grants by school year:

- 2020 – 2021: \$672,709
- 2021 – 2022: \$695,754
- 2022 – 2023: \$750,100
- 2023 – 2024: \$834,148

State Educational Agencies are permitted to retain up to 25% of annual allocations. KSDE retains, on average, 17% of annual allocations. These funds are used primarily for positions dedicated to grant oversight and technical assistance.

Title I, Part A Set Aside

Districts receiving Title I funds must set aside part of that amount to support McKinney Vento students, but do not receive additional funding for this purpose. All districts in Kansas receive Title I funding, and therefore have a level of Title I, Part A set aside for homeless students. The minimum allowable set aside in Kansas is \$500 for a district with total enrollment 0 to 999 and \$1,500 for a district with total enrollment of 1,000 and greater. In 2024, the Title I allocations ranged from \$500 to \$170,000 with most districts setting aside the minimum of \$500 or \$1,500 based on district enrollment.

Kansas school districts set aside the following amounts from Title I, Part A by school year:

- 2020-2021: \$576,533
- 2021-2022: \$556,583

- 2022-2023: \$580,957
- 2023-2024: \$615,082

American Rescue Plan for Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)

Emergency funds targeted for families experiencing homelessness were received in two allocations for a total of \$5,443,402 for ARP-HCY I and ARP-HCY II. ARP-HCY funds are a one-time emergency relief allocation and districts must expend ARP-HCY funds by December 2024.

- The ARP- HCY I allocation was \$1,360,194.
 - These funds were to be awarded through a competitive grant OR to existing McKinney Vento sub-grant recipients.
 - Twelve (12) districts received these grants in Kansas.
 - KSDE retained 25% of these funds, as allowable for administrative purposes.
- The ARP-HCY II allocation was \$4,083,208 which were to be awarded based on a formula provided by the US Department of Education.
 - Every district in Kansas received an ARP-HCY II allocation.
 - Districts receiving less than \$5,000 were required to join a consortium.
 - Districts receiving \$5,000 or greater could join a consortium or be their own fiscal agent.
 - KSDE did not retain any funds from ARP-HCY II.

Please see the attached document entitled "[Allowable Use of Funds, American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth](#)" for additional detail on allowable use of funds.

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