



Homeless Children & Youth

NEWSLETTER

Kristi Walter, Coordinator, Office of Student Support and Well-Being, kristin.walter@k12.wv.us

ARP- HCY Plan Change Form Submissions

As a reminder, the WVDE hosted a webinar on October 10th that provided guidance and additional spending ideas for any remaining ARP-HCY funding. This funding is intended to support homeless children and youth in your district.

If you wish to change your ARP-HCY plan or budget that you submitted in your original GPS application for these funds, you need to fill out an ARP-HCY plan change form to receive approval from the WVDE. You can find the plan change form here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/wAM2JKp1s0>

While ARP-HCY funding may be more flexible than other sources of funding for homeless students, such as Title IA Set-Aside or McKinney-Vento subgrant funding, you must make sure that your funding plan serves homeless children and youth specifically.

We encourage you to start meeting with district and other local stakeholders to develop a plan to use the funds before the draw-down date of September 2024.

WVDE Data Collection Webinar

On December 18th, the WVDE will host a webinar via TEAMS at 10:00 am.

The session will be titled: "Opportunities for Improvement and Celebration: What Data Tells Us About Students Experiencing Homelessness in West Virginia."

Participants will come away from the session with a greater understanding of data that is collected related to the education of students experiencing homelessness. This data includes demographic and student outcome data.

I will also address strategies on how to collect accurate, timely, and complete data as well as provide ways to improve programming and services provided to students experiencing homelessness as a result of data analysis.

The webinar will target two main goals related to improving EHCY programs as a result of data-driven decision making:

Create a deeper understanding of Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) data in West Virginia including:

- Demographics data
- Student outcome data

Identify strategies for:

- Collecting quality data
- Analyzing data to improve programming & services

If you are interested in joining this valuable session, please join the TEAMS call by using this link on December 18th: [Data Collection Webinar TEAMS Meeting Link](#)



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Submit a Story

The McKinney-Vento law asks the State Coordinator to gather and make information publicly available on progress by the state education agency (WVDE) and local education agencies (LEAs) in addressing problems and difficulties in homeless education. It also requires the sharing of successful programs in identifying homeless children and youths and assisting them in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. This newsletter is intended to provide a space for both.

Please send articles, best practices, sample forms, and other great ideas to kristin.walter@k12.wv.us. If you are hosting a special event related to your McKinney-Vento program and would like to be featured in this newsletter, I would love to share your story and possibly attend your event as well.

Directory Information vs. Educational Record

As a reminder, under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, schools must treat information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation as a student education record, subject to all the protections of FERPA. 42 USC §11432(g)(3)(G).

Directory information is information a school may maintain about a student, but that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Examples of directory information may include: name, address, telephone listing, email, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, participation in extracurricular activities, honors and awards, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

In the case of McKinney-Vento students, information about the student's living situation and/or homeless status must not be treated as directory information. It must be treated as a student education record, subject to all the protections of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). 42 USC §11432(g)(3)(G). US Dept. of Education (July 2016). Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance, A-6.

A Privacy and Homelessness: A Technical Assistance Tool developed by Patricia Julianelle, Director of State Projects and Legal Affairs with NAEHCY has been attached to the e-mail with this newsletter. It contains Frequently Asked Questions regarding FERPA and McKinney-Vento.

District Liaison Spotlight

Anne Greza - Monongalia County Schools

Monongalia County Schools recently partnered with SchoolHouse Connection to create a McKinney-Vento awareness video as an identification and outreach initiative. The video has an English and Spanish version to make the information easily accessible to families. A link to the English version of the video can be found here: <https://boe.mono.k12.wv.us/post-detail/~board/district-board/post/mckinney-vento-act>

Additionally, Monongalia County Schools has utilized funding to consult with SchoolHouse Connection in previous years. Through this work, they were able to improve district policies and procedures related to McKinney-Vento programming.