

Florida's Homeless Education Program

The federal McKinney-Vento Act (Title X, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act) requires that each state educational agency and local educational agencies (school districts) ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as non-homeless students, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education allocates McKinney-Vento funding annually to states based on the state's proportion of the Title I, Part A federal allocation. States allocate funds competitively to school districts to be used for program implementation at the local level. The sub-grants are awarded competitively based on need and quality of the application. In 2013-2014, the Florida Department of Education allocated \$3.2 million in sub-grants to 48 school districts.

Table 1: Number of Homeless Students identified in Florida Schools from 2008-2009 to 2013-2014

2008-2009 HOMELESS	2009-2010 HOMELESS	2010-2011 HOMELESS	2011-2012 HOMELESS	2012-2013 HOMELESS	2013-2014 HOMELESS
41,286	49,112	56,680	63,685	70,189	71,446

For more information on Florida's Homeless Education Program, please visit the program's web site at <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/federal-edu-programs/title-x-homeless-edu-program-hep.stml>.

In order to carry out the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act, the Florida Homeless Education Program and State Coordinator, at the Department of Education provide leadership, technical assistance, educational support, and funding to school districts through a competitive process. The purpose of the supplemental funding is to ensure that students are identified, enrolled and attend school, and have access to resources to help them achieve academically. Supplemental funds may be used to offer:

- school supplies, such as backpacks, calculators, notebooks, folders, and other classroom supplies, as well as uniforms, including those required for participation in extracurricular activities sponsored by the school district;
- tutoring, supplemental instruction, and other educational services, including mentoring and
- summer educational programs;
- referrals to medical, dental, mental, and other health services; and
- parental engagement activities, among many others.

Whether they receive supplemental funding or not, every school district in Florida has a homeless education liaison to assist homeless students and their families. The liaison's responsibilities include:

- identifying and reporting children and youth eligible for services, including access to free meals and health and other services;
- ensuring homeless students have the right to remain in their school of origin (the school they last attended or school they were attending when they became homeless) and that transportation is provided to the school of origin;
- removing barriers that contribute to exclusion or school enrollment delays;
- posting public notice of educational rights of homeless children; and
- training school staff to ensure homeless students enroll with full and equal opportunity to succeed in school.

To contact a local school district's homeless liaison, click on the link below. In the Program Area, scroll down to select "Title X Homeless Contacts." In "District Area," select a district and then click on "Submit."

<https://app1.fldoe.org/flbpso/nclbchoice/bpsDirectory/directory.aspx>