

Coordination with Foster Contact and Homeless Liaison

Georgia Compensatory Educational
Leaders Conference
February 26-28, 2018

Federal Programs
Grants Unit

Eric McGhee, Grants Program Manager

Agenda



Richard Woods,
Georgia's School Superintendent
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☐ McKinney-Vento Act

- Summary
- Data
- ESSA

☐ Foster Care

- Summary
- Data
- ESSA

☐ Coordination



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McKinney-Vento Act

Georgia Department of Education

Pop Quiz: True or False?



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1. Every local educational agency (LEA) must designate a McKinney-Vento liaison.
2. Most McKinney-Vento students live in shelters.
3. McKinney-Vento students can stay in the same school, even if they move out of district.
4. McKinney-Vento applies to public preschools.
5. McKinney-Vento does not apply to charter schools.

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Definition of Homeless Students

☐ Individuals whose nighttime residence is NOT:

- Fixed—stationary, permanent, and not subject to change
- Regular—used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis
- Adequate—sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in the home

(42 U.S.C. § 11434A(2)(B)(i))

*Can the student go to the SAME PLACE (fixed) EVERY NIGHT
(regular) to sleep in a SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE
(adequate)?*

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Homeless also includes children and youth who are:

- ☐ Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
- ☐ Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due the lack of alternative accommodations;
- ☐ Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- ☐ Abandoned in hospitals;
- ☐ Living in 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;
- ☐ Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus/train stations, or similar settings;
- ☐ Migratory – who qualify as homeless living in circumstances described above.

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Definition of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

- ☐ **Unaccompanied** = not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian; in practical terms, this means the youth does not live with the parent or guardian.
- ☐ **2-Step Process:**
 1. Does the student's living arrangement meet the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of homeless?
 2. Once homelessness is determined, is the student unaccompanied?

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- ☐ Unaccompanied youth have the same rights as other students experiencing homelessness.

- ☐ Unaccompanied youth have run away from home, been thrown out of their homes, and/or been abandoned by parents or guardians. These young people are separated from their parents for a variety of reasons:
 - Over half report being physically abused at home.
 - Over one third report sexual abuse.
 - Over two-thirds report that at least one of their parents abuses drugs or alcohol.

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State Coordinators

- ❑ Every state educational agency (SEA) must have a State Coordinator who can “sufficiently carry out” their duties. 11432(d)(3)
 - Ensure McKinney-Vento students receive “the full protections and services provided by” the law. 11432(f)(7)
 - Monitor all LEAs 11432(f)(5)
 - Gather and post homelessness data on the SEA website 11432(f)(1)(A) & (f)(3)
 - Collaborate with broad array of educators, service providers, community organizations and policymakers 11432(f)(4) and Guidance E8

McKinney-Vento Act

Local Liaisons

- ❑ Every local educational agency (LEA) must designate a liaison, whose duties include:
 - Identify McKinney-Vento students.
 - Post public notice of McKinney-Vento rights to parents and youth.
 - Provide professional development and support on McKinney-Vento to school staff
 - Connect young children to preschool, Head Start, and early intervention.
 - Connect families and youth to housing, health, mental health and other services.

11432(g)(6)

McKinney-Vento Act

Local Liaisons

☐ Liaisons must be “able to carry out” their duties.

11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)

- [Hidden in Plain Sight](#) (2016) report found that over 90% of liaisons work in another official capacity.
- 89% spend half their time or less on liaison duties.

☐ What does it mean to be able to carry out their duties?

☐ How can you tell if the liaison is able to carry out her/his duties?



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Local Liaisons & State Coordinators

- ☐ State coordinators must post an annually-updated liaison list on the SEA website. 11432(g)(6)(B)
- ☐ State Coordinators must provide professional development for liaisons. 11432(f)(6)
- ☐ Liaisons must participate in that professional development as determined by the State Coordinator.
11432(g)(1)(J)(iv)

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Impacts of Homelessness



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Educational Impacts

- ☐ 42% of students who experienced homelessness say they dropped out of school at least once; 60% say it was hard to stay in school while they were homeless.
- ☐ Homelessness is associated with an 87% likelihood of dropping out of school.
- ☐ Over time, the achievement gaps between homeless and low-income elementary students tend to persist and may even worsen.

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Impact of Homelessness...

- ☐ Half of homeless mothers experience severe depression;
- ☐ One-third of mothers have made at least one suicide attempt;
- ☐ Over one-third have a chronic physical health condition.
- ☐ 30% of homeless adults in the U.S. were foster children; these adults are twice as likely to have their own children placed in foster homes.

Merkert and Wintermute - CLN Kids, 2012

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Data Collection

☐ **ENVIRONMENT CODE** indicates the type of residential environment in which a student resides or the type of school the student attended at anytime during this school year at this school. Code only those students for whom one of the codes below apply. For students where codes do not apply, leave blank.

☐ Data Element ID: STU045

☐ Layout ID: C045

Environment Code	Description
1	Resides in a local institution for neglected
2	Resides in a local institution for delinquent
3	Homeless
4	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

McKinney-Vento: Data

Georgia – Children and youth experiencing homelessness identified by LEAs:

- ☐ **FY17 = 39,966**
- ☐ FY16 = 39,695
- ☐ FY15 = 39,113
- ☐ FY14 = 29,138
- ☐ FY13 = 35,764
- ☐ FY12 = 35,048
- ☐ FY11 = 31,384
- ☐ FY10 = 27,338
- ☐ FY09 = 23,724
- ☐ FY08 = 15,700

GaDOE Student Information System (SIS) – Unduplicated count within each LEA

McKinney-Vento: Data

Student Count

❑ FY08 = 15,700

❑ FY17 = 39,966

*In the past 10 years, the number of students identified by LEAs in Georgia as experiencing homelessness has **increased by 155 percent***

Allocation from US ED

❑ FY08 = \$3,096,475

❑ FY17 = \$2,417,445

*In the past 10 years, the grant award from US ED to support students experiencing homelessness has **decreased by 22 percent***

ESSA Authority



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New ESSA Authority - Homeless

- ☐ States must have procedures to identify and remove barriers that prevent youth from receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school, in accordance with State, local, and school policies.
- ☐ Local liaisons must ensure that unaccompanied homeless youth have opportunities to meet the same State academic achievement standards as the State establishes for other children and youth, including by implementing procedures to remove barriers that prevent homeless youth from receiving credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed at a prior school.
- ☐ State plans must describe how homeless youth will receive assistance from school counselors to advise, prepare, and improve their readiness for college.
- ☐ Local liaisons must ensure that unaccompanied homeless youth informed of their status as independent students for college financial aid and may obtain assistance to receive verification for the FAFSA.

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New ESSA Authority - Homeless

- ☐ All LEAs that receive Title I Part A funds must reserve funds to support homeless students. Previously, LEAs that had all Title I schools did not have to reserve funds for homeless students.
- ☐ The amount of Title I funds reserved for homeless children and youth may be determined based on a needs assessment, and must be based on the total allocation received by the LEA and reserved prior to any allowable expenditure of transfers by the LEA.
- ☐ Title I funds reserved for homeless children and youth may be used for services not ordinarily provided by Title I, including local liaisons and transportation to the school of origin.
- ☐ State report cards must include disaggregated information on the graduation rates and academic achievement of homeless children and youth, and children and youth in foster care.

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New ESSA Authority - Homeless

- ☐ The definition of school of origin includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools, when a student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin. The determination of whether it is in a student's best interest to follow the feeder school pattern is subject to the same process as other best interest determinations.
- ☐ When a student obtains permanent housing, transportation to the school of origin must be provided until the end of the academic year, if it is in the student's best interest to remain in that school.

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New ESSA Authority – Homeless Title I, Part A reservation

- ❑ Funds available under ESSA may be used to provide homeless children and youths with services not ordinarily provided to other students under those sections, including supporting the liaison designated pursuant the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and providing transportation.
- ❑ ESSA expands the use of Title I funds to support homeless children and youth for the following requirements under McKinney-Vento:
 - Local homeless liaison.
 - Transportation to and from school of origin.

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New ESSA Authority – Homeless Title I, Part A reservation

- ☐ The authority to use Title I for transportation of students experiencing homelessness does NOT:
 - Absolve LEA Transportation Departments from the responsibility to transport students experiencing homelessness, or
 - Supplant an LEA's obligation to use local and state funds for transportation
- ☐ Costs that may be charged to Title I are the incremental costs to transport a homeless child or youth to his or her school of origin that are above what the LEA would otherwise provide to transport the student to his or her assigned school.

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Foster Care

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Pop Quiz: True or False?



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1. Every local educational agency (LEA) must designate a Foster Care Point of Contact.
2. Foster children caregivers may not access student records.
3. Foster Care students can stay in the same school, even if they move out of district.
4. Foster care youth are always eligible for McKinney-Vento.
5. The ESSA requirements regarding foster care youth do not apply to private schools.

Foster Care

Foster care means 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and preadoptive homes.

Foster Care

Are Foster Care youth eligible for McKinney-Vento?

McKinney-Vento eligibility should be considered on a case-by-case basis:

- ☐ Foster youth with a fixed, regular and adequate residence = Not eligible
- ☐ Foster youth without a fixed, regular and adequate residence = Eligible
 - I.e. – Youth ran away from placement and is not in a fixed, regular and adequate residence
 - I.e. – Youth fleeing domestic violence in the foster care home
 - I.e. – Youth displaced due natural disaster/fire at foster care home
- ☐ In a given school year, youth identified as MV eligible prior to entering foster care = Eligible

Foster Care

Educational Programming, Assessment, and Consultation (EPAC)

- ❑ The EPAC Unit provides comprehensive academic support services focusing on improving educational outcomes and the academic achievement of children and youth, ages 5 to 17 in the custody of Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. EPAC services are supported through TANF funding and are initiated through case manager or CPS referrals. Upon initial placement into foster care, children and youth are referred to EPAC for a comprehensive diagnostic educational assessment and subsequently, are monitored for ensuring adequate academic progress.

Data Collection

Children in Foster Care

- ❑ GA children in care on September 30, 2015 = **10,900**
- ❑ GA children in non-relative foster care on September 30, 2015 = **6235/10,930 (57%)**
- ❑ GA children in relative foster care on September 30, 2015 = **2,624/10,930 (24%)**
- ❑ GA children in pre-adoptive home on September 30, 2015 = **90/10,930 (1%)**
- ❑ GA children in group home on September 30, 2015 = **44/10,930 (0%)**
- ❑ GA children in child caring institution on September 30, 2015 = **1,737/10,930 (16%)**
- ❑ GA children on a home visit on September 30, 2015 = **160/10,930 (1%)**
- ❑ GA children on runaway list on September 30, 2015 = **37/10,930 (0%)**
- ❑ GA children in Independent Living Program (ILP) on September 30, 2015 = **3/10,930 (0%)**

Summary Measures: Children in Foster Care - Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS)

Data Collection

DCFS Child Count

	April 1, 2014	April 1, 2015	April 1, 2016
18 and Under	8,187	9,993	11,996
Over 18	392	446	521
Total	8,579	10,439	12,517

Summary Measures: Children in Foster Care - Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS)

Data Collection

DCFS Child Count as of April 29, 2016

Active Investigation	Family Support	Family Preservation	Foster Care
7,348	4,770	4,396	$\leq 18 = 12,305$ $> 18 = 543$ Total = 12,848

Summary Measures: Children in Foster Care - Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS)

Data Collection

DCFS as of April 2, 2016

Social Workers	Turnover	Timely Investigations	Overdue Investigations
2,000	31%	96% Less than 45 days	Total = 407 (6%)

Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS)

Data Collection

By age 24...

	Foster Youth	Comparison
<input type="checkbox"/> Ever homeless	24%	NA
<input type="checkbox"/> Currently employed	48%	74%
<input type="checkbox"/> Women ever pregnant	75%	40%
<input type="checkbox"/> Median income	\$8,000	\$18,300
<input type="checkbox"/> Men convicted of crime	59%	10%
<input type="checkbox"/> Women convicted of crime	28%	2%

Mark Courtney, et al, Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Outcomes at Age 23 and 24, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, 2011. Comparison group for this study: National Longitudinal Study Of Adolescent Health

Data Collection

- ☐ The leadership at both DHS and GaDOE have agreed to share data at the school level.
- ☐ The foster flag will be displayed at the Teacher Level in Student Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). The foster youth information will be collected monthly and the flag will be available for only one year. When a student is adopted, the foster record will be expunged and the data will then be modified.
- ☐ ESSA requires SEA and local school districts to disaggregate foster care student data as a separate subgroup. State and LEA report cards will reflect this subgroup.

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New ESSA Authority – Foster Care

State Title I Plans must describe the steps the SEA will take to ensure collaboration with the State child welfare agency to ensure the educational stability of children or youth in foster care, including assurances that:

- ☐ Foster youth are enrolled or remain in their school of origin, unless a determination is made that it is not in their best interest.
- ☐ The determination will be based on best interest factors, including consideration of the appropriateness of the current educational setting, and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.
- ☐ When a determination is made that it is not in the child's best interest to remain in the school of origin, the child will be immediately enrolled in a new school.
- ☐ The SEA will designate a point of contact for child welfare agencies, who will oversee implementation of the SEA responsibilities.
- ☐ The SEA point of contact may not be the same person as the State Coordinator for homeless children and youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

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New ESSA Authority – Foster Care

- ☐ Designate a point of contact for the local child welfare agency, if the local child welfare agency notifies the LEA, in writing, that it has designated a point of contact for the LEA.
- ☐ Creates new Title I, Part A assurances that will provide ALL children in any stage of foster care proceedings with McKinney-Vento-like rights and protections.
- ☐ LEAs are not required to provide school of origin transportation, if there are additional costs, unless they are reimbursed by the child welfare agency or agree to provide it.
- ☐ Removes awaiting foster care placement from the McKinney-Vento Act one year after enactment.

ESSA Authority



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New ESSA Authority – Foster Care

Local transportation procedures must:

- ❑ Ensure that foster youth who need transportation to the school of origin promptly receive it in a cost-effective manner, and in accordance with the child welfare agency's authority to use child welfare funding available under section 475(4)(A) of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide transportation.
- ❑ Ensure that if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, LEAs will provide it if:
 - They are reimbursed by the child welfare agency;
 - The LEA agrees to pay the costs; or
 - The LEA and the child welfare agency agree to share the costs.



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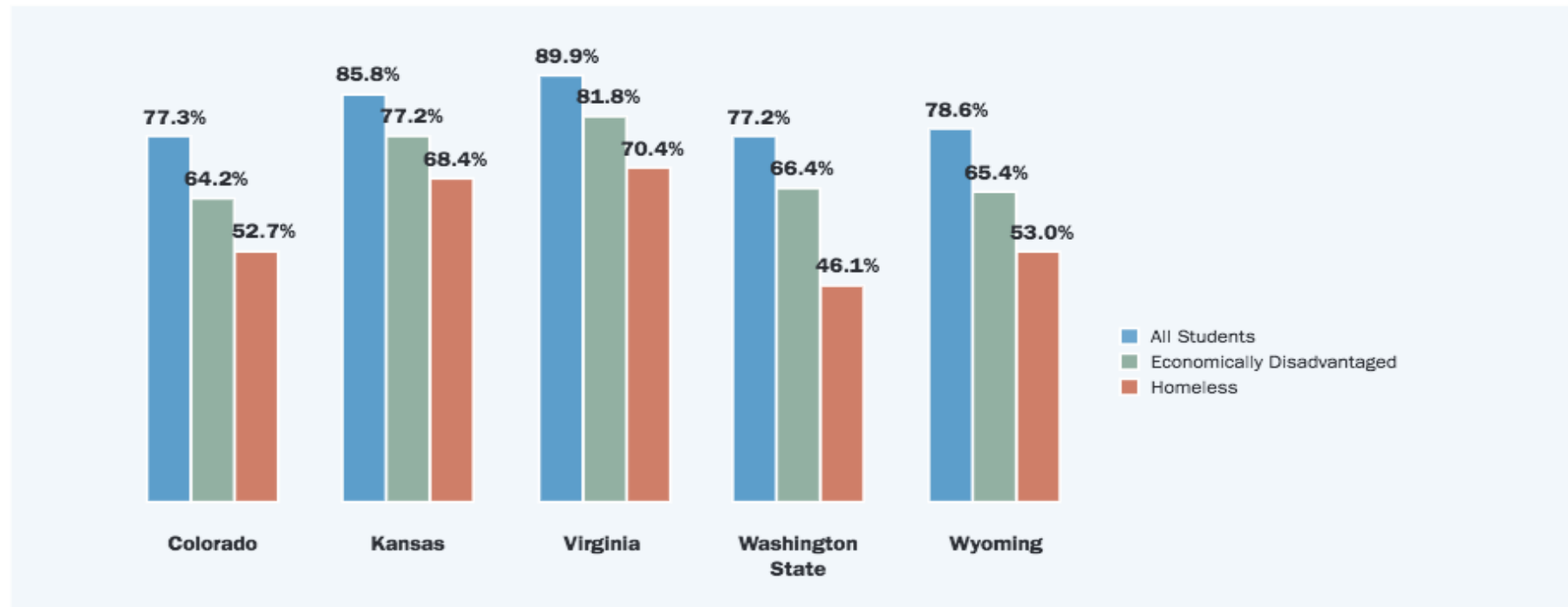
Coordination

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Coordination

Starting in 2017-18, state report cards must disaggregate achievement and high school graduation data for Foster Care students and McKinney-Vento students. 20 USC 6311(h)(1)(c)

Graph 2: Class of 2014 On-time (Four-year) State High School Graduation Rate by Poverty and Housing Status



Source: Colorado Department of Education, 2013–14 State Policy Report: Dropout Prevention and Student Engagement; Kansas State Department of Education, State Level 2013–14 Graduation and Dropout Data—State-level Four- and Five-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates by Subgroup (Public Schools Only); Kansas State Department of Education, Four-year and Five-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates 2014–15 Fact Sheet; Virginia Department of Education, State-level Cohort Report, Four Year Rate—Class of 2014; Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Graduation and Dropout Statistics Annual Report, April 2015; Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Bulletin No. 072–11 Assessment and Student Information—Attachment 2 Class of 2011 Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Calculations; Wyoming Department of Education, "Wyoming State Graduation Rates: Federally Adjusted Graduation Rates for the 2013-14 Cohort." <http://edu.wyoming.gov/data/graduation-rates>

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Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)

- ☐ In FY18, all LEAs will be required to submit a CLIP that includes:
 - A. CNA
 - B. District Strategic Plan
 - C. Parent Involvement Policy
 - D. Foster Care Transportation Plan
 - E. Title I, Part C ID&R Plan

Coordination

Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA)

- ☐ The CNA will include discipline, academic, attendance, assessment and graduation data for foster care and homeless youth. ([See GaDOE website](#))
- ☐ LEAs must provide written plans to address gaps and strategies to address identified needs of foster care and homeless youth.

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SEAs and LEAs must implement procedures to identify and remove barriers to McKinney-Vento students receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework completed at a prior school. 11432(g)(1)(F)(ii);

11432(g)(6)(A)(x); Guidance 02

- ☐ Consult with prior school about partial coursework completed.
- ☐ Provide priority enrollment in classes the student has partially completed, to allow for completion.
- ☐ Evaluate students' mastery of partly completed courses.
- ☐ Offer accelerated credit recovery.



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States must implement procedures to remove barriers to academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet school, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, online learning, and charter school programs.

11432(g)(1)(F)(iii)

- ☐ LEAs should anticipate and accommodate the needs of McKinney-Vento students to enter these programs and consider giving them priority on waitlists. Guidance I6
- ☐ SEAs and LEAs should develop policies to expedite full participation in extracurricular activities and work with athletic associations to adjust policies to facilitate participation.

Guidance p. 25

Coordination: Charter Schools



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Starting with the 2017-18 school years, states receiving Title IV Part C charter school grants must:

- ☐ Work with charter schools on recruitment and enrollment practices to promote inclusion of all students.
- ☐ Eliminate any barriers to enrollment for foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth.

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Coordination

- ☐ McKinney-Vento students are automatically eligible for free school meals.
- ☐ Foster Care youth have a \$0 parent income; thus, these youth are eligible for free school meals.
- ☐ Local liaisons are authorized to affirm that students meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness, to qualify them for HUD homeless assistance programs.

11432(g)(6)(D)



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Coordination: Stop the School-to-Prison Pipeline

- ☐ Homelessness and being in foster care are inherently traumatic events and frequently violent.
- ☐ SEAs and LEAs should train staff on the traumatic effects of homelessness and foster care. Specific trauma-informed care strategies should be instituted. Guidance p. 34
- ☐ SEAs and LEAs should ensure school personnel consider issues related to homelessness and foster care prior to taking disciplinary action.

Guidance p. 33



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Coordination: Strategies

- ☐ Coordinate with Early Warning Systems for dropout prevention.
- ☐ All Foster Care youth should have a case plan that includes their educational well-being and path for college or career through DFCS. Coordination with the LEA is required.
- ☐ All McKinney-Vento youth must be able to receive individualized counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college, including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus supports. 11432(g)(1)(K); Guidance Q1

Coordination: College Access



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Determiners of Student Status

☐ Local liaisons

- Required under ESSA for graduating high school seniors
- Allowed for college students through age 23 for whom liaisons have the needed information (June 2016 letter from Secretary King)

☐ Directors (or their designees) of shelters funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act or by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (student received services)

☐ College financial aid administrators (any student)

Coordination: College Access



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Documenting Student Status

☐ For local liaisons and shelters

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Documentation of Independent Student Status for the FAFSA

<http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed>

☐ For financial aid administrators

Making Student Status Determinations for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: Eligibility Tool for Financial Aid Administrators

http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/faa_tool.php

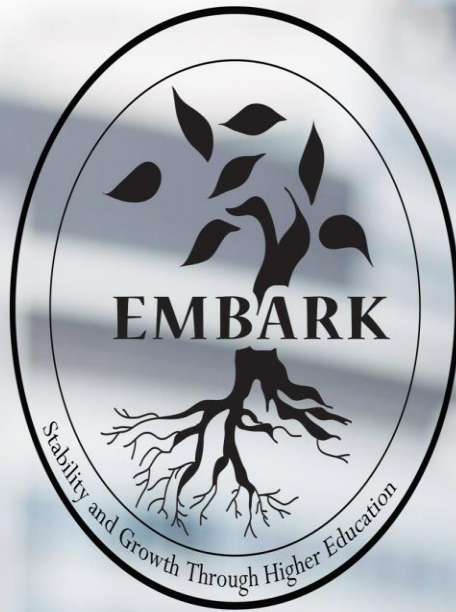
Coordination: College Access



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Accompanied Homeless Students

- ☐ Include parental information on the FAFSA
- ☐ Federal aid package is calculated based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and will reflect the family's low-income status
- ☐ Understanding the EFC
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/how-calculated>



EMBARK Georgia is a statewide network of support for youth who have experienced foster care and/or homelessness and are enrolled or interested in attending any postsecondary educational institution in Georgia

<https://embarkgeorgia.org/>

Questions



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