



Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Section 1: Purpose

1. The following policy outlines HUD education-related requirements as outlined in the HEARTH Act of 2009, as established in the CoC Interim Rule 24 CFR 578.23(c)(7) and 24 CFR 578.103(a), in which the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care (WIBOS) and funded agencies must adhere to.
2. The purpose of the policy is to ensure CoC-funded agencies in the WIBOS inform program participants of their eligibility for education services and ensure their access to those services under Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
3. HUD CoC-funded projects are responsible for compliance with requirements and create policies and procedures that align with this policy. WIBOS will ensure compliance through monitoring.

Section 2: Definitions

1. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 ET SEQ) - Subtitle VII-B of The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act authorizes the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program and is the primary piece of federal legislation related to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. It was reauthorized in December 2015 by Title IX, Part A, of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

According to EHCY (CFDA 84.196), rights of eligible children and youth include the:

- Right to immediate school enrollment even when records not present;
 - Right to remain in the school of origin, if in the student's best interest;
 - Right to receive transportation to and from the school of origin; and
 - Right to receive support for academic success.
2. McKinney-Vento education services – services that address the educational needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Such services include free, appropriate public education, immediately enrollment despite needed documentation, option to attend school of origin, transportation to and from school of origin and the right to receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students and according to student's need.

Section 3: Procedures

1. Agencies in the WIBOS must demonstrate collaboration with local school districts to identify families experiencing homelessness and inform families and youth experiencing homelessness of their eligibility for McKinney-Vento education services.
 - Upon intake or enrollment, funded agencies must collect information regarding child(ren) in the household. Information should include:

- Name and age of the child(ren)
 - Grade the child(ren) is in
 - School the child(ren) is attending, or last attended
 - Transportation method to get to and from school
 - Identify needs to participate in school appropriately (i.e. school supplies or clothing)
 - Determine whether the child(ren) is currently a part of the school's McKinney-Vento program
 - Indication that school-based services were discussed
- Information must be provided to families explaining their rights under McKinney-Vento.
 - Once a release is obtained, notify the homeless liaison at school of origin and school in district of family and/or youth's situation.
 - At least annually, local coalitions must formally invite all district liaisons to attend local coalition meetings. Local coalitions shall encourage district liaisons and other school staff to provide information, updates, and include agency topics focused on education.
2. Agencies must demonstrate that it is considering the educational needs of children when families enter emergency or transitional shelter and is, to the maximum extent practicable, placing families with children as close to possible to their school of origin so as not to disrupt the children's education.
- Agencies shall notify families that a child(ren) may attend the school of their choosing in coordination with school district/early education program policies.
 - Agencies shall notify families of the ability of school districts to provide transportation services to keep the child(ren) in their school of origin and assist in coordinating this service for the child(ren) as appropriate.
3. Agencies must demonstrate that their programs are establishing policies and practices that are consistent with, and do not restrict the exercise of rights provided by the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act, and other laws relating to the provision of educational and related services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Agencies should identify ways to support children and youth in school activities and allow flexibility for these activities.
4. Agencies must demonstrate that programs that provide housing or services to families have designated a staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to the appropriate services within the community, including early childhood programs such as Head Start, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and McKinney- Vento education services.



- Every CoC-funded agency must assign at least one employee (1 FTE) as the designated contact for local district liaisons. This must be included in the job description.

This designated staff will be the contact for school districts/early childhood education programs if issues, concerns, or changes to processes/law/procedures occur. The designated staff shall provide the school districts/early childhood education program with contact information and connection to coordinated entry.

Section 4: Records and Proceedings

1. HUD CoC-funded projects, and sub-recipients, have the responsibility to abide by assurances and create policies and procedures that align with this policy. WIBOS will ensure compliance through monitoring.