

HomeRoom Network

Community of Practice Session VI

Developing, Maintaining, and Sustaining Transportation for
Vulnerable Youth Experiencing Homelessness

12/6/2022

Welcome – Please sign in!

Please say hello in the chat box and share

- Your name & pronouns
- District
- What is your favorite holiday tradition?



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Zoom Logistics



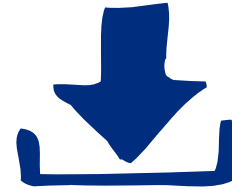
**All participants
can unmute**



**You can share
your camera**



**Questions can be
asked
throughout the
training**



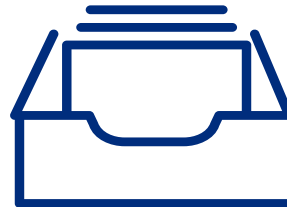
**The powerPoint
will be sent out
after each
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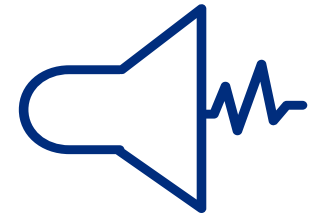
Breakout rooms



**Polls/
quizzes**



**Handouts/
Materials**



**Audio/video
issues**

Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of Transportation Requirements
- Best Practices & Discussions
 - Transportation Plans
 - Collaboration
- Closing & Resources

COHHIO Course to HOME Team



Amanda Wilson she/her
Youth Housing
Initiative Director



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Transportation Requirements

The McKinney-Vento Act requires every state and its school districts to adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided to students experiencing homelessness. This includes transportation to and from school and extracurricular activities.

Liaisons must ensure that parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youths are fully informed of the transportation services available to them and are assisted in accessing these services.



School of Origin

Transportation must be provided to and from the school of origin at the request of the parent or guardian in accordance with the following:

- If a student experiencing homelessness continues to live in the area served by the school district in which the school of origin is located, then transportation to and from the school of origin must be provided or arranged by that district.
- If a student experiencing homelessness begins living in an area served by another district but remains enrolled in the school of origin, then both districts must agree upon a method to distribute the responsibility and costs for providing the student with transportation.

Best Interest Determination

Districts must consider what is in the best interest of the student in determining which school a student experiencing homelessness should attend. It is presumed that remaining in the school of origin is in the best interest of students.

Factors that districts should consider when making these determinations include:

- Age
- Safety
- Graduation Requirements

Travel time/distance should not be considered unless it impacts the achievement, education, health, and safety of the student.

Modes of Transportation

Modes of transportation provided to students experiencing homelessness cannot create any barriers to the student's education. This means:

- Ensuring the mode of transportation provided neither arrives late to school or picks up students before the school day has ended
- Ensuring the mode of transportation provided does not stigmatize students or reveal students' living situations



Considerations

Districts must consider the student's safety when arranging transportation plans. McKinney-Vento transportation plans can not override Ohio Department of Education or school district safety policies.

Urban Districts

- Utilize public transportation systems
 - Provide passes or discounts for students experiencing homelessness
 - Create partnerships with public transit authorities

Rural Districts

- Limited access to public transportation
- Travel time between districts may be longer
- Rural districts may need to consider more creative approaches to transportation, such as:
 - Forming a transportation consortia

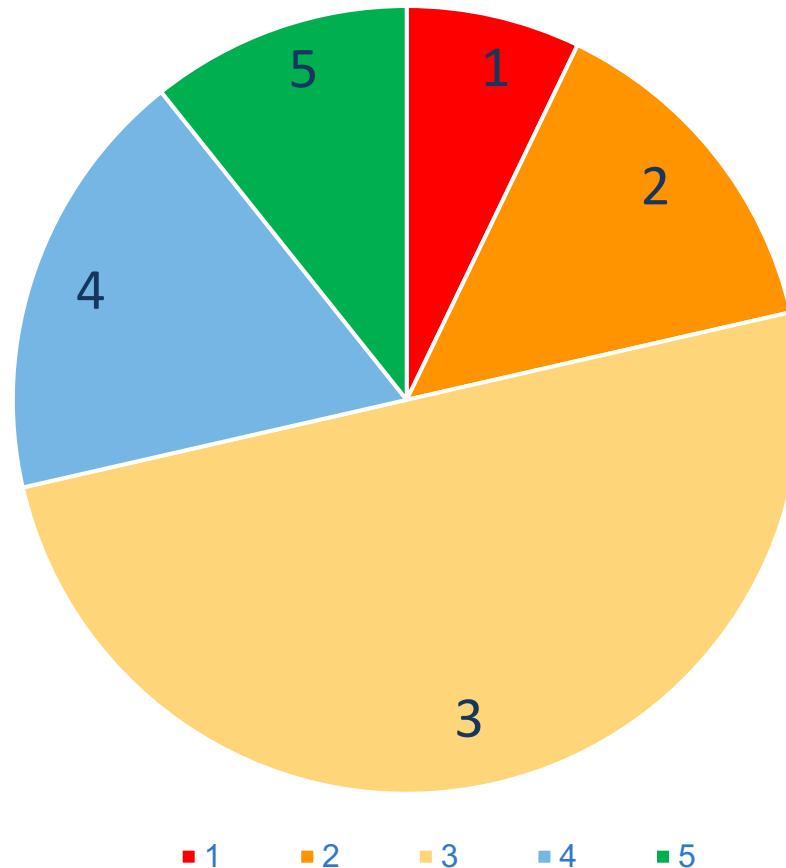
Comparable Services

Homeless students have the right to services comparable to those offered to other students [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(4)(A)].

Districts must provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation services equivalent to those provided to other students.

For example, if transportation during summer school is provided to permanently housed students, then it is required for students experiencing homelessness.

District Capacity for Transportation




Discussion: Transportation Plans

In Breakout Rooms:

What challenges is your district facing in providing transportation services to students experiencing homelessness?

Does your district have any safety policies that must be considered in your transportation plan?

What is your district's current process for determining transportation plans for students experiencing homelessness?



Take notes and be prepared to share with the group!



Inter-District Coordination

When school districts are arranging transportation across district lines, both districts must work together to determine how to share transportation responsibilities and costs.

Best practices for collaboration include:

- Agreeing upon guidelines for sharing transportation responsibilities ahead of time and reviewing these guidelines annually
- Organizing joint regional McKinney-Vento trainings for all personnel involved in transportation arrangements
- Convening annual regional meetings to discuss policies and procedures



Community Collaborations

Community-based organizations can play a unique and valuable role in providing transportation to students experiencing homelessness by:

- Providing short- or long-term funding
- Sharing resources such as shelter or social service agency vans
- Donating bus passes or other transportation services



Working with Families

Parents experiencing homelessness should be included in decisions about their child's education and transportation plan.

Liaisons must ensure that parents have a clear understanding of their role in carrying out their child's transportation plan and can consider developing a written agreement for holding all parties accountable.

Some districts may choose to utilize the family's own car as the students mode of transportation. It's important to reimburse families for all transportation expenses incurred getting to and from school.



Professional Development

All parties involved in student transportation, including bus drivers, should be familiar with the McKinney-Vento Act and how to identify students experiencing homelessness.

Bus drivers are uniquely positioned to identify students experiencing homelessness as they are often the first and last school personnel to interact with students over the course of day.



Discussion: Collaboration

In Breakout Rooms:

Where might there be opportunities for collaboration when it comes to providing transportation for students experiencing homelessness?

How does your district involve parents and guardians in determining modes of transportation?

What does your process of inter-district coordination look like?



Addressing Driver Shortages

Driver shortages are having a significant impact on schools and students. Here are some strategies that may be helpful:

Recruitment

- Partnership training
- Utilize district personnel
- Retire-rehire
- Paid training
- Bus driver employment

Route Logistics

- Route consolidation
- Tiered routing
- Special education students
- Central hub
- Monetary incentives

Sharing Services

- Community or non-public school collaborations
- Sharing services between districts/ESCs
- Partnerships

Funding

Routine Funding Sources

LEAs have the flexibility to use regular district funds, McKinney-Vento funds, and Title I Part A funds. It is important to note that all of the federal funds are to be used for the excess cost of transportation, so depending on the situation, general funds would be the first option to consider.

ARP-HCY Funds

ARP-HCY funds are supplemental and should not replace other required or routinely provided services

- Can only be used for excess costs
- Transportation to academic and other education-related supports
- Hire transportation coordinators
- Car repairs for families or youth
- Drivers Education

Innovative Strategies

New Philadelphia School District

- New Philadelphia has a high student population of unaccompanied minors and English learners
- The district only provides transportation for students living at least a mile away from school, but many of these unaccompanied minors live just inside these boundaries
- The district utilized ARP-HCY funds to purchase bicycles specifically for immigrant students within the district's walk zone
 - Different types and colors of bikes were purchased to avoid student stigmatization



Upcoming Sessions

Session Seven
2/14/2023

**Establishing and Sustaining
Nutrition Efforts for Students
Experiencing Homelessness**

Session Eight
4/?/2023

**Increasing and Sustaining School
Attendance for Students
Experiencing Homelessness**

Coming Soon

COHHIO Course
to HOME Toolkit

COHHIO Course to
HOME E-Learning
Center



Feedback

We invite you to provide feedback about today's session. You can provide feedback here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWEUqcoBUjqTmJHLTvSZgK4KaZk3VuLQAcjyX9g2jXkobsAg/viewform>



A stylized graphic of a spotlight. It features a grey base with two vertical black bars, a black trapezoidal lens, and a bright yellow circular light source. A wide, yellow beam of light projects from the lens towards the bottom right of the slide.

Spotlight Your District/ESC

We invite you to share about your district to be considered for spotlight.

Districts can be spotlighted in community of practice and/or the COHHIO Course to HOME newsletter.

If you're interested in spotlighting your district let us know here:
<https://forms.gle/JPL8548ighpR1kps7>

Resources

- [Ohio Department of Education Driver Shortage Playbook: Strategies, Supports and Use of ARP and ESSER Funds to Address School Bus Driver Shortages](#)
- [NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit: Transportation](#)
- [NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit: Transportation Memorandum of Understanding](#)
- [NCHE Transportation for Homeless Children and Youth: Strategies for Rural School Districts](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection: Meeting the Transportation Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness in the Pandemic and Beyond](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection: Increasing Access to Transportation for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection Transportation FAQs](#)



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