



Transportation Staff

Tips for Ensuring Educational Access and Success for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

You play a critical role in identifying students experiencing homelessness and giving them the support they need to succeed in school.



Transportation Service Requirements

- For students experiencing homelessness, transportation services:
 - Must be provided to the student's **school of origin**, which is the school the student was attending when they became homeless.
 - Must be comparable to services provided to housed students.
 - Must eliminate barriers to accessing education.



Key Tips for Transportation Directors

- Collaborate closely with your division's McKinney-Vento liaison.
- Develop and communicate clear procedures for requesting transportation and inter-division coordination.
- Utilize a transportation agreement with clear expectations for both families, students, drivers, and any other transportation staff who might be communicating with the family.
- Consider using creative solutions like established bus routes for division-wide programs, special education, and other specialty schools. This may present an opportunity to coordinate with other school divisions or regional programs.
- To limit stigma and increase confidentiality of the student's living situation, plan routes so that students experiencing homelessness are first on and last off.
- Consider providing gas cards, mileage reimbursement, or taxi services while school division transportation is being arranged.





Key Tips for Bus Drivers

Look for signs of homelessness such as:

- Students who are picked up at a different stop or who are dropped off at the bus stop;
- Inadequate living conditions;
- Students wearing the same clothing every day or students not dressed properly for the weather;
- Students or parents requesting pick up or drop off at a hotel, motel or shelter; and
- Students exhibiting poor health or hygiene.

See the [McKinney-Vento Quick Guide](#) tip sheet for other common signs of homelessness.

Offer support without judgment. Connect students with your McKinney-Vento liaison or appropriate staff person when you see signs of homelessness.

Inform your transportation supervisor if a student misses the bus more than a few times.



Bus Drivers See Students Closest to Home



PROJECT
HOPE
VIRGINIA

Find Your Local
McKinney-Vento
Liaison



For More Information

Learn more about how to support children and youth experiencing homelessness with these resources:

- Project HOPE-Virginia
- [Common Signs of Homelessness](#)
- [Transporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [McKinney-Vento Quick Guide](#)