

**International School of Louisiana
Homeless Students Service Plan
2021-22**

Homeless Services

WHAT HOMELESS FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW:

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to attend school. • A permanent address is not needed to enroll in school.
- Children in homeless situations have the right to stay in the school they attend before becoming homeless or where they last enrolled (school of origin) if the parent or guardian so chooses. • Schools must provide a written explanation if a dispute regarding eligibility for services occurs; parents/guardians may appeal the campus-level decision to the Head of School.
- A homeless child cannot be denied school enrollment just because school records or other enrollment documentation are not immediately available and must be enrolled immediately. • A homeless child has the right to participate in extracurricular activities and all federal, state, or local programs for which he/she is eligible
- A homeless child is entitled to free breakfast and lunch, transportation assistance and to receive Title I services.
- Unaccompanied youth (homeless youth not living with a parent or guardian) have these same rights.

McKinney-Vento

McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

A homeless student is one who:

- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Live in cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings, sub-standard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Sharing housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters; or abandoned in hospitals
- Living in primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Considered an unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) • Migratory children who qualify as homeless

LIAISONS

ISL's Homeless Liaison is Anne Bachrach, LCSW-BACS. She can be contacted by email at abachrach@isl-edu.org or phone at 504-654-1088. Each campus Social Worker serves as the point of contact for Homeless Student services at their location:

- Uptown Campus - Anne Bachrach, abachrach@isl-edu.org, 504-654-1088
- Dixon Campus - Carrie Craven, ccraven@isl-edu.org, (504) 934-4875
- Westbank Campus - Nikia Magee, nmagee@isl-edu.org, 504-274-4571

ENROLLMENT

International School of Louisiana will immediately enroll homeless students, even if they do not have

the documents usually required for enrollment — such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, discipline records, or birth certificate. Students who do not have these documents can contact our Admissions office for assistance.

- Luz Miranda, Admissions Representative: lmiranda@isl-edu.org 504-229-4391

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for homeless students will be provided according to ISL's transportation guidelines and the McKinney-Vento act. A homeless student has the right to transportation to and from their school of origin, as long as they continue to attend that school,

- If an ISL student who is or becomes homeless moves within Orleans Parish and more than one mile from ISL, the student qualifies for transportation under ISL's regular policy.
- If the homeless student moves outside of Orleans Parish and continues to attend ISL, the student is entitled to transportation from their location to and from the school. ISL (the school of origin) and the district in which the student resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin. If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.

ACCESS TO COMPARABLE SERVICES

Homeless students will be provided the same services and educational program as other students. Homeless students will be enrolled immediately in the free breakfast and lunch program.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

Unaccompanied youth are youth who are homeless not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian, and not on the custody of a state agency. This definition includes youth living on the street in inadequate housing, denied housing by their families, those who have left home voluntarily, even when their parent(s) want them to return home and youth doubled with friends or relatives. ISL will provide targeted support to unaccompanied homeless youth and work with community and state agencies to support unaccompanied youth.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Children in foster care are entitled to remain at their school of origin (the school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care) unless it is determined that it is not in the child's best interest to do so.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

International School of Louisiana is a single-site LEA serving students from any Louisiana parish, and as such will not encounter internal disputes over student enrollment. If a dispute arises, for unforeseen reasons, over enrollment of a student who has been identified as homeless, the International School of Louisiana will immediately enroll the homeless student, pending resolution of the dispute and must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with both a written statement of the school placement decision and a notice of the right to appeal the decision to the Head of School.

If a dispute arises over eligibility for other services under the McKinney-Vento Act, the Homeless Liaison will provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with both a written statement of their decision regarding eligibility and a notice of the right to appeal the decision to the Head of School.

In such cases, the Homeless Liaison will refer the unaccompanied youth, parent or guardian to Susan Chapman, Chief of Staff, who will facilitate the dispute resolution process through the Head of School's office. Disputes that cannot be resolved within the school will be referred to the Louisiana Department of Education.

Susan Chapman, Chief of Staff, schapman@isl-edu.org, 504-654-1088

SERVICE PLAN

Identifying Homeless Students

ISL will use a variety of formal and informal methods to identify homeless students throughout the year. We recognize that because of the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of Hurricane Ida, families may experience higher levels of economic uncertainty, leading to a greater number of homeless students in our community. We will be diligent in seeking to serve these students and throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

The Louisiana Student Residency Questionnaire is included with ISL's online registration process, required for all new and returning students. A paper copy of the Student Residency Questionnaire is also sent to all families within the first month of school via their children's backpack or Home-School Connection folder. Contact information for families whose forms indicate that they are homeless is provided to the Homeless Liaison and homeless point of contact at each campus (school Social Workers). These employees follow up with families to assess their needs and ensure they are aware of services and supports available to them, as well as their students' educational rights. ISL will make use of social media, email, and weekly family newsletters on a regular, on-going basis to ensure that families are aware of the services available to them. Informational posters in English and Spanish will be posted in the offices of all ISL campuses, and links to information regarding homeless student rights will be posted to the ISL website.

Employees who suspect that a student may meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless will provide the student's name to their campus social worker, who will follow up with the student or family and Homeless Liaison as appropriate.

Staff Training

All staff will receive annual training that fulfills the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act via ISL's online professional development platform. Completion of this training will be mandatory and tracked by individual supervisors and ISL's Human Resources staff. Documentation of completion for each employee will be held centrally. ISL's Homeless Liaison will serve as an additional resource for questions and support, and will provide specific and targeted training if the need arises. ISL's Homeless Liaison will complete annual training regarding their responsibilities and requirements under McKinney-Vento.

Services for Homeless Students and Their Families

The Homeless Liaison will maintain a central file of records for all services provided to homeless students. ISL has nurses and social workers on staff full-time at each of our three campuses. In the 2021-2022 school year, ISL will partner with Health Heroes to provide free, on-site COVID vaccines to students. Each campus has a Family Liaison who helps connect families with opportunities to be involved at school and/or the appropriate staff person to help them with their needs. Homeless students and their families will be provided with referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services as needed. ISL uses federal funds to purchase supplies and uniforms for homeless students in need.

Homeless Liaison Planning Worksheet for 2021-2022 School Year	
LEA Name	International School of LA
Person Name and Title Submitting Form	Annie Bachrach, School Social Worker
Email Address & Contact Number	abachrach@isl-edu.org

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students experiencing homelessness are **increasingly** under-identified. Learning outside of school settings may have impeded the critical role of educators and staff in schools and districts to properly identify students, which may cause them to be underserved. Therefore, there has been a substantial amount of funding made available to all LEAs. In particular, the new ARP Homeless funding is to support students experiencing homelessness and has tremendous potential to expand the services in your LEA. The funding should be used to aid in identification of homeless children and youth, provide liaisons with financial support for wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19, and equip homeless children and youth with support to attend school and fully participate in school activities.

The first section of this planning worksheet is to acknowledge what funds will be used to serve our most vulnerable population and provide a snapshot of the services that will be provided to our students. The second section consist of identifying the duties of the homeless liaison and how and when each will be accomplished.

Section 1

USE OF FUNDS

McKinney Vento Subgrantees: please identify if your LEA will be receiving additional funding and how you plan to allocate funds.

All other LEAs: please identify if your LEA will be applying for the additional ARP Homeless II funding to accompany your Title I set aside and identify how you will support students experiencing homelessness.

Select all the funding streams that will be utilizing to service homeless children and youth during the 2021-2022 school year		
McKinney Vento Subgrantees	<input type="checkbox"/> Title 1 set aside <input type="checkbox"/> McKinney Vento Subgrant <input type="checkbox"/> ARP Homeless I <input type="checkbox"/> ARP Homeless II <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Total amount of funding used to service Homeless Children: _____
All Other LEAs <i>(ARP Homeless II will be made available to all LEAs upon their acceptance) not competitive</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title 1 set aside (mandatory) <input type="checkbox"/> ARP Homeless II (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Total amount of funding used to service Homeless Children: _____ <i>(may leave amount blank until you receive estimated amount for ARP)</i>

Directions: ONLY check services that will be provided to students from the allowable authorized activities below:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McKinney Vento Authorized Activities 42 U.S.C. 11433(d)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ARP Homeless Funds
	1) tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational service	x	1) providing wraparound services (which could be provided in collaboration with and/or through contracts with community-based organizations, and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services)
	2) expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths,	x	2) purchasing needed supplies (e.g., PPE, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items)
	3) Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity	x	3) providing transportation to enable children and youth to attend classes and participate fully in school activities
	4) Referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.		4) purchasing cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied youth to enable the youth to attend and fully participate in school activities;
	5) assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation	x	5) Providing access to reliable, high-speed internet for students through the purchase of internet-connected devices/equipment, mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, or installation of Community Wi-Fi Hotspots (e.g., at homeless shelters), especially in underserved communities.
	6) developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children		6) Pay for short-term, temporary housing (e.g., a few days in a motel) when such emergency housing is the only reasonable option for COVID-safe temporary housing and when necessary to enable the homeless child or youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school).
x	7) services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school		
	8) before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs		
x	9) the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school		
	10) education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available		
	11) development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths		
	12) provision of specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services		
	13) Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.		
	14) The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any non-school facilities		
x	15) The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.		
x	16) other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities		

**2021 McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison Planning Worksheet
Preparing For the New School Year**

Directions: Below are the homeless liaison duties that are outlined in the McKinney Vento federal law. Please complete this worksheet to identify how you will address each of the required duties throughout the year. Please email this form to antiqua.hunter@la.gov by September 30, 2021.

	Duty	Planned Activity/ Action	Proposed Date or Time Frame	People that need to be informed, involved or contacted
1	Making contact w/ outside agencies (meet greet dates, attend meetings)	Social Workers will attend monthly Charter School Social Workers Meetings and/or read all information disseminated through listservs.	Monthly	Administrators
2	Enrollment package/ follow up procedures	Admissions will include residency questionnaire questions in online registration packets for all students and provide data to social workers. Social Workers will follow up with families who have not answered the questionnaire. Social workers will review forms and follow up with families identified.	By 9/30/21	Teachers, Administrators, Family Liaisons, Parents
3	Contact preschool directors/ aware of law/ going over their procedures	Homeless Liaison and social workers will discuss procedures with admins, admissions manager, and family liaison	By 8/7/21	Administrators, Data/Admissions Manager, and Family Liaisons
4	Work on getting list together of resources in parish	Social workers will compile list to share with Family Liaisons and Development Department to disseminate to parents via Tidbits newsletter, ISL Website, Social Media	By 8/14/21	Family Liaisons, Development
5	Meet/contact parents (what will procedure look like) parental engagement opportunities	Social Workers and Family Liaisons will attend orientations, make phone calls	Ongoing/multiple dates	Administrators
6	Order products/posted/ disseminated (map out places)	Social workers will post flyer in office. Family	By 8/16/21	Family Liaisons, Development

2021 McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison Planning Worksheet
Preparing For the New School Year

		front desk. Development will post flyer on website.		
7	Review the enrollment dispute process and revise if need be	NA	NA	NA
8	Meet/get to know transportation director (become familiar w/ zoning, know how transportation work in LEA	Principals will meet with transportation director	N/A until September or later	Principals, Transportation Director
9	-Map out what professional development (NCHE) webinars placing on calendars -Plan dates to provide professional development (who will be the audience) parental meeting agendas PTO	Social Workers will attend orientation and parent engagement meetings Social Workers will seek professional development opportunities	Ongoing	Administrators, Teachers
10	Unaccompanied youth/ procedures on how to follow up on regular basis/ meeting high school counselors (higher education rights)	NA	NA	NA