



# NYSTEACHS

NEW YORK STATE TECHNICAL AND EDUCATION  
ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

# Transportation for Students in Temporary Housing



Presented by the New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS-TEACHS)

# About Us

## ○ NYS-TEACHS

- New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students
- Funded by the New York State Education Department and housed at Advocates for Children of New York
- Provide technical assistance on homeless education issues. Our services include:
  - Hotline (800-388-2014)
  - Website ([www.nysteachs.org](http://www.nysteachs.org))
  - Webinars, Annual Workshops, and On-Site Trainings
  - Outreach Materials

# What do we already know?

It is usually in a student's best interest to continue enrollment in the same school they attended before the housing loss.

- a. True
- b. False

# What do we already know?

In most cases, the school district where the student is enrolled is responsible for providing transportation.

- a. True
- b. False

# What do we already know?

With MV reauthorization under ESSA, students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin through the remainder of the school year in which they become permanently housed.

- a. True
- b. False

# What do we already know?

**Which of the following funding sources can be used for transportation costs for students in temporary housing?**

- a. State Transportation Aid
- b. RHY Reimbursement for students in Runaway & Homeless Youth shelters
- c. Title I, Part A for excess costs associated with transportation of students who are homeless
- d. All of the above

# Today's Session

## Review: Background & Eligibility

- Which students qualify for services under the McKinney-Vento Act?

## Transporting Students in Temporary Housing

- Which district is responsible for transportation?
- When is the LDSS responsible for transportation?
- What funding sources are available for transportation?
- What are tips and best practices related to transporting students in temporary housing?



# Summary of MV ESSA changes that may impact transportation

## ○ Remainder of the school year

- Transportation required for the remainder of the school year in which the student moves into permanent housing (42 U.S.C. §§ 11432[g][1][J][iii] & [g][3][A][i][II]; Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question J-5)

## ○ Dispute resolution

- Continued enrollment and transportation required to final resolution of dispute (42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][3][E][i]; Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question J-4 & Section K)

## ○ Extra-curricular activities

- Districts must eliminate barriers to participation in extra-curricular activities (42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][1][F][iii]; Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question I-6)

## ○ Preschool

- U.S. Department of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question N-5:  
**Does the McKinney-Vento Act require an LEA to provide transportation services to homeless children attending preschool?**  
**Yes.** Consistent with question N-4, the McKinney-Vento Act requires LEAs to provide transportation services to the school of origin, which includes public preschools. (Section 722(g)(3)(I)(i)). Accordingly, transportation to the school of origin must be provided even if a homeless preschooler who is enrolled in a public preschool in one LEA moves to another LEA that does not provide widely available or universal preschool
- See also 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][1][J][iii]

U.S. Department of Education issued “Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance” (Non-Regulatory Guidance), available at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160240ehcyguidance072716.pdf>

Redline (strike-through) of the McKinney-Vento Act amendments in ESSA, available at: <http://naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/legis/mvstrikethrough.pdf>



# Outcomes for Students in Temporary Housing: Stability is key

## ○ Academic Outcomes

- School stability affects academic achievement

## ○ Social/Emotional Outcomes

- Stable relationships can help mitigate “toxic” effects of stress caused by loss of housing

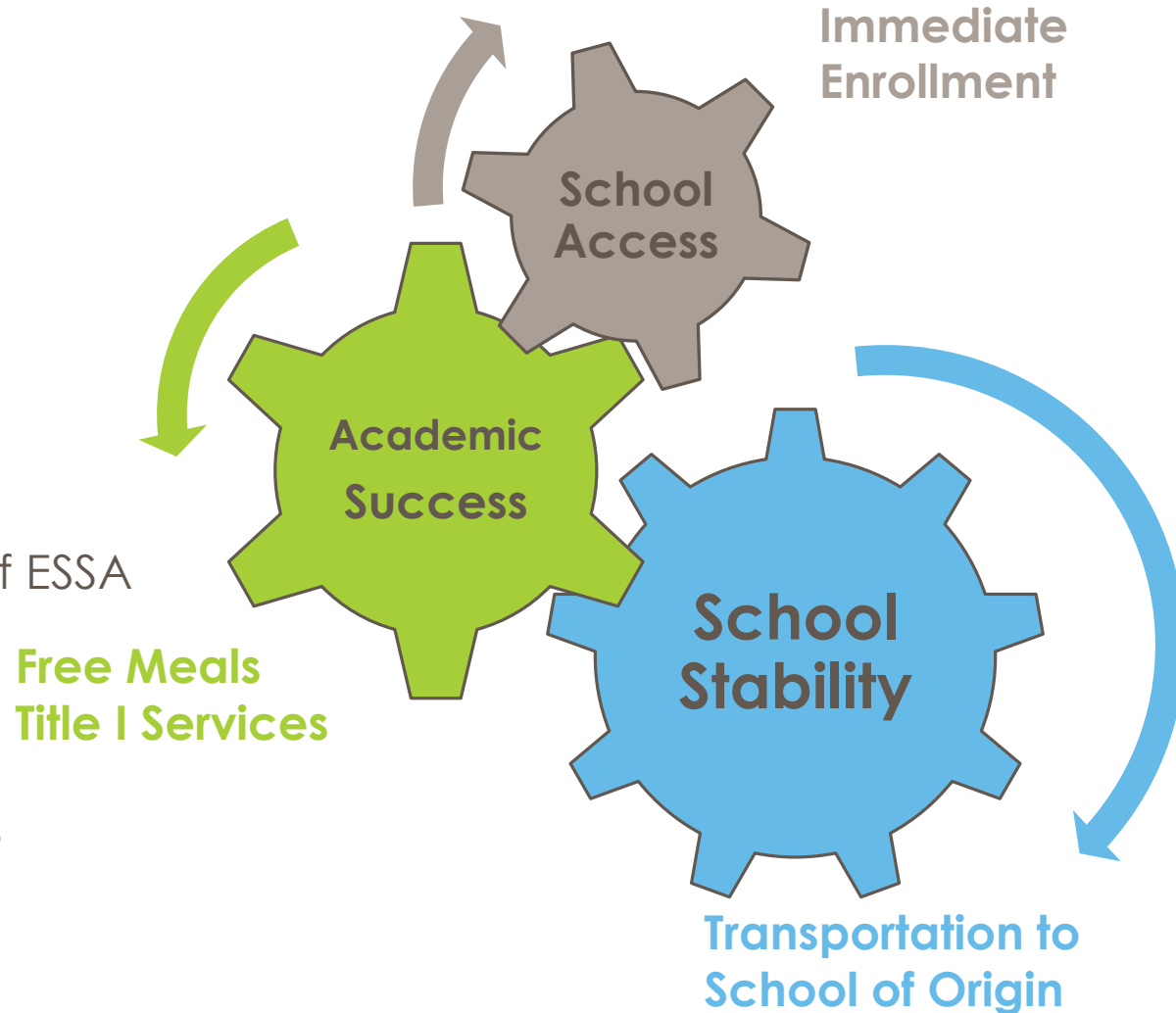
***Transportation is key to ensuring school stability!***



# The McKinney-Vento Act Provides Stability

- Federal law
- Enacted in 1987
- Reauthorized in 2015 as part of ESSA

McKinney-Vento Act  
NY State Education Law Section 3209  
Commissioner's Regulation 100.2(x)

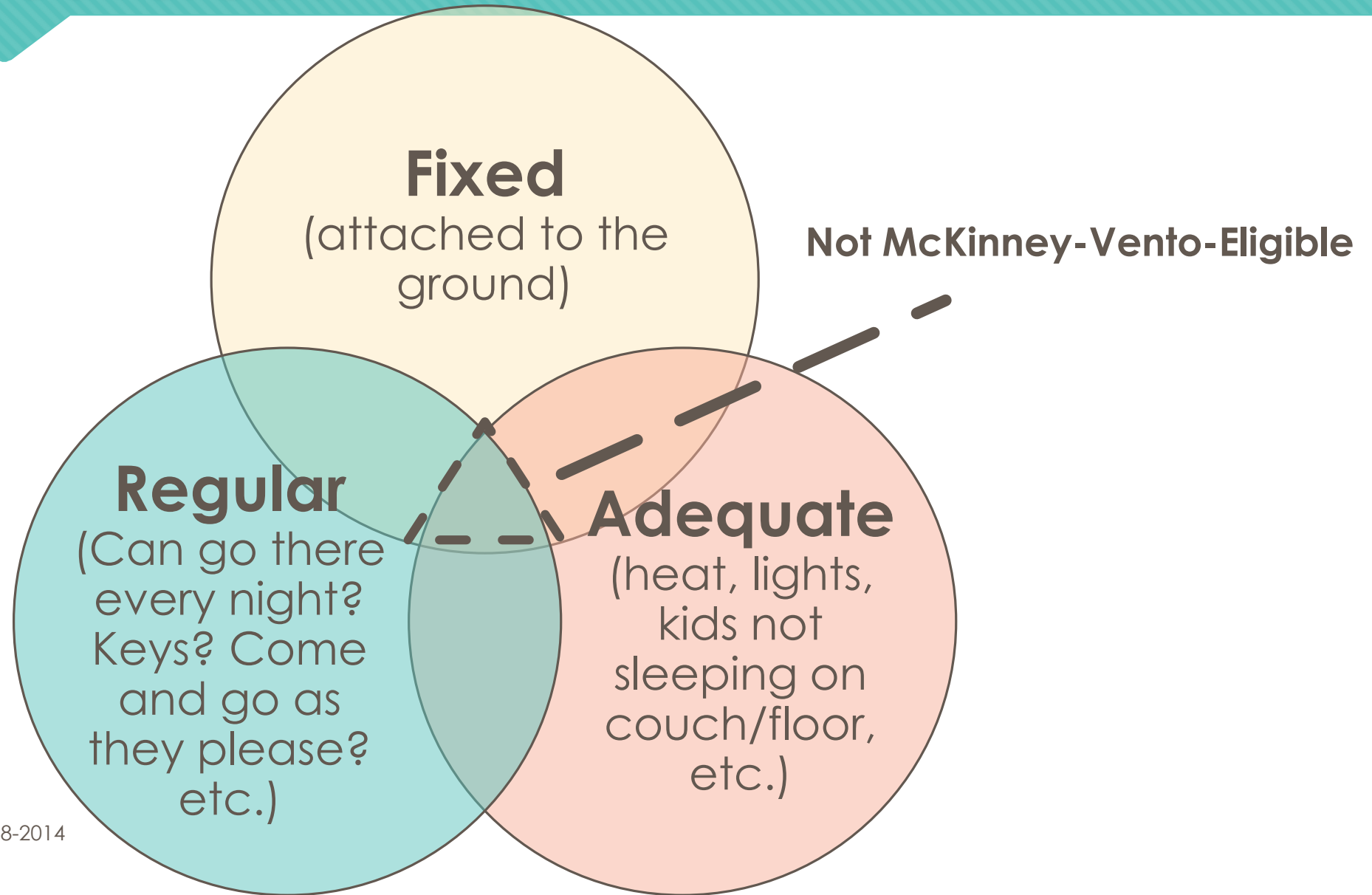


# Who is covered by the McKinney-Vento Act?

**Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those:**

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in a public or private place not designed for sleeping
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.
- Migratory living in circumstances described above

# Who is covered?



# Questions about Eligibility

Does the student's housing fit into one of the listed examples?



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graph TD; A[Does the student's housing fit into one of the listed examples?] --> B[Is it fixed, regular AND adequate?]; B --> C[Call NYS-TEACHS at 800-388-2014];
```

Is it fixed, regular AND adequate?

Call NYS-TEACHS at 800-388-2014

# District of Attendance is Responsible for Providing Transportation



School  
attended  
when last  
permanently  
housed  
("School of  
Origin")



School  
most  
recently  
attended  
(Also a  
"School of  
Origin")



School  
serving area  
where  
student is  
temporarily  
living (New  
Local School)

## Student attends a **SCHOOL OF ORIGIN**

- **School District of Origin** transports student to and from school
- Up to 50 miles – above 50 miles if in student's best interest according to State Ed Dep't Commissioner (State Education Law § 3209)



Temporary  
Address

Up to 50 miles  
each way



**School  
attended  
when last  
permanently  
housed  
OR  
School most  
recently  
attended**



## Student TRANSFERS to a LOCAL SCHOOL

- Student entitled to same transportation as other students in local district



Temporary  
Address



**School  
serving area  
where  
student is  
temporarily  
living**

# Poll

Jonas is living in temporary housing in Albany CSD and is continuing school in South Colonie CSD. Which district will transport Jonas to school?

- a. South Colonie CSD
- b. Albany CSD
- c. South Colonie, after Albany enrolls the student and sends a STAC form to South Colonie.

# Poll

Christina was last permanently housed in Rochester City School District. After staying briefly in Greece CSD, Christina is living in temporary housing in Webster CSD, where she is enrolling in the local school. How will Christina get to school?

- a. Rochester City SD will transport Christina from her temporary location in Webster to the school in Webster.
- b. Greece CSD will transport Christina from her temporary location in Webster to the school in Webster.
- c. Christina will use whatever transportation method permanently housed children in Webster use to get from her address to the local school.

# Maintaining School Stability for Students in Temporary Housing

- Students experiencing homelessness are entitled to transportation to school of origin.
- Students who enroll locally are entitled to comparable transportation as their permanently housed peers receive, and elimination of barriers to enroll in and attend school.
- ***Students who move into permanent housing are entitled to transportation through the remainder of the school year. (New requirement as of October 1, 2016)***



# District of Attendance is Responsible for Providing Transportation



Temporary  
Address

Up to 50 miles  
each way

Up to 50 miles  
each way

Same as other  
students in  
district



Last  
permanently  
housed



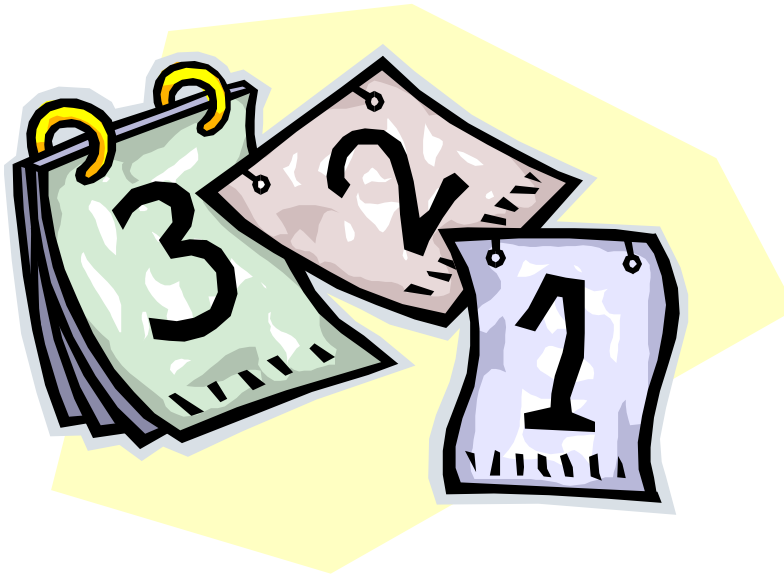
Most  
recently  
attended



New local  
school



# Timeline: Three business days to set up transportation



# When is the Department of Social Services (DSS) responsible for transportation?

**Department of social services placed the family in emergency housing outside of the school district where the student goes to school**



**Student is eligible for Emergency Assistance for Families (EAF)**



# Poll

Where DSS is responsible for transportation but cannot provide it, DSS must reimburse the designated school district for transportation costs.

a.True

b.False

# Modes of Transportation

- Yellow bus
- Approved van / taxi services
- Reimburse for gas/mileage
- Share bus route with neighboring school district or BOCES
- Provide bus/train passes (e.g. MetroNorth, LIRR, MetroCard)
- Other types of transportation approved by district's transportation department
- **How do you decide?**
  - Where possible should be **comparable** mode of transportation per McKinney-Vento
  - Mode of transportation can't pose **barrier** to continued enrollment



# Tips for Providing Transportation

- Meet and **collaborate** with local McKinney-Vento Liaisons and transportation directors.
- **Use technology** to streamline processes of requesting transportation and finding bus routes.
- Develop shared **forms**
- Explore **flexible bus routes** that can be implemented easily, based on known temporary housing locations.
- Be aware that students/families in temporary housing move frequently and that transportation plans must be adjusted accordingly. Encourage **communication** between families and schools. *Use trauma-sensitive approaches to working with families and students.*

# Tips for Providing Transportation

- Identify a transportation staff member who will serve as the **point person** to arrange transportation for students in temporary housing and will communicate with the liaison about any changes in students' housing arrangements.
- **Train bus drivers and dispatchers** on the rights and needs of students in temporary housing, as well as on the need for sensitivity and confidentiality. See *NYS-TEACHS tip sheet for Pupil Transportation Directors*.
- Be mindful of State and local policies for **pupil transportation safety**. The McKinney-Vento Act does not override safety policies.
- If using public transportation, offer support if possible so that **parents may accompany young children** to and from school.
- Develop a system of providing **gas vouchers, cards, or reimbursements** to parents or youths who are able and willing to drive to school.

# Transportation to Activities

- **“Comparable services”** – Districts are required to provide this transportation to activities if such transportation is available to permanently housed students.
- **“Remove barriers”** to full participation in school. The reauthorization of McKinney-Vento under ESSA includes that LEAs must ensure that students who are homeless and meet relevant eligibility criteria do not face barriers to accessing academic and extra-curricular activities.



# Transportation Funding Sources

**Title I, Part A**

**State Aid**

**RHY  
Reimbursement**

\*DSS is responsible for transportation when family was placed in emergency housing outside District of Origin + family is EAF-eligible

# State Aid: Transportation Aid Ratios

Allowable  
Transportation  
Expenses



District's  
Transportation  
Aid Ratio



District's State  
Aid for  
Transportation

**AVERAGE: 60%**

Max: 90%

Min: 6.5 %

District Transportation Aid Ratios:

[http://www.p12.nysed.gov/schoolbus/BusinessOfficial/htm/transportation\\_aid\\_ratios.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/schoolbus/BusinessOfficial/htm/transportation_aid_ratios.html)



**100%**  
**Reimbursement**

<b>NYS Education Department</b>		<b>RHYA TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM</b>					
AGENCY NAME _____		SCHOOL DISTRICT _____	MONTH/YEAR _____				
PROGRAM NAME _____		OF PROGRAM _____	COUNTY/BOROUGH _____				

(1) CHECK NUMBER	PAYEE NAME	YOUTH (USE INITIALS)	DESTINATION SCHOOL/DISTRICT	NUMBER OF DAYS	UNIT COST	SERVICE PERIOD	GROSS AMOUNT OF CHECK
(2) CHECK DATE	TYPE OF TRANSPORTATION (PUBLIC, YELLOW BUS, TAXI, AGENCY)	# OF YOUTH	# OF MILES ONE-WAY	OR ROUND TRIPS	AND BASIS	FROM TO	AMOUNT CHARGED TO SED
(1)							
(2)							
(1)							
(2)							
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(1)							
(2)							

I CERTIFY THAT THE STUDENTS LISTED ABOVE WERE IN ATTENDANCE IN THE IDENTIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING THE NOTED SERVICE PERIOD.

<b>TOTAL CHARGED TO SED</b>	
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SIGNATURE _____ <small>SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTENDANCE OFFICER OR DESIGNEE</small>	DATE _____	PHONE _____	
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I CERTIFY THAT THE EXPENSES LISTED ABOVE ARE JUST, TRUE, AND CORRECT, THAT THEY ARE APPROPRIATELY DOCUMENTED, THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED, THAT ALL COSTS CLAIMED ARE FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION OF A HOMELESS CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3201 OF THE STATE EDUCATION LAW, RESIDING IN THE SHELTER, AND THAT SUCH EXPENSES REFLECT THE MOST COST BENEFICIAL MODE OF TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE. IF AN AUDIT OF THE PROGRAM REVEALS THAT THIS STATEMENT IS UNTRUE, ANY REIMBURSED QUESTIONED COSTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

SIGNATURE _____	DATE _____	PHONE _____	
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# What if the student attends a Charter School?

- A school district of attendance must be designated on the student's STAC-202 Form.
  - Underlying public school district, not the charter school itself.
  - May be District of Origin or District of Current Location.
  - Responsible for transportation and other services (e.g. special education services).
- Designated district is responsible for transportation:
  - District of Origin – Up to 50 miles each way.
  - District of Current Location – Same as provided for permanently housed students (e.g. 15 miles)

# Tips for Transportation Directors

## ○ Prepare

- Ensure that all transportation staff are familiar with McKinney-Vento eligibility and procedures
- Develop formal or informal inter-district agreements
- Regularly communicate with the district's McKinney-Vento liaison about students identified as homeless and develop communication protocol for expediting transportation
- Educate transportation staff about the importance of transportation in ensuring school stability and how that impacts the academic success and social emotional well-being of students experiencing homelessness
- Know your district's transportation aid ratio so that you can effectively communicate with district leadership about the net cost of transporting students experiencing homelessness

## ○ Support

- Do not disclose homeless situations of students to their peers, but do share housing information of students with the district's McKinney-Vento liaison
- Incorporate trauma sensitivity with parents and youth

## ○ Act

- Investigate all possibilities for funding (Title I, RHY, State Aid)
- Look into using special education and/or magnet school buses



Visit our  
website for  
more tip sheets  
for school roles

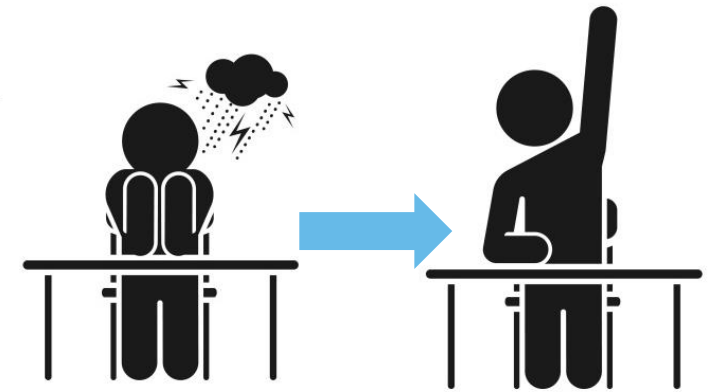
[nysteachs.org](http://nysteachs.org)

# Collaboration between MV Liaison and School Transportation Director

- **Who should be make MV eligibility decisions?**
  - Ultimately, MV Liaison makes eligibility determination
  - Transportation staff, like registration staff, are important eyes and ears
- **Best practice:**
  - District should involve transportation director at earliest point in eligibility and school selection process
  - District should review MV determinations at the end of each year
  - For students who have become permanently housed during the school year, this allows time for smooth transition to the new school/district over the summer
  - If there is disagreement about whether the student is permanently housed, it gives the district and the family time to complete the dispute resolution process
- **Remember:**
  - No time frame for duration of homelessness
  - Districts must make MV eligibility decisions on a case-by-case basis

# Working with Youth and Families Experiencing Homelessness

- Incorporate trauma sensitivity with children and youth as well as parents
- Trauma-sensitive strategies should be used by all school personnel, **including school bus drivers** and other transportation department staff.



# What is a Trauma-Sensitive Bus Ride?

There are three key elements to trauma sensitivity:

## 1. Safe and Supportive Environment

- Greet each student every day
- Ensure that buses are clean and orderly
- Give verbal reassurance of safety (*to the student or caregiver*)
- Use a strengths-based approach (*toward the student and/or caregiver*)
- Practice partnership, not power; Avoid power/control struggles

## 2. Secure Attachment to a Nurturing Adult

- Be patient and consistent
- Set clear expectations and boundaries
- Don't engage in conversations about a family in the presence of children or parents

## 3. Opportunities to Strengthen Non-Cognitive Skills (e.g. *motivation, perseverance, self-control*)

- Praise effort, not just outcomes
- Focus on "should" rather than "should not"
- Show students where/how they have control

# Key Takeaways

- Transportation must be arranged by district or responsible agency within 3 business days.
- Students who are homeless are entitled to transportation to their school of origin, and students who move into permanent housing are entitled to continued transportation to their school of origin through the remainder of the school year.
- If a family is placed by DSS in emergency housing outside the district of attendance and the student is EAF-eligible, DSS is responsible for transportation.
- Transportation expenses for students in temporary housing are aid-able up to 50 miles each way.
- Title I, Part A funds may be used to defray excess costs of transporting students in temporary housing to their schools of origin.



# NYS-TEACHS

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