

Students experiencing #homelessness who used to rely on schools for a safe space during the day are now without.

They are at risk of exposure to #COVID19 + they lack resources needed to perform academically.

Here are some recommendations. <https://www.naacpldf.org/press-release/joint-statement-of-education-and-civil-rights-organizations-concerning-equitable-education-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-school-closures/>

Recommendations for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Additionally, state, and local educational agencies should take the following steps to ensure services for students who are homeless:

- Continue to ensure implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act, including immediate enrollment, school stability, and full participation. Ensure that McKinney-Vento liaisons have adequate capacity and support to implement the law.
- Prioritize students experiencing homelessness for access to mobile hotspots and devices, remembering that many homeless students do not have access to computers, internet, or other digital methods of learning. For example, districts could use Title I or McKinney-Vento funds to provide internet access or devices to allow students to access digital learning or use public television to broadcast lessons rather than relying on internet access. Additionally, procedures for providing devices and connectivity must not require parent or guardian signatures for unaccompanied homeless youth.
- Ensure access to food, distance learning, and other school services, recognizing the unique challenges of homelessness. LEAs are using school bus routes to get food, technology, information, and other services into communities, rather than having pick-up spots that may be inaccessible. The USDA has also issued **waivers** to allow certain meals to be picked up and delivered by volunteers. LEAs also are providing gas vouchers and other transportation assistance to help students access pick-up spots and Wi-Fi.
- Set up processes to keep up with currently identified students experiencing homelessness and to identify students who may be losing housing during this difficult time. Requirements to identify and enroll students experiencing homelessness are still in effect and LEA McKinney-Vento homeless liaisons must ensure identification takes place. For example, school districts could conduct outreach through social media and at hotels, motels, campgrounds, and shelters; needs-assessment surveys on websites and via emails; and provide resources directly to students in homeless shelters.
- Make deliberate efforts to ensure unaccompanied homeless youth and preschool-aged children can access all available services, and to remain in contact.

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