

2019 IDEA Leadership Conference

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

1. EHCY Program Profile: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/resources.html>

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act). The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently re-authorized in December 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Under the McKinney-Vento Act, State educational agencies must:

- Ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youths; and
- Require local educational agencies to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths.

2. EHCY Non-Regulatory Guidance: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/legislation.html>

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Education released the EHCY Program Non-Regulatory Guidance to describe the requirements of the new statute and provide recommendations for addressing many of those requirements. Questions within the Guidance that referenced special education or IDEA include:

- Rights and Eligibility: A-4, A-6, A-7
- Office of the Coordinator: E-8
- Local Liaisons: F-1, F-4
- Local Uses of Funds: H-1
- Transportation: J-12
- Dispute Resolution Process: K-3
- Coordinated Services: L-1, L-2
- Early Childhood Homelessness: N-1
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: P-3

3. NCHE Special Education Resources: <https://nche.ed.gov/special-education/>

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) has had a contract with the U.S. Department of Education to provide technical assistance for the EHCY program since 1998. NCHE works to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness can enroll and succeed in school. NCHE resources that support children and youth with disabilities who also experience homelessness include:

- Homeless and Special Education Administrative Collaboration: Recommendations
- Supporting Homeless Children and Youth with Disabilities: Legislative Provisions in the McKinney-Vento Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Navigating the Intersections of IDEA and McKinney-Vento: A Problem-Solving Process
- School Help for Homeless Children with Disabilities: Information for Parents
- Homelessness and Students with Disabilities: Educational Rights and Challenges

4. IDEA and McKinney-Vento Act: <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/guidance-homeless-children-with-disabilities/>

- In 2008, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services and the Office Elementary and Secondary Education issued a document to assist implementing requirements of IDEA and the McKinney-Vento Act.

5. EHCY Contact Information:

- For further information or technical assistance, please contact the U.S. Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of State and Grantee Relations at [\[State\].OESE@ed.gov](mailto:[State].OESE@ed.gov).
- For additional information or technical assistance, please contact The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) at homeless@serve.org or by telephone at 1-800-308-2145.