ISBE Preschool Program Plan for Serving McKinney-Vento Eligible Children and Families

ISBE Preschool Programs: Preschool for All/Preschool for All Expansion (state funded)/Preschool Expansion (federally funded)

https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160240ehcyguidance072716updated0317.pdf

The _____ has devised the following plan to

(School District/Preschool Program)

effectively and efficiently serve McKinney-Vento eligible children and families in the state-funded and federally fund preschool programs. The name and contact information for the McKinney-Vento liaison for the school district is:

Name_____

Phone Number _____ Email_____

This plan describes the responsibilities of the school district and the school district staff who work directly with preschool aged children experiencing homelessness and their families.

1. School District McKinney-Vento Liaison

The liaison will:

- **Review** the definition of homelessness and the rights of preschool aged children experiencing homelessness, including the rights of parents or guardians to dispute enrollment decisions made by the school district.
- **Train and provide information** to enrollment staff and preschool staff regarding how to identify and serve preschool-aged children experiencing homelessness
- Work with parents and carry –out disputes over enrollment when necessary
- *Attach a copy of the district's McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution policy here.* The policy should include information about when and where it will be provided to families experiencing homelessness.

2.Preschool Staff

ISBE Preschool Program directors, teachers, and staff will receive training on the definition of homelessness and the rights of children experiencing homelessness attending public/state funded preschool programs and challenges preschool-aged children experiencing homelessness face through the following programs and/or trainings

- **List** programs and dates for trainings for the coming school year
    - _____
      _____

_____
_____

- **Explain** the process to provide a supportive preschool environment for children experiencing homelessness
    - How will social/emotional skills be addressed

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      _____
      _____
      _____
      _____
    - How will the staff help children develop effective coping responses and resilience

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      _____
      _____
      _____
      _____
    - How will differentiated instruction be addressed

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      _____
      _____
      _____
      _____

3. Identification of Preschool Students Experiencing Homelessness

The school district will:

- **Distribute information** regarding *ISBE Preschool programs* in readily available areas of the community where families experiencing homelessness have access to the information (e.g. shelters, libraries, laundromats, food banks, etc.)
    - **List** the locations where this information will be distributed and/or posted (registration office, summer food banks, etc.)

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      _____
      _____
      _____
      _____
    - **List** the names/titles of the staff members responsible for posting this information in the community

      _____
      _____

_____
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_____

- **Create** registration materials and forms that accommodate families experiencing homelessness (See Homeless Education Common Form (83-04L) and other related forms at https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Homeless.aspx that may be used in or adapted for your ISBE Preschool Program.)

- **List** the expected number of children experiencing homelessness who may be eligible for preschool as target for enrollment in *one of the ISBE Preschool Programs.* You may calculate this estimate based on:
    - Eligibility for free-lunch as a proxy for poverty, even though free-lunch is available to families who make up to 130% of the poverty guidelines

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      _____
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    - Information gathered at school registration from families/caregivers of children in the K-12 program

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- **Identify** preschool-aged children experiencing homelessness and prioritize them to enrollment into *ISBE Preschool* Programs (if the program is at capacity, the child is placed at the top of the waiting list)
    - **Describe** how registration materials will be used/shared among the McKinney-Vento liaison, the registration office, and preschool program staff.

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      _____
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    - **Use** the Common Form (registration form) found on this link: **http://www.isbe.net/homeless/pdf/83-01-common-form.pdf**
    - **Or** the Care Giver Form (registration form) found on this link: **https://www.isbe.net/Documents/83-04J_caregivers.pdf**

4. Enrollment

The school district will:

- **Immediately enroll** preschool-aged children experiencing homelessness into the *ISBE Preschool Program*, regardless of the parent's/guardian's/caregiver's ability to produce records (e.g. previous academic records, health records, proof of residency, or birth certificate) Legal guardianship is not required to enroll children experiencing homelessness.
    - **How will you assist** in finding the child alternate placement in other preschool program if the *ISBE Preschool Program* is at capacity

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      _____
    - **Attach** a copy of the district's policy on immediate enrollment without records

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      _____
    - **List** the key point person or people responsible for enrollment

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      _____
      _____
      _____
    - Place the child at the top of the waiting list if the program is at capacity

5. Educational Services

Provide a thorough explanation of the procedures the district will follow to:

- **Assess** the needs of children experiencing homelessness entering the preschool program

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  _____
  _____
  _____
- **Provide** differentiated instruction to meet the needs of the child experiencing homelessness

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- **Provide** additional services to children experiencing homelessness to accommodate and accelerate their leaning (e.g., Title 1, Special Education, including speech Language services, programs for students with Limited English proficiency, before- and after-school programs, extended day programs)

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- **Provide s**ervices to preschool children to counteract impacts of toxic stress and trauma that they may be experiencing due to homeless situations.

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6. Transportation

Provide a thorough explanation of the procedures the district will follow to:

Arrange transportation for children experiencing homelessness to ensure they have access to *the ISBE Preschool Program* (specify whether this is similar to transportation that is provided to permanently housed students within the district, or supplemental transportation beyond that which is provided for permanently housed preschool children). Transportation must be provided as long as remaining in the preschool of origin is in the child's best interest. This is true even if the LEA(s) does not provide transportation for other preschoolers, and 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. 42 U.S.C.§§11432(g)(3)(I) and 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii); 2017 Guidance, N-5

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_____
_____
_____

  - **List** the names and contact information for key staff who are responsible for arranging transportation

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    _____
    _____
    _____

- **Assist** parents/caregivers in removing transportation barriers so the child will have access to *ISBE Preschool Programs*

_____
_____

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_____
_____

7. Community Services

The school district will:

- **Provide** families experiencing homelessness with contact information for community services available to assist them in multiple areas (e.g. health, housing, food, clothing, etc.)
    - **Attach** flyers, directories, or other resources that the school district will distribute to families

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      _____
      _____
      _____
      _____
- **Collaborate** with community services on ways to assist children and families experiencing homelessness
    - **List** the community organizations with which the district collaborates or will collaborate to ensure that children experiencing homelessness can access and fully participate in preschool.

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      _____
      _____
      _____
      _____

For further assistance when serving children and their families experiencing homelessness, please visit the following websites:

http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/early-childhood.pdf

http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/det_elig.pdf

http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/transportation.pdf

http://naehcy.org/

https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/

If you have questions regarding the Preschool Homeless Plan, please contact:

The Illinois State Homeless Coordinator for McKinney-Vento Homeless Program
homeless@isbe.net
217/782-5270