



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 22, 2015

Dear Select Homeless Liaisons:

TITLE I, PART A RESERVATION FUNDS FOR HOMELESS EDUCATION

According to the Consolidated Application and Reporting System (CARS), your local educational agency (LEA) reserved Title I, Part A reservation funds for homeless education; however, it did not spend these funds during the 2013–14 school year. The purpose of this letter is to provide technical assistance to you and your staff regarding how to determine an amount for the homeless education reservation, as well as the allowable uses of these reservation funds.

Title I, Part A is designed to meet the educational needs of low-achieving children in schools with the highest levels of poverty by aligning high-quality assessments, accountability systems, teacher preparation, curriculum, and instructional materials with challenging state academic standards. Homeless children and youth are automatically eligible for Title I educational services.

Similarly, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act (Title 42 *United States Code* Section 11431) ensures that homeless students have access to the same free, appropriate public education and related services as their permanently-housed peers in order for homeless students to have an equal opportunity to meet the same challenging academic standards.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Section 1113(c)(3) states that an “LEA shall reserve such funds as are necessary” to provide services to homeless children and that these services must be comparable to the services the district provides to children in Title I, Part A schools. These services can be direct, as well as indirect services to and for the homeless student.

Homeless students within an LEA will attend one of the following:

- Title I, Part A schools with schoolwide programs
- Title I, Part A schools with targeted assistance programs
- Non-Title I, Part A schools

Homeless students in schoolwide programs must receive Title I educational services comparable to those of their peers. In a schoolwide program, all students benefit from Title I educational services. Students who need extra learning time to meet the state standards must be provided with timely additional assistance that is tailored to their needs.

Homeless students in targeted assistance programs must be included in the rank order process upon enrollment. The targeted assistance process involves integrating multiple educational measures, rank ordering eligible students by academic need, and serving those most at risk of

failing to meet the state standards. Homeless students have a federal right to be included in the rank order process, but they may or may not ultimately receive Title I educational services, depending on where they fall in the rank order.

Homeless students in non-Title I, Part A schools must be individually assessed for academic need upon enrollment. If, based on this needs assessment, the school determines that the homeless student is at risk of failing to meet the state standards, then the student shall be provided educational services comparable to those offered in the LEA's Title I schools. Educational services should be offered on a case-by-case basis.

An LEA can determine the appropriate amount of Title I, Part A funds to reserve in a variety of ways, such as:

- Collaborate with the homeless liaison to identify homeless students' needs and reserve accordingly.
- Obtain the LEA's count of homeless students and multiply that count by the Title I, Part A per-pupil allocation.
- Reserve a specific percentage based on your LEA's poverty level or total Title I, Part A allocation.

Once those funds have been determined, the LEA can spend those funds as follows:

- Transport homeless students to and from school of origin, and after-school programs—**NEW** as of July 1, 2014.
- Fund the homeless liaison position—**NEW** as of July 1, 2014.
- Provide activities other than direct instruction, provided that the activity promotes student achievement.
- Provide academic support as well as non-academic support to homeless students in non-Title I, Part A schools.
- Meet basic needs (clothing, supplies, health) of homeless students so that they can participate in school.
- Hire special teachers, aides, and tutors to provide supplemental instruction.
- Reach out to parents in homeless situations.
- Provide after-school and/or summer programs.
- Collect data on homeless students.

April 22, 2015
Page 3

- Provide emergency food while the student is in school, including breakfast, lunch, and snacks.
- Defray medical and dental expenses.
- Pay fees associated with obtaining birth certificates.
- Pay fees associated with obtaining immunizations.
- Pay the cost of high school equivalency tests for homeless students.
- Provide the cost of cap and gown to wear at graduation.
- Pay for school projects and/or field trips.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Leanne Wheeler, Education Programs Consultant, School Turnaround Office, by phone at 916-319-0383 or by e-mail at lwheeler@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Bob Storelli, Director
Improvement & Accountability Division

BS:lmw