

# Transporting Students Experiencing Homelessness for Charter Schools

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North Carolina Homeless Education Program (NCHEP)

Charter School Learning Series  
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# Agenda

- School stability & best interest
- Transportation requirements
- Barriers to transportation
- Alternative modes of transportation
- Funding options
- Best practices for providing transportation



# Written in Law

“The State and the local educational agencies in the State will adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison ), to and from the school of origin”  
[42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)]



# School Stability

Students can remain in their school of origin or enroll in any school where housed students in the local attendance area can attend.

*School of origin:* school attended when permanently housed or where last enrolled

LEAs should keep homeless students in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible, unless:

- this is against the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth's wishes
- It is not in the student's best interest



# Best Interest Determination



Student  
Age



Distance of  
Commute



Safety  
Concerns



Special  
Instruction



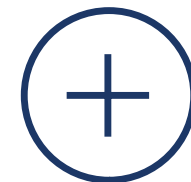
Anticipated  
Length of Stay



Parent/Guardian  
Preference



Time Remaining  
in School Year



Other

# Transportation Requirements

- Eliminate barriers to school enrollment and retention of homeless students, including transportation barriers.
- Provide transportation to and from the school of origin at a parent or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied youth). *Note that the district determines the mode of transportation.*
- Students have the right to remain in their school of origin for the remainder of the academic year, even if they become permanently housed.

[NCHE's Transporting Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)

# Transportation Requirements for Charters

## **A student who is homeless and decides to attend a charter...**

- would receive the same type of transportation offered to all other students.
- The district is not responsible for ensuring that the child who chooses to attend a charter can get to and from school. However, schools may decide to provide transportation to assist the student.

## **A student who is attending a charter and becomes homeless...**

- has the right to receive transportation to and from school if a parent cannot provide it.
- The law reads that it is provided at the request of a parent, guardian or homeless liaison. When a student who is attending any public school, including a charter, becomes homeless, the school they are enrolled in at the time is their school of origin.

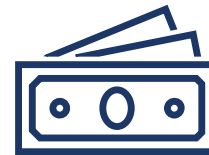
# Transportation Barriers



Transportation  
Not Offered



Capacity/  
Staffing



Lack of  
Funding



Timely  
Arrangements



Lack of  
Resources



Students with  
Special Needs



Lack of  
Communication



Other

# Alternative Transportation

Modes of transportation:

- Rerouting a bus
- Taxi/cab service
- Parent/guardian reimbursement
- Public Transportation
- Other

*Excess Cost of Transportation-* The additional cost of transporting a homeless student to his or her school of origin

[NCHE's Transportation Strategies](#)



# Reimbursement Options

Full State  
Rate

Minimum is  $\frac{1}{2}$   
the State Rate

Set Amount  
Week / Month

Prepaid Gas  
Cards

Fill up Tank at  
Local Station

# Funding

McKinney-Vento  
Subgrant

Title I, Part A  
Set-Aside

LEA Funds

Grants

Donations

# Best Practices

- Create contracts with parents, guardian and/or student that have guidelines for the following areas:
  - Agreed mode of transportation
  - Absences, tardies and no shows
  - Expected behavior
  - Length of time
- Work with neighboring districts for assistance
- Be creative in developing drop off and pick up points
- Contract with individuals and organizations (school personnel, taxi company, etc.)
- Track mileage, costs incurred, and other factors





# Questions

# Resources

## **North Carolina Homeless Education Program (NCHEP)**

<https://hepnc.uncg.edu/>

## **National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)**

<https://nche.ed.gov/>

[Serving Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Charter Schools](#)

## **U.S. Department of Education**

[EHCY Non-Regulatory Guidance](#)

## **Federal Law**

[McKinney-Vento Act](#)

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