

TRANSPARENCY IN TITLE I FUNDING

Mussman

SUPPORT HB 3377

ISSUE

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA) Title I, Part A (Title I), provides supplemental financial assistance to school districts serving children from low-income families. Its purpose is to ensure all children have the opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education. Title I aims to close educational achievement gaps by allocating federal funds for education programs and services. Funds are targeted to high-need populations within school districts, one of which is students experiencing homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures homeless students have access to quality public education and the opportunity to succeed in school. Even if a district has not identified McKinney-Vento students in the past, virtually no district can be 100% sure that none of their students will experience homelessness in the future, so it is very important for them to have resources available.

School districts can use Title I funding for a variety of purposes, making it an incredibly valuable and flexible tool to meet the needs of the students they serve.

Allowable uses for Title I funds for students experiencing homelessness include:

- Uniforms
- Personal school supplies such as backpacks and notebooks
- Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school
- Eyeglasses and hearing aids
- Counseling services
- Outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences
- Extended learning time (before and after school, Saturday classes, summer school) to compensate for lack of quiet time for homework in shelters or other overcrowded living conditions
- Tutoring services, especially in shelters or other locations where homeless students live
- Parental outreach specifically oriented to reaching out to parents of homeless students
- Fees for AP and IB testing
- Fees for college entrance exams such as SAT or ACT

The Department of Education recommends allocating enough funds to ensure homeless students receive services that provide them with opportunities for success comparable to their peers, regardless of other services provided with reserved funds. Yet some school districts have allocated as little as \$3.53 per student to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

This legislation would make Title I funding data publicly available, helping advocates better understand the scope of the need and the availability of funds. This increased transparency would also allow districts to make more informed decisions about how to allocate resources most effectively to support homeless students.



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

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