

Homeless Education Question and Answer Oct. 9 & 10 Webcast

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Great. Under the inventory of program document forms, it indicates that an LEA should provide CTE with the list of supplemental materials. Can you please give an example of this? And it sounds like that's for Leanne.

LEANNE WHEELER: Thank you. Basically, the list can contain anything from transportation agreement, registration forms, student's services, questionnaires, a shared-giver affidavit, anything that would help the LEA to find compliance or meet the requirements of the homeless education instrument.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: May funds under part a of title I be used to transport homeless students to and from the school of origin? Leanne?

LEANNE WHEELER: This is a tricky question. Basically, no. Transportation cannot be paid for through title i, part a reservation funds unless a homeless student is receiving an After School Program and it's in a supplemental manner, or once that homeless student becomes permanently housed. You can get these children back to their school of origin using your title 1 reservation funds to transport the kids.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: If an LEA does not receive mckinney-bento homeless education funds, are they still eligible to be monitored? Sounds like Leanne.

LEANNE WHEELER: Yes, whether an LEA receives mckinney-bento supplemental funding or not, they're still required to be monitored and implement the law. The department is required to monitor both leas with the supplemental funding as well as those leas that do not have the supplemental funding.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Is there a form, you know, for calculating title i, part a set asides? Leanne?

LEANNE WHEELER: No, there isn't. The requirement to reserve title 1, part a reservation funds for homeless education is really determined by the LEA as appropriate. The department, however, does recommend that each LEA reserve at least 1% of the top of their total title I allegations.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: If a district doesn't receive mckinney-bento funds, how may they pay for a homeless liaison?

LEANNE WHEELER: Well, basically, a homeless liaison is a designated position with the district. You can use a portion of your title i, part a reservation funds, pay for that salary but you cannot use a hundred percent of that salary being paid at a title i. So, it would have to be a multi-funded position as far as it could be a title I and in general, or title i, part a reservations and title i, regular title i. It has to be a multi-funded program.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: But what type of documentation does an LEA have to have to show compliance with the use of their title i, part a reservations?

LEANNE WHEELER: Well, there ain't recipient process. The homeless education reviewer will have a copy of the LEA's con-up which will indicate how that LEA has reserved and what the LEA is planning on doing with those funds. So, that should already be taken cared of. The LEA should have also records to show that the expenditures of those funds, physical records, and also, there might be a chance that the title I director might be there to answer any questions that a reviewer might have.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Another question, Leanne. What are the LEA's responsibilities regarding comparable services?

LEANNE WHEELER: An LEA must provide services to each homeless student or trialed that is comparable to the services offered to other students in the lea. These services must include public preschool programs, educational programs or services such as students that are with disabilities, programs for students with limited English proficiency, vocational education, programs for gifted and talented students, Before and After School Programs, school nutrition programs and of course, transportation.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Thank you, Leanne. Leanne, why don't you give your number, too, because everyone's given one? Would you do that also please?

LEANNE WHEELER: Sure. And guess what, this is my direct phone number.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Whoa.

LEANNE WHEELER: To call me, you need to call 916-319-0383.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Can students who are homeless receive free school meals without documenting income? Leanne?

Leanne webber: Yes, they can. The united states department of agriculture child nutrition division issued a policy in 2002 and then again in 2004 that makes any child identified as homeless by liaison or a shelter coordinator or director automatically eligible for free school meals. They do not have to complete that documentation. When a liaison or a shelter director provides a child's name to the school food service person, free school meals should commence immediately.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Is transportation required if the school of origin is in another school district? Leanne?

LEANNE WHEELER: Yes.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Thank you.

LEANNE WHEELER: Yes. As long as the attendance of the school--the attendance of the school of origin is feasible, it's requested by the parents, then that child can go to transportation across boundaries, district boundaries. If two districts are involved, then they must

agree upon apportionment or who's going to provide or arrange the transportation and the cost. And if they can't come to an agreement, then they have to split that equally.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Why should an LEA consider what should--excuse me. What should an LEA consider when determining the extent to which it is feasible to educate a homeless child or youth in his or her school of origin? Leanne, it sounds like a question for you.

LEANNE WHEELER: Yes it is. And basically the placement and the feasibility have to go around the student. It's a student standard determination. You have to look at the age of the child or the youth, the distance of the commute and the impact that it may have on a student's education, personal safety issues, a student's needs for special instruction such as special ed. or el, the length of the stay in a temporary shelter or temporary location and the time remaining of the school year. Those are the factors that need to take place for an LEA to consider determining if it's in the best interest for that child to remain in that school of origin.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Is there a time limit on how long a child or youth can be considered homeless?

LEANNE WHEELER: No. There is no specific time limit on homelessness. Whether a child or youth meets the definition of homelessness, it depends upon the living situation and the individual circumstances. It is basically a case by case situation. And due to the extremely limited income of most families experiencing homelessness on an average of less than half the federal poverty line, and the severe shortage of affordable housing in our country, experiences of homelessness can sometime last in an extended periods of time.