

Foster Care & McKinney- Vento Liaison Forum

Transportation

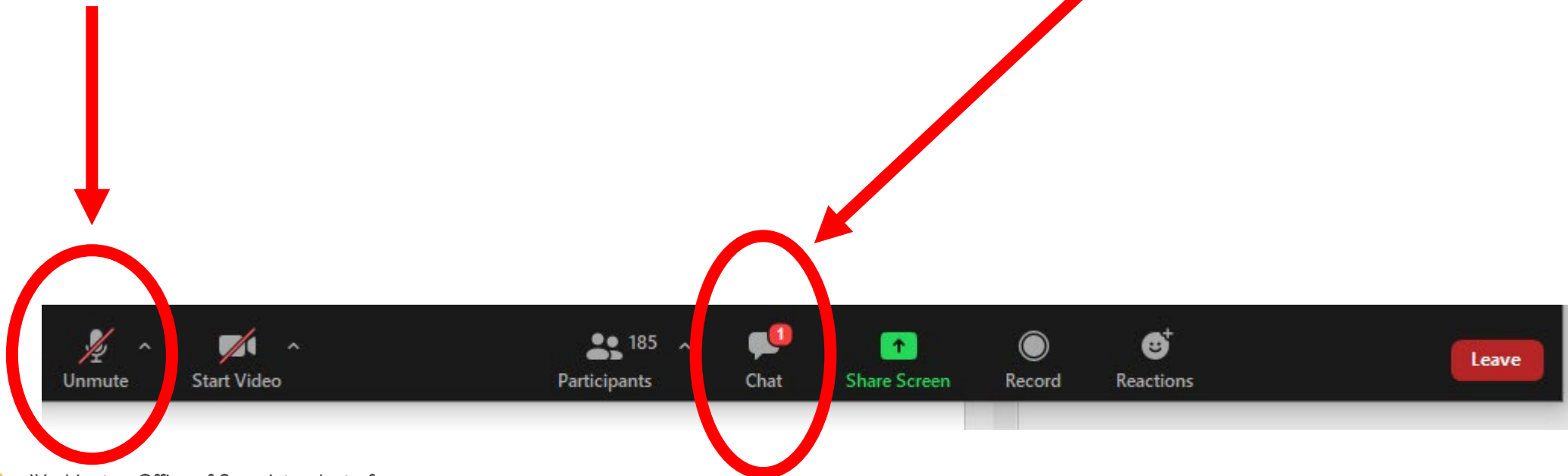
We will begin soon! While you wait, please share your name, title and district in the chat box.



Tips for Participating

Please make sure your microphone is muted until you are planning to speak.

Use to chat box to ask questions or to say hello!



Today's Presenters



Dan Payne

Regional Transportation Coordinator

OSPI Region 4-

Serving ESD 105, 123, and 171



Melinda Dyer

OSPI Program Supervisor

McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless
Children and Youth



Peggy Carlson

OSPI Program Supervisor

Foster Care Education

Equity Statement

Each student, family, and community possesses strengths and cultural knowledge that benefits their peers, educators, and schools.

Ensuring educational equity:

- Goes beyond equality; it requires education leaders to examine the ways current policies and practices result in disparate outcomes for our students of color, students living in poverty, students receiving special education and English Learner services, students who identify as LGBTQ+, and highly mobile student populations.
- Requires education leaders to develop an understanding of historical contexts; engage students, families, and community representatives as partners in decision-making; and actively dismantle systemic barriers, replacing them with policies and practices that ensure all students have access to the instruction and support they need to succeed in our schools.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Our Agenda Today

Peggy Carlson - Foster Care Announcement



Melinda Dyer - Transportation 101



Dan Payne – Updates



Q & A



Federal Law

Foster Care Provisions In Title I, A

- Added as part of the 2015 reauthorization of ESSA
- Removed "Awaiting foster care" from MV
- Applies to all districts receiving Title I funds
- Extends "McKinney-like" protections to ALL students in foster care

McKinney-Vento

- Originally passed in 1987
- Reauthorized NCLB, ESSA (2001, 2015)
- Applies to all school districts
- Specifically requires school districts to remove barriers to enrollment and retention



Transportation

McKinney-Vento

Districts share responsibility with each other

Both

Right to receive transportation to school of origin

Foster Care

District of origin shares responsibility with child welfare*

* For foster care: LEAs are welcome (but not required) to work together on transportation and share costs. Ultimately, the responsibility lies with the district of origin and child welfare.



DCYF and School District Transportation Shared Cost Procedure

- The caseworker will negotiate a transportation plan with the school district.
- If there are excess costs because the student is commuting from outside the school boundaries, the school district will complete the DCYF School Transportation Billing form posted on the [OSPI Foster Care webpage](#). DCYF staff can also access the form on the intranet at [School Transportation](#) or from their regional fiduciary specialist.
- The school district will provide the completed form to the caseworker who fill in the student's FamLink person ID and send electronically to the [HQ Education Program Manager](#) for approval.
- HQ Education PM approves and emails billing information to HQ Fiscal Integrity Unit (FIU) in order to process payment. HQ FIU uploads billing form and backup documentation.

DCYF Funding Changes



McKinney-Vento Transportation Forum: Meeting the Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Melinda Dyer, McKinney-Vento Program Supervisor
February 11, 2021



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

McKinney-Vento

- Federal law protecting the educational rights of children and youths experiencing homelessness. All about **access!**
- The McKinney-Vento Act is NOT a transportation law, however,
- The provision of transportation to and from the school of origin (for homeless students) is a key provision of the law



Who is Homeless?

Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence** –

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.

Who is Homeless, cont.

- Living in a public or private place not designed for sleeping.
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc.
- Migratory living in circumstances described above.



School Placement



According to the child's or youth's best interest, the local educational agency **shall** continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the **duration of homelessness**.



If the student becomes permanently housed during the academic year, the student has a right to remain in their school of origin for the remainder of the academic year.

A decorative background featuring various 3D numbers in red, yellow, and green on a blue surface. The numbers are scattered across the right side of the image, with some in sharp focus and others blurred. A thin white line runs diagonally across the scene.

School of Origin

The term “school of origin” means the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed **or** the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool.

Best Interest Determination

Presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (unaccompanied) youth.

Determination is **child centered**.

Impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth.

May include factors such as...

- Age of child
- Time of year
- Special services needed
- Siblings
- Other...



Transportation – Key Provisions

- LEAs must provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation to and from their school of origin (including preschools) at a parent's or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied youth).



Transportation – Key Provisions



If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same LEA, that LEA must provide or arrange transportation.



If the student is living outside of the school of origin's LEA, the LEA where the student is living and the school of origin's LEA must determine how to divide the responsibility and share the cost, or they must share the cost equally.



Transportation services must be comparable to those provided to other students.

Transportation Strategies

Develop	Re-route	District	Provide
Develop close ties among LEA homeless liaisons, school staff, pupil transportation staff, and shelter workers.	Re-route school busses (including special education, magnet schools and other busses.)	District provided passes for public transportation.	Provide “in lieu” mileage reimbursement.



Additional Transportation

The terms “enroll” and “enrollment” include attending classes and participating fully in school activities. This includes co-curricular activities, sports/athletics, clubs, music, and other activities.

LEAs must provide transportation to extra-curricular activities if lack of transportation is a barrier.
Guidance J11

LEAs also must provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation services comparable to those provided to other students. 11432(g)(4)(A)

Transportation must be arranged promptly to ensure immediate enrollment and not create barriers to attendance, retention or success. Guidance J1



Access to Transportation Forms

The Transportation Toolkit on the [OSPI Resources website](#) includes multiple sample forms and templates.

These forms are available for districts to adopt.

SCHOOL DISTRICT
Transportation Referral Form
District Homeless Liaison _____
Contact Number _____
Email _____

School Name & Address: _____

Bell Schedule: _____	Pick Up Location: _____
Late Start: _____	Pick Up Time: _____
Early Release: _____	Drop Off Time: _____
Referral Date: _____	Start Date: _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name: _____	Phone: _____	Address: _____
Alternate Phone: _____		
Special Transport Requests: _____		
IEP Accommodations: _____		
Notes: _____		

STUDENT INFORMATION

Last Name	First Name	Grade	Age	Other Necessary Student Info

DISTRICT/DRIVER NOTES

Rev. 7/18

Transportation Services During COVID

- Districts are still required to immediately enroll students experiencing homelessness in the school where enrollment is sought.
- If there are hybrid, in-person, or remote options available, students experiencing homelessness must be given the same options as housed students.
- If hybrid or in-person is chosen by the student/parent(s)/guardian(s), the school is required to transport the student to and from the school of origin, even if the student is located outside of the district.
- If there is a dispute over these matters, the school must immediately enroll, immediately start transportation, give the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) or the unaccompanied youth the reasons for the dispute and the dispute resolution process.

Quick Q&A

Question: Is transportation to childcare required?

Answer: No (but many districts do provide this service)

Question: Is there a time or distance limitation for transportation?

Answer: No

Question: Which district makes the best interest determination?

Answer: The district of enrollment

Question: What about “no-shows?”

Answer: Set up agreements with parents in advance (in writing) and be clear of expectations in case services need to be adapted. Include language about “no show” provisions.

Question: Is transportation still required during COVID?

Answer: Yes. The federal law has not changed.

Quick Q&A

Question: Student has been transported for a long time (years) are they still eligible for transportation?

Answer: Yes. For the duration of homelessness. Work with family to determine if housing has become stabilized (fixed, regular and adequate).

Question: What about “choice” students?

Answer: Under school choice the parents provide transportation. But, if the (homeless) child attending a “choice” school moves, the “choice” school becomes the child’s “school of origin” and the district is then responsible for transportation services to/from school of origin.

Question: What about students receiving services under IDEA?

Answer: McKinney-Vento and IDEA are both federal laws. The student will be served by both laws. If the student has transportation written into their IEP, SpEd will take the lead on transportation.

Need more information? Contact Us!

Melinda Dyer, Program Supervisor

Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Melinda.dyer@k12.wa.us

McKinney-Vento Assistance: Homelessed@k12.wa.us

OSPI Homeless Education: www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/default.aspx

SchoolHouse Connection: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/>

National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE): www.serve.org/nche/

McKinney-Vento FAQ document: https://naehcy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2017-10-16_NAEHCY-FAQs.pdf



Except where otherwise noted, this work by the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons 4.0 International License](#).



A yellow school bus is the background of the slide. The bus is a Blue Bird model, as indicated by the text on the front grille. It has a large side mirror on the left and a smaller one on the right. The windshield shows a reflection of a building. The bus is parked on a paved surface.

Transportation Update

Dan Payne

Regional Transportation Coordinator Region 4

OSPI

Current State of Transportation

- Districts Providing In-Person Instruction: STRAINED!
 - Multiple Creative Hybrid Schedules
 - Driver Shortage – Exacerbated
- Contingency Plans
- As More Districts Ramp-Up, Things Will Get More “Interesting”

COVID Allowances

- Governor's Proclamation
 - Allows provision of transportation to “Learning Centers” and inclusion in reporting
 - Allows continued usage of transportation revenue for “expanded services”

Transportation Funding Uncertain

- Transportation Funding Driven by Student Ridership / and Prior Year Expenditures
 - No allowance in formula for “expanded activities”
 - Without legislative intervention, funding will be calculated based on current statute
- Governor’s Supplemental Budget Cut 35% / \$220M From Student Transportation
- Impact could stretch to 2021-2022 FSY

Transportation Funding...

- OSPI Working to Address Funding
 - SB 5128 passed out of Senate Education, now in Ways & Means
 - Also working with Senate and House budget writers
- ESSER Funds May be Available for Backfill

Wheels Rolling!

- Many Districts Providing Some In-Person Instruction
- Following Guidance from OSPI, DOH and L & I
- Varying Schedules Challenging Homeless and Foster Transportation
 - Sharing transportation difficult
 - Districts looking at creative options

Creative Options:

- “In-lieu of” contracts with parents
- Transportation Contractors:
 - ALC
 - Hop, Skip, Drive
 - Taxi Cabs
 - Transit Passes
- District Motor Pool Vehicles

Regional Coordinator Contacts


Every District has a Regional Transportation Coordinator:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/student-transportation/contact-information>



Thank you.

Your participation makes a
difference for all of us.



WE CANNOT WAIT TO
SEE YOU AGAIN.
STAY SAFE.

Photo by [Karl Sikkema](#) on [Unsplash](#)