

McKinney-Vento  
Title I Set Aside Funds  
Allowable Costs

Per Title I lawyer Kay Rigling:

1. Student's school related nutritional needs\*
2. Dental and medical needs\*
3. Immunizations\*
4. Birth certificates
5. GED for an unaccompanied youth. Also, the costs for attaining a GED for parents participating in Head Start, Even Start, or with children enrolled in a Reading First school could also be covered.
6. Graduation gowns
7. Costs for special senior projects that are part of graduation requirements, i.e. community service obligations.

These are the costs that are **not** allowable:

1. Physicals for sports participation
2. Clothing for student's parents
3. Money for housing
4. Prom dresses
5. Transportation. Unless it is used to transport students back home from a Title I funded tutoring program.

\* These items are allowable costs only when all other local sources of funds have been exhausted.

## **Title I Set-Aside Guidance**

Section 1113(c)(3)(A) of the Title I law states that a district shall reserve funds under this title in order to provide comparable services to children and youth in homeless situations who attend schools that do not receive Title I funds.

The section goes on to say that Title I funds can be used to provide educationally related support services to children in shelters. This might include tutoring, school supplies, counseling, and social work services.

The first step the district must take is to include, in its district-wide needs assessment, methods for identifying homeless children in the district. The district homeless liaison should be aware of the expanded definition of homelessness and keep all school staff responsible for enrolling children informed of the rights of homeless families. According to this definition, homeless children are those "who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." This includes not only those who live in shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, and public spaces but also children who share housing with other families because of economic hardship or live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds.

Districts with homeless children attending non-Title I schools should list their set-aside amount in their Title I budget pages, and include the amount as one of their set-aside costs on page 2 of the "Title I Worksheet for School Selection and Allocation of Funds." Section 31-A funds may also be used to meet these requirements.

Once a district has established how many homeless children are attending non-Title I schools, the district multiplies this number by the district-wide average Title I per-pupil allocation to get the district's homeless set-aside amount. Information on other methods for computing the set-aside can be found on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth website under Resource Materials.