



Kenton County School District | *It's about ALL kids.*

**THE KENTON COUNTY BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

1055 EATON DRIVE, FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY 41017

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Dr. Henry Webb, Superintendent of Schools

**KCSD ISSUE PAPER**

**DATE:**

January 18, 2018

**AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):**

Consider/Approve KDE McKinney Vento Homeless Education Program Grant

**APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:**

Not applicable

**HISTORY/BACKGROUND:**

Every three years, the Kentucky Department of Education issues a competitive grant application focused on developing and implementing programs which facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and school success of students who are homeless. Our homeless student population is growing. Since 2013, the number of identified homeless students in our district has tripled. The additional funding provided by this grant would help our district implement additional services to meet the needs of our homeless students.

**FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

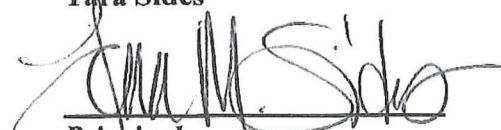
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**RECOMMENDATION:**


The recommendation is to grant permission to approve the application for the KDE McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Tara Sides

  
Principal

  
District Administrator

  
Superintendent

Use this form to submit your request to the Superintendent for items to be added to the Board Meeting Agenda.

Principal—complete, print, sign and send to your Director. Director—if approved, sign and put in the Superintendent's mailbox.

**Kenton County Board of Education**

Board Members: Carl Wicklund, Chairperson Karen L. Collins, Vice Chairperson Joshua Crabtree, Esq. Carla Egan Jessica Jehn  
"The Kenton County Board of Education provides Equal Education & Employment Opportunities."

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## REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

### McKinney-Vento Homeless Children Education Program

#### Point of Contact:

**KDERFP@education.ky.gov**

Questions will only be accepted during the applicant technical assistance sessions on January 12th and via email to the address listed above.

**Note the deadline for questions: January 17, 2018,  
4:00 PM (EST)**

#### Submit Applications to:

**KDERFP@education.ky.gov**

**Deadline for Submission of application:  
Friday, February 2, 2018 (4:00pm ET)**

#### Notes:

- Services must be provided district-wide
- Districts may collaborate and submit one application (i.e. county and independent districts, or neighboring counties)
- Waiver of Minor Irregularities - The Kentucky Department of Education reserves the right to waive informalities and minor irregularities in applications received.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b> <b>REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE APPLICATION</b></p>
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**McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program**

As Authorized under Title IX, Part A of ESSA, the Office of Continuous Improvement and Support is issuing a Request for Applications (RFA) from local educational agencies to develop and implement programs that facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youth.

**Funding**

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) anticipates funding 10-19 programs. Funding amounts will vary dependent upon availability of funds and the following needs (list is not all inclusive): homeless population, strength of academic services proposed, allowable expenditures and potential start-up programs. Districts should design a Homeless Education Program that addresses needs identified through a comprehensive needs assessment and is education focused. Budgets should be developed based on the program design and should accurately reflect amounts needed to effectively implement it. The average award for this grant is approximately \$65,000. Districts may or may not receive the total amount requested. The award is based on program design and homeless count.

**Local Education Agency Grants for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth**

The Kentucky Department of Education shall make grants to local education agencies (LEA) when such funds become available through a competitive application process. Grants will be awarded to LEAs based upon the review and rating of their applications:

1. Not less than fifty (50) percent of amounts provided under a grant to local districts shall be used to provide primary services of tutoring, remedial education services, or other education services to homeless children or homeless youths.
2. Not less than thirty-five (35) nor more than fifty (50) percent of amounts provided to local districts shall be used for related activities including expedited evaluations, professional development for school personnel, referrals for medical, dental, mental and other health services, transportation, before- and after-school care, and school supplies.
3. A local district that desires to receive a grant shall submit an application to the Kentucky Department of Education. Each application shall include:
  - a. The number of homeless children and youth enrolled in preschool, elementary and secondary school, the needs of such children and the ability of the district to meet these needs;
  - b. A description of the services and programs for which assistance is sought and the problems sought to be addressed through the provision of such services and programs (i.e., enrollment, retention and educational success);
  - c. An assurance that assistance under the grant shall supplement and not supplant funds used before the award of the grant for purposes of providing services to homeless children and homeless youths;
  - d. A description of policies and procedures that the district shall implement to ensure that activities carried out by the district shall not isolate or stigmatize homeless children and homeless youth;

- e. A description of coordination with other local and state agencies that serve homeless children and homeless youths; and
- f. Other criteria the Kentucky Department of Education deems appropriate

Districts may collaborate and submit one application. Collaborating districts may include a county school district and an independent district or neighboring districts. One district must agree to serve as the fiscal agent for the program.

## Background

- Title IX, Part A of ESSA is also known as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- The purpose of these funds is to ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool, as provided to other children and youth.
- Educational programs and services may be provided on school grounds or at other facilities. If services are provided on school grounds, the district must give priority to homeless children and youth, but may include children who are at risk of failing or dropping out of school.
- Districts are encouraged to develop their programs in collaboration with local homeless service providers.
- There are 27,657 homeless school-aged children in Kentucky. Homeless children or youth are defined as individuals ages zero (0) to twenty-one (21) that lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes children who are:
  - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as *doubled-up*);
  - Living in motels, hotels, (camping) trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
  - Abandoned in hospitals; or
  - Have primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
  - Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
  - Migratory children or youth who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

## General Requirements

1. Districts must use McKinney-Vento Homeless Education funds to expand or improve educational programs and services currently provided through the school's regular academic program.
2. Districts must demonstrate coordination and collaboration among existing programs and services.
3. Districts must coordinate the programs and services provided through this grant with programs and services provided under Title I, Part A.
4. Districts must be in compliance with the requirements for homeless education outlined in Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
5. Each participating district must list the amount of Title I, Part A funds set-aside that will be specifically targeted toward the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education program described in this

application. (List the amount on page 16) The set-aside should reflect an appropriate amount to support and implement the activities outlined in the application. This amount is in addition to set-aside funds required under ESSA that are directed toward homeless students attending schools not served by Title I, Part A.

6. Title I funds may be used to provide services to homeless children not attending a Title I school.
7. A portion of Title I funds may be used to pay for a homeless liaison. Title I funds may be used to provide transportation for homeless youth to their school of origin.
8. Districts may **not** use funds from this program to replace the regular academic program.
9. Districts may **not** use funds from this program to supplant funds from nonfederal sources.
10. Districts must maintain documentation that clearly demonstrates the supplementary nature of these funds. The supplement, not supplant, provision also includes programs and services provided to all students through local family resource and youth services centers.
11. To the maximum extent practical, districts must provide services and programs that integrate homeless children and youth with those who are not homeless.
12. Districts may **not** use funds to provide services in settings within a school that segregate homeless children and youth from those who are not homeless except for short periods of time due to health and safety emergencies or for providing temporary, special, and supplementary services.
13. Districts must demonstrate program alignment with Kentucky current curriculum standards.
14. Districts must report accountability data from the ESSA report based on timelines set forth by KDE.
15. Funded programs will participate in ongoing technical assistance during the 3-year grant period. Programs may also have a desk audit and will be monitored using a KDE-developed monitoring document.

### **Allowable Uses of Funds**

Districts may **not** charge indirect costs to the homeless education grant.

Districts may use funds to:

- Provide tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched education services that are linked to the same content and performance established for other children and youth.
- Expedite evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youth, including their needs and eligibility for programs and services (e.g., gifted and talented, individuals with disabilities, limited-English proficiency, Title I, Part A, Family Resources and Youth Services Centers, or similar state or local programs, vocational education, and school meal programs).
- Provide professional development and other activities for educators and pupil services personnel to heighten their understanding and sensitivity to the needs and rights of homeless students and to the specific educational needs of homeless youth.
- Refer homeless students for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
- Help defray excess school transportation costs that are not otherwise provided through federal, state, or local funding.
- Provide developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs that are not otherwise provided through federal, state, or local funding.
- Provide programs (i.e., mentoring, summer, and before-and after-school programs) in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of education activities.

- Pay, when necessary, fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records (i.e., birth certificates, evaluations for special programs or services, and immunization, academic and guardianship records).
- Educate and train the parents of homeless children and youth about available rights and resources.
- Develop coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless students, including programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.
- Refer and provide such services as violence prevention counseling to homeless students.
- Develop and implement activities to address the particular needs of homeless students that may arise from domestic violence.
- Provide school supplies, including supplies distributed at shelters, temporary housing facilities or other appropriate locations.
- College career and readiness accessibility
- Provide other extraordinary or emergency assistance that enables homeless students to attend school (**except for rent, motel and utilities**).

### **Contract Award**

Awarded districts will enter into contracts with the Kentucky Department of Education. Tentative dates of contract are Aug 2018- September 2019.

No activities can be charged to the grant until the contract has been approved. The district will be reimbursed quarterly based on the resubmission of quarterly MUNIS reports.

### **Application Components**

- Cover Sheet (page 16)
- Assurances (page 17)
- Narrative Description (not to exceed 20 pages) that includes:
  - Part I: Need and Rationale for Program
  - Part II: Program Description
  - Part III: Coordination and Collaboration
  - Part IV: Staffing
  - Part V: Evaluation
  - Part VI: Budget Narrative
- Budget (page 18-22)

### **Format Requirements**

- The narrative portion of the application shall not exceed **20 pages** (does not include cover sheet, assurances page, and budget)
- All pages single-side and double-spaced
- Use a font point of 12 in Arial or similar font
- Have side, top, and bottom margins of 1 inch
- Number pages consecutively. Do not number the cover page or table of contents

## **Detailed Descriptions Required for Application Components Parts I-VI**

### **Part I: Need and Rationale for Program**

- Identify the approximate number of homeless students to benefit from the program by age and grade level.
- Describe how the program will address the specific educational needs and barriers of homeless students.
- Describe how the program will facilitate the identification, enrollment, attendance, and educational achievement of homeless students.

### **Part II: Education Program Description**

- Describe how the educational programs and services meet the identified needs of the district's homeless students.
- Describe how the district will provide proposed educational program and services:
  - ✓ To ensure identification, enrollment, attendance, and educational achievement of homeless students.
  - ✓ During times that meet the needs of its homeless students (i.e., during the school day, before and after school, and/or summer).
  - ✓ That does not isolate or stigmatize homeless students.
- Identify the district policies and procedures in place to ensure homeless students are not isolated or stigmatized.
- Describe the strategies to promote the participation of homeless students in nonacademic programs.
- Describe the facilities and location in which the grant services will be provided.

### **Part III: Coordination and Collaboration**

- Describe how educational programs and services, including resources, coordinate with the programs and services provided under Title I, Part A.
- Describe how this program will supplement the programs and services provided through other federal, state, and local programs.
- Describe how the district will collaborate and consult with schools, post secondary institutions, community-based organizations, public and state agencies, other organizations, and co-applicants (if applicable) in carrying out the program.
- Describe administrative support for the project.

### **Part IV: Staffing**

- Identify the program administrator and describe responsibilities.
- Identify the position(s) and number of staff who work directly with the Homeless Education program.



**Note: Non-certified staff must be under the direct supervision of a certified teacher.**

- Describe the percentage of time, hours and days staff will work directly with the Homeless Education program.

#### Part V: Evaluation

- Sets specific measurable objectives for the academic achievement and social success of homeless students.
- Sets specific measurable objectives for the identification, enrollment and attendance of homeless students.
- Describe how data from a variety of sources will be analyzed to determine progress in meeting the measurable objectives and the impact on the identification, enrollment, attendance, academic achievement, and social success of homeless students.

#### Part VI: Budget Narrative

- Explain how funds will be used to address all necessary program components.

### **Submission of Application**

**The KDE MUST receive applications by 4:00 PM (EST) February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 via email.** Applications received after this time and date will be deemed non-responsive.

A blind copy of the Narrative section of the application should also be submitted. The blind copy should not contain identifying words or names of people, districts, counties, or schools.

1. Scan the completed application in its entirety, including all signatures, to PDF format
2. Name your complete application as follows HL2018.district name.Original
3. Scan a blind copy of the Narrative section of the application in its entirety to PDF format.
4. Name your blind copy of the Narrative as follows: HL2018.district name.Blind
5. Email both the complete application and the blind copy of the Narrative to [KDERFP@education.ky.gov](mailto:KDERFP@education.ky.gov). On the subject line of the email, type HL2018/name of district
6. If at all possible, send both attachments in the same email.
7. **The date/time stamp on the received email must be on or before 4:00 p.m. (EST), February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018**

Keep in mind that email coming in to the KDE is routed for security purposes through multiple networks and servers. Allow ample time for this and the possibility that email doesn't always send on the first try.

The applicant may request, also via the above email, a confirmation that the application was received by KDE. Note that this confirmation will relate only to the receipt of the application and will not confirm that the application is complete with all required components.



**The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all pages of the application are submitted and all components are complete. An Application Components checklist is provided on pages 5-6.**

### **Request to Attend Applicant Technical Review and Intent to Submit**

The KDE will host technical review sessions for applicants on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 1:00-3:00 pm EST. To sign up for technical review sessions, please send an email to [KDERFP@education.ky.gov](mailto:KDERFP@education.ky.gov) and indicate your preferred date of attendance. This request to attend must be sent to the above address by 4:00 pm EST on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This email request also serves as your intent to apply, which aids the KDE in gauging the number of needed reviewers. This Intent is for planning purposes only and does not obligate you to submit an application.

### **Submission of Questions**

Applicants may submit questions to the [KDERFP@education.ky.gov](mailto:KDERFP@education.ky.gov) mailbox and/or bring their questions to the technical review sessions on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. All questions, both verbal at the technical review session and by email, must be submitted to the KDE mailbox at [KDERFP@education.ky.gov](mailto:KDERFP@education.ky.gov) by 4:00 pm (EST), January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Responses to questions will be posted to the KDE website on or before January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

### **Evaluation of Application**

Independent reviewers will score applications using the criteria established in the RFA beginning on page 9. KDE will select reviewers with expertise in the subject area. A Call for Reviewers, including a reviewer application, is posted on the KDE website with the RFA.

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## **PART I: NEED AND RATIONALE**

"We had to move last week because my mom lost her job." " Things are crazy at home and I've been staying with friends. I don't think I'll go back home." "My mom got arrested last night and the police dropped me and my brother off in Covington. Im scared I will have to go to another school." These phrases are uttered too often by children in our schools. To trained staff, they are a signal that a student may qualify for services under McKinney Vento and give us the opportunity to provide a child stability as his or her living situation is in transition. But to the untrained staff member, this is a missed opportunity to help a child and family.

The mission of the **Kenton County School District** is to provide a world-class education ensuring ALL students are college and/or career ready and prepared for the 21st Century Economy. This commitment to all of our students is seen in the variety of programming and supports we have in place for ALL students. However, we know we can do more, especially for our most at risk students who qualify for services under McKinney Vento.

The growing needs of students in our schools reflect the **growing needs of families** in our community. The unemployment rate in our county has decreased to 3.3% but this decrease does not mirror an increase in livable wages. As opportunities for employment rise in our region, the cost of living in our community has increased. A family of four would need to bring home \$\$\$\$\$ to cover housing and general expenses. Even with stable employment, this is out of reach for many of our families due to the lack of affordable housing in our community.

Our schools are a reflection of our surrounding community. Over the past 5 years the number of students receiving free or reduced lunch in our district has increased by from 38% to 43.22%. The number of students experiencing homelessness in our schools has tripled over the past five years and continues to increase. During the 2012-2013 school year, 236 students were identified under the McKinney Vento Act. Last year, 604 students were identified. This number is already on track to increase for this year based on the data which shows 493 students have already been identified as of January 19. ***The increases in poverty and homelessness among our students highlight the need for expanding and building upon programs and supports for our most at-risk students.***

With the increase in poverty and homelessness in the Kenton County School District, we are looking for ways to increase supports for our most at risk students within our current programming. The table below illustrates the specific breakdown of the number of students experiencing homelessness in our district during the 2016-2017 school year and our current data.

***Students Identified Under McKinney Vento 2016-2017 by Grade level***

Early Elementary	Preschool	K5	1st Grade	2nd Grade	Total Students
Number of Students	29	56	53	60	198
Upper Elementary	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade		Total Students
Number of Students	53	58	38		149

Middle School	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade		Total Students
Number of Students	31	29	38		98
High School	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Total Students
Number of Students	59	35	30	35	159
				Total Number of Students	604

Over the past five years, our district has done a tremendous job improving our identification and enrollment processes in K-12 grade and educating school staffs about McKinney Vento. This has been done with one part time staff member dedicated to McKinney Vento and another staff member with McKinney Vento responsibilities as a small part of her job responsibilities. However, we can do better, especially as it relates to supporting educational programming and services for homeless students. ***Through our data analysis, our district has identified three areas of greatest educational need and barriers for academic success for our students who are experiencing homelessness. These areas are identifying and enrolling preschool students, improving attendance, and supporting transitions to college and careers for the 21st Century economy.***

Families experiencing homelessness face a significant barrier in accessing preschool services. We have found community organizations are unaware of how the school district can support homeless families under McKinney Vento. Early childhood

education is the key to giving all students a strong foundation to build on as they begin their academic career. ***Access to early childhood education is a barrier for our homeless families*** because they are not currently in the school system and cannot access services which would support preparing children for kindergarten. ***Last year, 29 preschool students were identified as homeless compared to 56 identified kindergarten students. This disparity in identification and enrollment for preschool establishes a need to focus on identifying and enrolling children for preschool programs offered by our district.*** This in turn will increase the number of homeless students prepared for kindergarten. ***54% of homeless students enrolled in Kenton County school district preschool programs were kindergarten ready during the 2016-2017 school year. This is compared to kindergarten students where only 31% of homeless students were kindergarten ready. Only 21% of homeless kindergarten students attended preschool in our district. Increasing identification and enrollment for preschoolers experiencing homelessness is imperative and an area of need. When we are able to identify students and families as preschoolers, we can begin to build the foundation for kindergarten and school success. Our program will address this need by collaborating with community organizations to identify and educate families about the preschool programs in our district, provide training to preschool staff, and collaborate to add additional screenings for preschool entry.***

***Consistent school attendance*** is a barrier which impacts the educational progress of the majority of our homeless students from PreK-12th grade. Students in

our schools who are not experiencing homelessness, miss an average of 6 days per year. *Our McKinney Vento students average 9 missed days per year. McKinney Vento students are also more likely to be chronically absent. During the 2016-2017 school year, 21% of our homeless students were chronically absent compared to 9% of our students who are not experiencing homelessness. This is unacceptable. If students are not at school they cannot learn. Improving the attendance and chronic absence rate among our McKinney Vento is an identified educational need which our program will address by implementing a mentoring program within the school and providing access to technology to continue to reduce academic barriers.*

Our McKinney Vento students are graduating from high school but they are not transitioning to technical school programs or four year colleges. This is a significant barrier to their future. Our district is committed to preparing all students for college and career. *Of our 35 identified 12th graders, 29 students graduated from high school within 4 years. Yet, only 14 of these students completed a FAFSA application.* Research is strong in the area of FAFSA completion. 90% of students who complete the FAFSA, attend a postsecondary school compared to 55% of non FAFSA completers (National College Access Network). *Our FAFSA completion data shows transition to college and career opportunities as an educational need for our high school students and a barrier to their future success. Our program will address this barrier by providing access to technology for enrichment and extension and dual credit opportunities.*

Access to internet service is a barrier to our families who are experiencing homelessness. Though we do not have concrete data on this, we estimate that majority of our homeless students do not have access to the internet at home. As our schools become increasingly reliant on technology, being able to offer wireless access to our homeless students would serve as a an academic equalizer for our student's which would impact college and career readiness and provide academic support. Our program would eliminate this barrier by creating a small lending library of chromebooks and wifi pucks. Access to technology would be combined with parental education around appropriate device use.

Despite the improvement in our district ***identification and enrollment procedures*** for McKinney Vento students, we still have room to improve. Over the past five years, we have created a residency verification form which acts as an initial screener to identify a transient living situation. We have trained front office staff at each of our schools who engage their FRC if they suspect a family maybe homeless. The FRC than conducts a needs assessment and shares the information with the part time liaison at the district office. The liaison identifies and arranges transportation if needed. Through data analysis, we have been able to identify specific schools where students are underidentified. This data will help us to pinpoint specific areas of professional development for administrators, registrars, and teachers to be conducted by the full time homeless liaison. Across the district we will continue to offer on-going training and professional development to assist with identification of McKinney Vento students and improvement in enrollment procedures.



## PART II: EDUCATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Our proposed program would refine and improve our identification and enrollment procedures, support and expand existing programming in our schools, and create a new resource for students and families to access technology. In addition to continue *refining and improving our identification and enrollment procedures* for McKinney students, *our district has identified three areas of greatest educational need and barriers for academic success for our students who are experiencing homelessness. These areas are: identifying and enrolling preschool students, improving attendance, and supporting transitions to college and careers for the 21st Century economy. By expanding our current supports and programs, we will effectively meet the educational needs of our homeless students.*

Over the past five years, our data illustrates the improvements our district has made in the *identification and enrollment* of homeless students. We have tripled the number of students identified as homeless in our schools but this is still only 4.02% of our student population. This has been accomplished without a full time staff member dedicated to McKinney Vento programming. *Identification and enrollment are the first barrier to overcome to improve the academic success of students and an area of improvement for our overall program.* Through our data analysis, we have identified schools who may not be identifying and enrolling homeless students at the same rates as schools with similar demographics. These schools have been targeted for additional training and support for the 2018-2019 school year. *With the support of a full time staff member dedicated to McKinney Vento programming, we will be able*

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*to address barriers to identification and enrollment at specific schools through one on one training of staff and coaching feedback around the enrollment process.* Due to time constraints, trainings are currently in a whole group setting on a yearly basis. A full time staff member, will be able to dedicate time for one on one coaching and ongoing support throughout the school year as it relates to identification and enrollment. The staff member will also be able to ***support staff at schools who are effectively implementing district identification and enrollment procedures through additional professional development opportunities for teachers and staff members to deepen their knowledge and add to their toolbox as it relates to McKinney Vento.***

A barrier to timely identification is our paper based method. A full time staff member, will have the time to dedicate to streamlining this paper based process by integrating technology. Currently, ***a lag time exists in the identification process at the district level and notification to family and school staff.*** As a Google Apps for Education district, we will be able ***to use the tools provided by Google to streamline our work and facilitate notification of families and staff.*** This in turn, allows the district and school to provide services to support the student and family quicker.

With a full time staff member dedicated to McKinney Vento; we will also be able to use technology to streamline our procedures for communicating with our transportation department. Currently, if a student needs transportation, an email is sent. By using tools provided by ***Google we will be able to develop a process to streamline transportation requests and collect additional data to analyze how***

*reducing barriers to transportation improves attendance.* Currently, data is not tracked on the impact reducing a transportation barrier has on the attendance of a homeless student.

The *identification and enrollment* of homeless students is the foundation of our educational program. Continuing to *refine our identification and enrollment* procedures *through technology and training* will only strengthen the foundation of our program and allow us to continue to build and support educational programming for our growing number of homeless students. Our data shows the three greatest area of educational need for our homeless students are: *identifying and enrolling preschool students, attendance, and supporting transitions to college and careers for the 21st Century economy. By integrating additional support for homeless students into our existing educational programs and services, we will effectively meet the needs of our homeless students.*

Our homeless students face *significant educational needs and barriers* which need to be eliminated. *Consistent school attendance* is a barrier which impacts the educational progress of the majority of our homeless students at all grade levels. Students in our schools, who are not homeless, miss an average of 6 days per year. *Our McKinney Vento students average 9 missed days per year. McKinney Vento students are also more likely to be chronically absent. During the 2016-2017 school year, 21% of our homeless students were chronically absent compared to 9% of our students who are not experiencing homelessness. This is unacceptable. If students are not at school they cannot learn. Improving the attendance and*

***chronic absence rate among our McKinney Vento is an identified educational need.*** Currently, every school in our district is assigned a Reducing Barriers to Learning (RBTL) Interventionist. The RBTL Interventionist is assigned to a feeder pattern. The feeder pattern consists, on average, of 5 schools including one high school, one middle school, and three to four elementary schools. This arrangement fosters support and work with families across multiple schools. The RBTL Interventionists collaborate with school staff to support the most at-risk students in our school district. Homeless student's are the most at-risk students in our district. By integrating homeless students into our existing work with at-risk students and families we will be able to provide direct support to address attendance the first day a student misses.

One of the most powerful strategies for ***improving attendance is mentoring with a purpose.*** The RBTL interventionists will be able to serve this purpose for our McKinney Vento students. Each RBTL Interventionist will meet with and monitor attendance, grades, and behavior of homeless students in their feeder pattern, in addition to their existing caseload of students. The interventionists will also administer a needs assessment based on social emotional needs to tailor supports and interventions for the student. The RBTL will serve as mentor to the student and a resource to the family in collaboration with the Family Resource Center Director at each school. The RBTL will directly monitor the attendance and grades of the students and develop intervention plans as necessary. If a student is absent, the RBTL will make a personal phone call home to identify why the student is absent from school. If a barrier is identified, such as transportation, medical issue, mental health services, or basic needs,

the RBTL will work with the MKV staff to reduce the barrier. The RBTL will communicate with school staff to ***improve attendance and in turn improve the academic success of the students***. In addition, the homeless liaison will be able to provide additional support by attending school level RBTL meetings where students are discussed. In collaboration with the RBTL Interventionist, they will be able to provide direct support to the schools to identify issues and barriers to prevent absenteeism before it happens.

Families experiencing homelessness face a significant barrier in accessing preschool services. We have found community organizations are unaware of how the school district can support homeless families under McKinney Vento. During the 2016-2017 school year, 29 preschool students were identified as homeless compared to 56 identified kindergarten students. This disparity in identification and enrollment for preschool establishes a need to focus on identifying and enrolling children for preschool programs offered by our district. Increasing identification and enrollment for preschoolers experiencing homelessness is imperative and an area of need. When we are able to identify students and families as preschoolers, we can begin to build the foundation for kindergarten and school success. Our program will address this need by collaborating with community organizations to identify and educate families about the preschool programs in our district. Our homeless liaison will identify community organizations which work with families in the crisis. The liaison will conduct community trainings around McKinney Vento and the preschool services our district offers. The liaison will also provide training to preschool staff to increase their knowledge of

*McKinney Vento and collaborate to add additional screenings for preschool entry within the community. These enhancements to our preschool programming will increase the identification and enrollment of homeless students in preschool programming within our district.*

Our McKinney Vento students are graduating from high school but they are not transitioning to technical school programs or four year colleges. This is a significant barrier to their future. Our district is committed to preparing all students for college and career. ***Of our 35 identified 12th graders, 29 students graduated from high school within 4 years. Yet, only 14 of these students completed a FAFSA application.***

This is a ***barrier to their future success.*** This barrier can be eliminated by providing support to FRC programming at the middle school and high school level. By intentionally exposing students to college and career activities in middle school, students become more aware of the opportunities available to them. In addition, the homeless liaison would do additional training for high school FRYSCs and guidance counselors around FAFSA completion and conduct parent workshops for targeted families about affording college. Homeless high school students do not have the same access as their peers to dual credit classes. Due to their transient living situation, most are not able to meet the requirements for the dual credit scholarship provided by the state. This grant will eliminate this barrier to dual credit courses by setting aside funds to pay for courses for McKinney Vento students.

Access to internet service is a barrier to our families who are experiencing homelessness. Though we do not have concrete data on this, we estimate that majority

of our homeless students do not have access to the internet at home. As our schools become increasingly reliant on technology, being able to offer wireless access to our homeless students would serve as a an academic equalizer for our students which would impact college and career readiness and provide academic support. Our program would eliminate this barrier by creating a small lending library of chromebooks and wifi pucks. Access to technology would be combined with parental education around appropriate device use. Devices would be loaned out through the FRC. Students who are struggling academically could check out a device to support academic work. The devices could also be used to support the college application and job hunting process at the high school level.

### **PART III: Coordination and Collaboration**

The Kenton County School District is committed to identifying, enrolling, and supporting homeless students within our school district. This is evidenced by the commitment provided through Title 1: Part A. Currently, the district sets aside \$\$\$\$\$. This money will be used to fund 187 days toward a McKinney Vento liaison and transportation for our homeless students. This grant will enhance the programming for our McKinney Vento students rather than supplanting it by requesting money for salaries. Our proposed program will be provided in collaboration with existing Title I programming and enhance opportunities for our homeless students in all schools. Currently our part time Homeless Liaison collaborates closely with the Title i Parent Involvement Coordinator, PreSchool Staff, and all school FRCs. Due to time constraints, the collaboration is limited to training and consultation around the identification and enrollment of MKV



student's. This grant will expand this collaboration by supporting and expanding programming within all schools. A fulltime liaison, in addition to additional funds for expanded programming, will allow for the expansion of current programming for student's and expand opportunities for collaborating and supporting student's and families beyond enrollment and identification.

This program will also increase support at the school level. We will be able to dedicate time for additional training including one one training to improve identification and enrollment and whole school staff training teachers and staff. The liaison will also collaborate with Family Resource Centers. This grant will be able to expand programs which are currently in place and provide additional training to our FRC Coordinators.

In addition to collaborating with Title I programming within our district, we also collaborate with community partners to make sure our students have access to programs and services. We work with the Northern Kentucky Health Department to provide immunizations and basic health care for children. We meet monthly with the Cabinet for Family and Children to discuss at risk students and families to engage wrap around services such as family counseling and parenting resources they can provide. We work with Action Ministries to facilitate a food program at our schools to make sure children have access to food over the weekend. We work with HealthPoint and St. Elizabeth's Hospital System to provide no cost and low cost basic medical treatments for our students. We collaborate with a variety of shelters and low cost housing organizations to assist our homeless families in finding emergency and long term housing. We have relationships with mental health providers in our community who

provide school based counseling at all of our schools and we partner with the Brook to provide mental health and substance abuse assessments at no charge to our students. We collaborate closely with UpSpring to provide a summer camp for our students who range in age 5-12 who are experiencing homelessness. This 12 week long summer camp prevents an academic summer slide in addition to exposing students to cultural and fun field trips. The camp is provided at no charge to the families and transportation is provided. Last year, over 100 student's from the county were able to participate.

#### **PART IV: STAFFING**

This program will be administered by a Homeless Liaison who holds a Bachelor's Degree of Social Work. The liaison will be supervised by the Director of Reducing Barriers to Learning who is a certified teacher and administrator and will be responsible for the administrative aspects of the grant. Currently, the liaison is a part time role. A small portion of the funding requested through this grant will be used to expand this position to full time. This will allow the district to refine enrollment and identification procedures, expand training of staff, and provide direct support and assistance to students and families. The Homeless Liaison will be directly responsible for training staff on identification and enrollment procedures and improving our specific procedures and methods. The liaison will coordinate with the transportation department and FRCs to make sure students have transportation to remain in their school of origin. The liaison will collaborate directly with other school districts. The liaison will train school staff on identification and enrollment and conduct professional development for teachers who work directly with student's. The liaison will collaborate with schools and RBTL

Interventionists to reduce barriers around specific student's and families to reduce barriers to school attendance and other issues. The liaison in collaboration with the Family Resource Centers will develop and implement a parent program around the technology lending program developed by the grant. The liaison will collaborate with high school FRYSC and school guidance counselors to administer dual credit scholarships to McKinney Vento students. One hundred percent of the homeless liaison's time will be dedicated to working with homeless students and families. The Homeless liaison will work \*\*\*\* days with only \*\*\*\*\* days being funded by this grant proposal. The liaison will work directly with RBTL Interventionists, Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator, Family Resource Service Center Coordinators, and other school staff as needed.

### **Evaluation**

Goal One: To increase the effectiveness of our current identification and enrollment procedures for homeless students in Kenton County.

Activity	Expected Outcome	Tools to Measure Outcome
Targeted training specific to identification and enrollment procedures for schools who may be under identifying students based on data from 2017-2018	One on one training, observation, and coaching will increase the identification of students experiencing homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/> 2017-2018 numbers of identified student by school <input type="checkbox"/> 2018-2019 numbers of identified student by schools

Draft

Goal Two: To increase the number of identified and enrolled preschool students.

Activity	Expected Outcome	Tools to Measure Outcome
Train preschool staff on identification procedures for McKinney Vento		<input type="checkbox"/>
Train preschool teachers on McKinney Vento		
Collaborate with community organizations to seek out families who maybe experiencing homelessness and could benefit from preschool		
Create and implement a referral process for shelter staff to find eligible preschool children		

Goal Three: To decrease the chronic absenteeism percentage from ----to ----. To decrease the average number of missed days from ----to ----.



Draft

## **PART VI: Budget Narrative**

**Certified Salary and Benefits:** \$\$\$\$ percentage of the budget is dedicated to adding 79 days to the homeless liaison position. This will make the staff member fulltime and give her the opportunity to take our McKinney Vento services beyond identification and enrollment and move our focus to improving the academic success and future opportunities of our most at-risk students.

**Student Welfare:** This will provide an additional source for meeting the basic medical and mental health needs of our students.

**Technology:** This will fund a lending library of chromebooks and wifi pucks for our homeless students.

**Student Scholarships:** This will establish a fund to pay for McKinney Vento student's to take dual credit courses.

**Non-Instructional Food:** This will provide food at parent workshops around the technology lending library and college and career readiness for middle and high school targeted families.

*Still defining the specific areas but anticipate asking for around \$62,000 for programs and services.*

**Proposed Budget Summary**  
**McKinney-Vento Homeless Children Education Program**

*Draft*

Munis Code	Description of Activity	Amount Requested
0110		
0111		
0112		
0113		
0130	Daily Rate for liasion. (additional 79 days)	18,143.93
0160		
0170		
0211		
0212		
0213		
0214		
0215		
0219		
0221		
0222	Medicare - homeless liasion	\$ 263.09
0231	KIRG - homeless liasion	\$ 544.32
0232		
0233		
0251		
0253	Vienemployment - homeless liasion	\$ 4,740.00
0260	work's camp - homeless liasion	\$ 27.22
0270		
0291		
0293		



**Proposed Budget Summary**  
**McKinney-Vento Homeless Children Education Program**

Munis Code	Description of Activity	Amount Requested
0294		
0295		
0296		
0297		
0298		
0299		
0322		
0338	registration fees	\$1000 <sup>00</sup>
0339		
0341		
0345		
0352		
0411		
0419		
0426		
0432		
0441		
0442		
0444		
0511		

0512		
0513		

**Proposed Budget Summary**  
**McKinney-Vento Homeless Children Education Program**

Munis Code	Description of Activity	Amount Requested
0514		
0519		
0531		
0532		
0533	online network	8,000
0534		
0537		
0541		
0542		
0549		
0552		
0553		
0559	<del>Printing &amp; Purchasing - Other (Community Support)</del>	\$ 1000 <sup>00</sup>
0580-0584	travel	\$ 2000 <sup>00</sup>
0585		
0586		
0589		
0591		
0592		
0610	general supplies	\$ 2000 <sup>00</sup>
0616	food - non-instructional	\$ 3000 <sup>00</sup>
0617		
0621-0625		

0626-0627

**Proposed Budget Summary**  
**McKinney-Vento Homeless Children Education Program**

Munis Code	Description of Activity	Amount Requested
0629		
0642		
0643		
0644		
0645		
0647		
0650	technology related supplies (cases, extra code, etc.)	\$ 3,000
0672		
0673		
0674		
0675		
0676	Dual Credit Scholarship MKV fund	\$ 4,000
0679	student activities	\$ 4,281.44
0680	welfare spending	\$ 5,000 <sup>00</sup>
0692		
0695		
0697		
0733		
0734	technology related hardware	<del>\$ 7,000</del> \$ 7,000 <sup>00</sup>
0735		
0738		
0739		

0810		
0891		
0892		
0893		

**Proposed Budget Summary**  
**McKinney-Vento Homeless Children Education Program**

<b>Munis Code</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
0894		
0895		
0898		

<b>Total Amount Requested</b>	<b>\$ 62,000</b>
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