



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

## Homeless Education Program and Foster Care Education Program Reference Sheet

This reference sheet is designed to provide various documents and resources related to the Homeless Education Program and Foster Care Education Program. Links and descriptions are organized by federal statute and guidance as well as necessary tools and resources for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons and Foster Care Points of Contact.

Reach us at [homeless@azed.gov](mailto:homeless@azed.gov) and [fostercare@azed.gov](mailto:fostercare@azed.gov).

*Homeless, Foster Care, and Refugee Education Programs, Updated June 2023*

## Homeless Education Program Federal Statute & Guidance

The following links are legal points of reference that support the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. As our office provides technical assistance to LEA/Charter Districts, families, students, community-based organizations, and stakeholders, these documents are referenced to ensure statutory requirements are provided in a clear, concise, and accurate manner.

Link	Description of Resource
<a href="#">42 USC CHAPTER 119, SUBCHAPTER VI, Part B: Education for Homeless Children and Youths</a>	Full text of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title IX, Part A of ESSA).
<a href="#">Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance</a>	Non-regulatory guidance for the McKinney-Vento Act provided by the US Department of Education.
<a href="#">Arizona State ESSA Plan</a>	This state plan outlines all criteria, procedures, and requirements of all programs under ESSA for state and local education agencies of Arizona. See Section I: Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII, Subtitle B.

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Tools & Resources

The following links are tools and resources for McKinney-Vento Liaisons. It's recommended these links are bookmarked for easy access to the information to utilize as a point of reference when providing their own technical assistance to parents, guardians, youth and other stakeholders.

Link	Description of Resource
<a href="#">Arizona Department of Education: Homeless Education Program Webpage</a>	Resources related to the state's Homeless Education Program can be found throughout this site.
<a href="#">NCHE McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Resources</a>	NCHE is the technical assistance provide for the U.S. Department of Education. This webpage provides statute and related resources of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This includes the <a href="#">McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Toolkit</a> .
<a href="#">ADE Connect</a>	ADEConnect is your connection to all ADE connections (EMAC, GME, and AzEDS). You can access ADEConnect either through your student information system (SIS) or via the ADEConnect portal.
<a href="#">McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act – Funding Uses</a>	This guidance outlines the allowable uses of FY24 EHCY funding.

## Foster Care Education Program Federal Statute & Guidance

This section is the relevant statutes, laws, guidance, & legal definitions that refer to the rights, services, & provisions afforded to students in foster care. Superintendents, school leaders, administration, and federal program directors would need to be aware of these items to ensure compliance.

Link	Description of Resource
<a href="#">ESSA Title I, Part A Foster Care School Stability Assurances</a>	Reference this link to review the exact language of the ESSA Title I, Part A Foster Care School Stability Assurances.
<a href="#">Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care</a>	U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services collaborated to provide this guidance for the implementation of the ESSA Title I, Part A Foster Care School Stability Assurances.
<a href="#">Foster Care Definition</a>	This is the definition of foster care to be used for the purposes of the ESSA Title I, Part A Foster Care School Stability Assurances.
<a href="#">School of Origin Definition</a>	This is the definition of school of origin to be used for the purposes of the ESSA Title I, Part A Foster Care School Stability Assurances.
<a href="#">Uninterrupted Scholars Act 2013 Guidance</a>	The Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) was amended in 2013 to allow schools to provide student information, records, transcripts, etc. to the child welfare agency, for students in foster care, without the biological or adoptive parents permission.
<a href="#">Free/Reduced Lunch Foster Care Categorical Eligibility</a>	The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 states that students in foster care are categorically eligible for free/reduced lunch.
<a href="#">ESSA SEA Report Card Requirements for Foster Care</a>	Review this link to refer to the ESSA State Report Card data requirements, which includes the student achievement & graduation rate data for students in foster care.
<a href="#">ARS 15-816.01</a> (Foster Care preference for Open Enrollment)	Arizona Revised Statute 15-816.01 states that LEAs may give preference to students in foster care for the purposes of open enrollment.

## Foster Care Point of Contact Tools & Resources

This section is a list of tools and resources to enable Foster Care Points of Contacts to provide the necessary programmatic implementation for the school stability of students in foster care.

Link	Description of Resource
<a href="#">Arizona Department of Education: Foster Care Education Program</a>	Resources related to the state's Foster Care Education Program can be found throughout this site.
<a href="#">Foster Care Transportation Procedure</a>	Utilize this document to determine the most cost-effective & prompt modality of providing transportation to the school of origin for a student in foster care.
<a href="#">DCS BID Form</a>	This is the Best Interest Determination (BID) form that the State's child welfare agency, the Department of Child Safety (DCS), uses to facilitate the BID process.
<a href="#">DCS Notice to Provider Form</a>	This is the form that the State's child welfare agency, the Department of Child Safety (DCS), provides to foster caregivers that authorizes them to bring students in foster care to school & to any medical appointments.
<a href="#">LEA &amp; CWA Points of Contact List</a>	Reference this link to see the LEA and child welfare agency points of contact, posted at the Arizona Department of Education's Foster Care page.
<a href="#">AzEDS Report FSTR - Student Foster Care Report</a>	Each LEA can access which of their students are in the State's child welfare agency, the Department of Child Safety (DCS), by accessing this report in the AzEDS Portal.
<a href="#">Arizona Foster Care Non-Profit Organizations</a>	This is a list of the 2023 Qualifying Foster Care Organizations.
<a href="#">ADE Direct Certification</a>	Direct Certification is used by the LEA's health and nutrition staff to retrieve a list of students that are categorically eligible for free/reduced lunch (including students in foster care).
<a href="#">Arizona's State Report Card</a>	Reference this link to view Arizona's State Report Card, which includes the student achievement & graduation rate data for students in foster care.