

What is Title 1?

Title I is a federal aid program for schools. The goal of Title 1 is to ensure a high-quality education for every child, by providing extra help to students who need it most. Title I has three primary objectives:

- to improve student achievement for all participating children
- to improve staff development
- to improve parental and community involvement

Title 1 funds are distributed to districts and individual schools based on the number of low-income families served. However, once a school qualifies for Title 1 funds, academic need, not economic status, determines which students receive extra services. Title 1 funds are intended to supplement (add to), not replace, state and federal funds.

Title 1 is different from Special Education programs. Title 1 does not address student needs based on disability or special needs, but rather on the basis of student performance, achievement and progress. To read a parent tip sheet describing Title 1, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, go to [Title 1, IDEA and 504](#).

As educators and parents, we share the goal of providing students with the best education possible. Our status as Title 1 helps to enable us to work together toward this goal.

Homelessness

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act defines homeless individuals as **anyone who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**. This includes students who are:

- living in shelters
- living in campgrounds, parks, cars or public buildings
- doubled up with friends or relatives due to economic hardship, loss of housing or a similar reason
- abandoned in a hospital
- "unaccompanied youth"
- awaiting foster care

The intent of the McKinney-Vento Act is to minimize the amount of time that homeless children and youth are out of school. Students who are identified as homeless under the McKinney Vento Act are automatically enrolled in our Title 1 Programs. To address the many ways homelessness impacts learning, the law:

- strongly encourages children to remain in the last school attended if possible. However, since that may not always be possible, the law ensures immediate enrollment of homeless students in any school housed children in the area are eligible to attend
- provides for transportation to get to and from school until the child is permanently housed (up to one hour, one way - 45 minutes for preschool and kindergarten students)
- allows for immediate enrollment with or without school and medical records
- guarantees equal access by homeless students to all school courses, events, services and activities
- mandates the designation of a homeless educational liaison in every district

If you are homeless, resources are available to help you:

[District Resources for Displaced Families](#)

[New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness](#)

Links to more resources are available at the [New Jersey McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program](#)

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