



Project HOPE New River Valley

New Every Student Succeeds Act Brings Changes to Homeless Laws

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On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**, reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). ESSA strengthens ESEA in notable ways, including new provisions related to the education of homeless children and youth. ESSA will increase the identification, enrollment, stability and school success of children and youth experiencing

homelessness. It also includes core protection for school stability and school access for children and youth in foster care outlining clear, distinct and appropriate responsibilities for both the education and child welfare agencies. A webinar which outlines the changes in the new law can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eR7BrhSEf6M> A six page summary of the major amendments can be accessed at



<http://www.naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/legis/ESEAFINALSUMMARYSHORTFINAL.pdf>

This newsletter will be devoted to some of those changes.

Project HOPE NRV is a regional program for Homeless Education which includes the five school divisions in the New River Valley.

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National Runaway Safeline Serves Unaccompanied Youth



1-800-RUNAWAY
1-800-

Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away in a year.

The mission of the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS), now called the National Runaway Safeline, is to help keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. The National Runaway Safeline provides education and solution-focused interventions, offers non-sectarian, non-judgmental support,

respects confidentiality, collaborates with volunteers, and responds to at-risk youth and their families 24 hours a day. The 1-800-RUNAWAY hotline now handles more than 100,000 calls per year.

The hotline serves family members, concerned friends of runaways, parents and school staff.

For additional information on this resource check out <http://www.1800runaway.org/>

School Stability Under the ESSA



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It is now the presumption that staying in the school of origin is in the child or youth's best interest unless it is against the wishes of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth. This has always been the practice in the NRV but it is now the law. Factors that are considered are student-centered factors no longer what is "feasible."

Written explanation including the right to appeal the decision is necessary in the case of a dispute.

Transportation to the school of origin is to last THROUGH OUT the school year EVEN when the family is permanently housed. This decision is based on a best interest determination. For example if it is near the beginning of the school year, it may well be determined that schooling in the district where the family is permanently housed is best. Conversely, if it is in the middle or end of the school year, it may be determined that transportation to the school of origin is in the best interest of the student.



The school of origin has been redefined to include feeder schools. It is assumed that a student will continue with his/her peers into the school in which the peers are transitioning.

FERPA Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Schools must treat information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation as a student education record, subject to all the protections of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. For this

reason school staff may not contact landlords or other persons to verify living situations without releases as specified under FERPA.

McKinney-Vento 102: Support for School Success and Special Populations

Tuesday, May 17 2016 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT (please adjust for your time zone)

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5346216234624537858>

Description: In this NCHC webinar, which serves as Part 2 in a 2-part webinar series, NCHC staff members provide an overview of important foundational concepts outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act and related federal laws. Specifically, the webinar will explore:

Support for school success available to homeless children and youth through federal programs other than the McKinney-Vento Act, including:

- Title I, Part A
 - Special Education under IDEA
 - School meals under the Child Nutrition Act, and
- Support for special populations under the McKinney-Vento Act, including:
- Young homeless children
 - Unaccompanied homeless youth

Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with presenters and fellow attendees through interactive polls and discussion periods.

Presenters: NCHC Staff