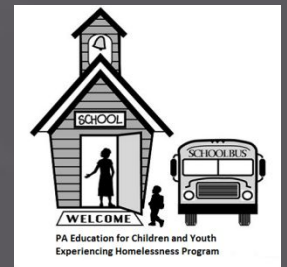


PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

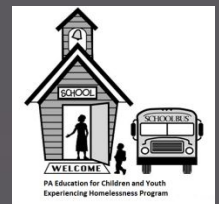
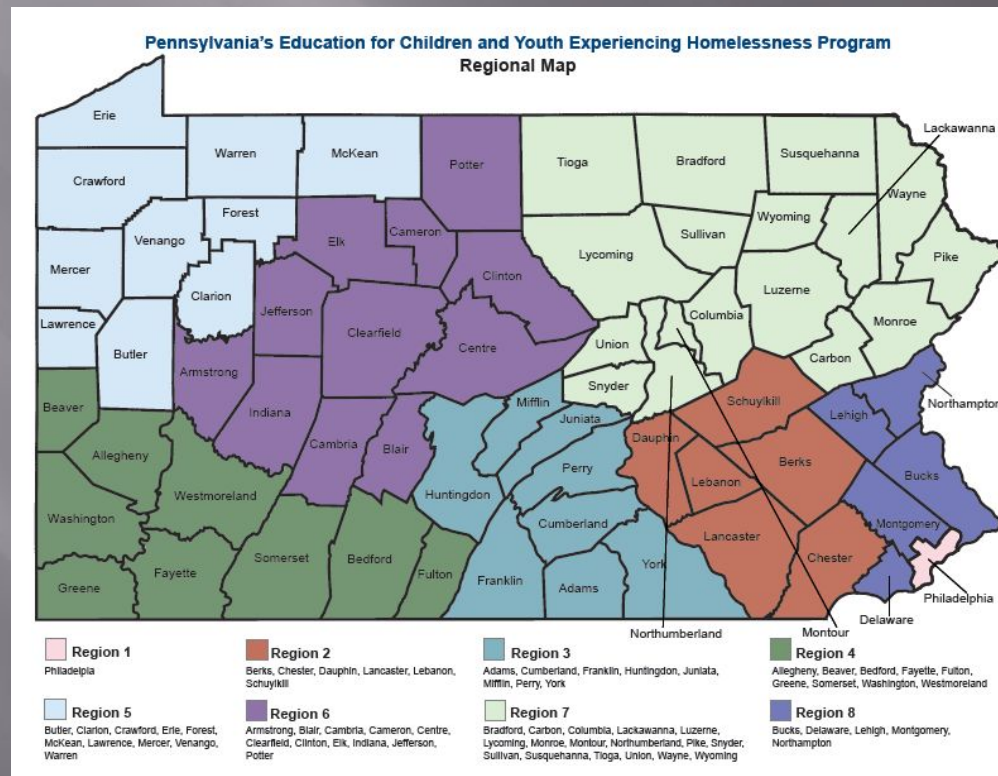
Children and Youth Experiencing
Homelessness Have the Right to a Free
Appropriate Public Education



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

**ANDY KUHL,
COORDINATOR**



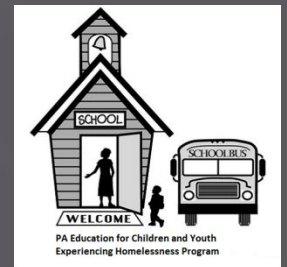
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

The Scale of Homelessness

- ❖ 1, 354, 363 homeless children were enrolled in public schools during the 2016-2017 school year (National Center for Homeless Education).
- ❖ Children make up half of the homeless population nationwide
- ❖ 38,940 homeless children identified by ECYEH program in 2017-2018
- ❖ 2,996 homeless children identified in Region 7 (2017-2018)



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

McKinney –Vento Homeless Act

- ❖ 2015 ESSA reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act originally enacted in 1987. New legislation signed by Barack Obama December 10, 2015
- ❖ Requires educational access, attendance, and success for children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- ❖ Provides states with funding to support statewide initiatives.
- ❖ PA ECYEH program covers 501 school districts, 29 intermediate units, 127 public charter schools, and 53 career-technical schools.
- ❖ Does not include private schools



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

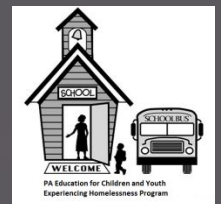
**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

Who is homeless?

❖ An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence
Includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing housing (doubled-up)
- Living in motels, hotels, trailers, or camping grounds
- Living in emergency shelters or transitional housing
- Unaccompanied Youth-Abandoned, Runaways
- Living in cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings
- Migratory children (living in circumstances above)



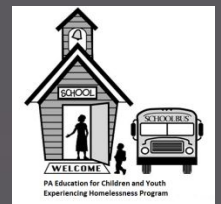
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

How vulnerable are you to becoming homeless?

- ❖ Fire
- ❖ Flood
- ❖ Job Loss
- ❖ Eviction
- ❖ Domestic Violence
- ❖ Accident
- ❖ Illness



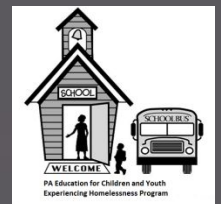
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

Unaccompanied Youth

- ❖ Any child who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- ❖ Includes runaways, children thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents or separated from parents for any other reason
- ❖ Must fit the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless
- ❖ No age range specified (Upper range determined by state)
- ❖ Temporary surrogate parents must be assigned to unaccompanied youth to make special education decisions if the youth does not have an authorized person



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

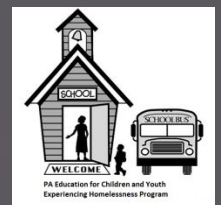
**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

Unaccompanied Youth

“The primary responsibility of the schools is to enroll and educate homeless children and youth in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act, which neither authorizes, nor requires schools to make judgments about the validity of why a student is not living with a parent or guardian. Determinations of eligibility should be made on the student’s nighttime living arrangement, not the circumstances that caused the student to leave home.”

~National Center for Homeless Education



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

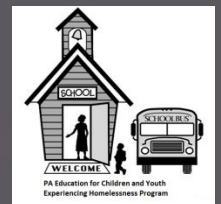
**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

Enrollment

Requires public schools to immediately enroll students experiencing homelessness even when lacking:

- ❖ Proof of residency ****FERPA
- ❖ Guardianship
- ❖ Birth certificates, school records, or other documents
- ❖ Medical records, including immunization records
- ❖ Required dress code items, including uniforms



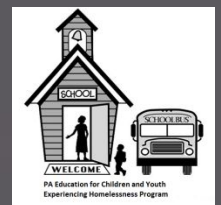
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

Enrollment Cont'd.

- ❖ School placement in:
 - School of origin, if the parent and/or child wishes and it is feasible
 - School in area of current residency
- ❖ **School of origin** is defined as the school the child attended when permanently housed or where they were last enrolled
- ❖ If the child is unaccompanied, his/her wishes should be taken into consideration



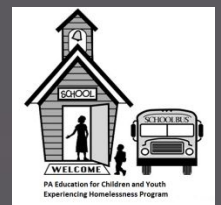
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

School Selection (Factors to Consider)

- ❖ Mileage to original school
- ❖ Age of child
- ❖ Area the family and/or child might relocate to
- ❖ Special needs
- ❖ Time of school year
- ❖ Other siblings
- ❖ Domestic violence (Danger at school?)
- ❖ Consult with staff at original school (best interest)
- ❖ Pregnant teen and child care
- ❖ Parent/Guardian/Child choice



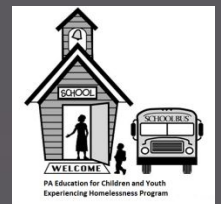
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR

ANDY KUHL, COORDINATOR

Transportation

- ❖ School districts are required to adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided to school of origin
- ❖ Child's right to attend their school of origin extends for the duration of their homelessness and for the remainder of the academic year, if they become permanently housed
- ❖ Title I monies can be used to transport a homeless student or former homeless student



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

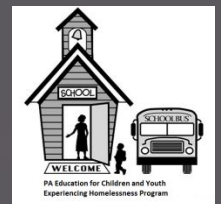
JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR

ANDY KUHL, COORDINATOR

Addressing Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness

LEAs must:

- ❖ Set aside Title I funds (justify amount)
- ❖ Ensure immediate enrollment
- ❖ Enroll students in free breakfast and lunch programs
- ❖ Ensure access to instructional support/resources, special education and gifted programs
- ❖ Provide homeless awareness training
- ❖ Alert teachers of a student's living situation (respecting privacy)
- ❖ Know laws pertaining to homeless children and remove barriers



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

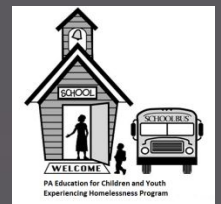
**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

Addressing Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness

LEAs must:

- ❖ Post educational rights in schools and community
- ❖ Provide access for unaccompanied youth (must enroll without proof of guardianship)
- ❖ Have a dispute resolution procedure
- ❖ Publish homeless information on website and in handbooks
- ❖ Provide community resources to homeless families
- ❖ Provide academic remediation and support interventions



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

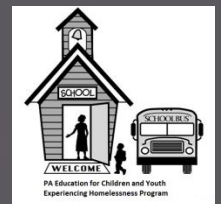
JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR

ANDY KUHL,

Title I Funding

Allowable Expenses

- ❖ School Clothing/Supplies
- ❖ Students fees (general education programs/testing)
- ❖ Transportation (former and current homeless students)
- ❖ Birth Certificates
- ❖ Immunizations
- ❖ Emergency Food
- ❖ Medical/Dental service
- ❖ Eyeglasses/Hearing Aids
- ❖ Counseling/Outreach Services
- ❖ Tutoring or extended learning time (before or after school)



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

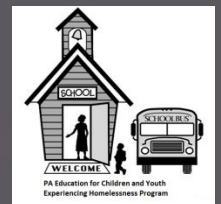
**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

Title I Funding

Prohibited

- ❖ Cannot supplant other state or local funds
- ❖ Rent
- ❖ Utilities
- ❖ Clothing for parents



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR

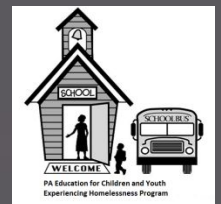
ANDY KUHL, COORDINATOR

Dispute Resolution

LEA Regional Coordinator State Coordinator

Formal Dispute Legal Court

******If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the child or youth involved must immediately be admitted to the school in which they are seeking enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute. A written explanation must be given if enrollment is denied. The parent/guardian or unaccompanied must also be informed of his/her right to appeal the school's decision.



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

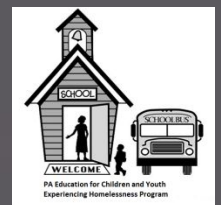
ANDY KUHL,

Homeless Children Characteristics

- Attendance at several schools
- More than one family at the same address
- Attention-seeking behavior
- Hunger and hoarding of food
- Sleeping in class
- Inappropriate dress for weather

Some common statements used by homeless students include:

- "We've moved a lot."
- "We're staying with friends."
- "We're looking for a place."
- "We're going through a bad time now."



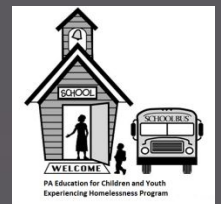
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR

ANDY KUHL, COORDINATOR

Difficulties for homeless students

- ❖ Ashamed of where they live
- ❖ Teased by other students about homelessness, hygiene and inabilities
- ❖ Misunderstood by parents
- ❖ Difficulty adjusting to new school
- ❖ No place to do homework
- ❖ Developmental delays augment feelings of failure



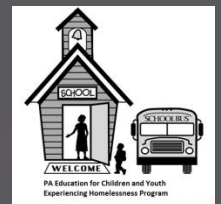
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR

ANDY KUHL, COORDINATOR

Challenges for teachers

- ❖ Student attended many different schools with different teaching methods
- ❖ No school records
- ❖ Need to assess educational needs without prior records
- ❖ Student may move soon
- ❖ Other students react negatively
- ❖ Student might have difficulty trusting
- ❖ Inability to contact parents
- ❖ Parents often emotionally unavailable
- ❖ Homework completion can be difficult



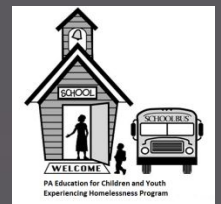
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR

ANDY KUHL, COORDINATOR

What the Staff Can Do

- ❖ Make the student feel welcome
- ❖ Make contact with the parents and invite them to participate in school activities
- ❖ Give the child ownership of school space (locker, etc.) and something they can call their own (chore or responsibility)
- ❖ Ensure opportunities to participate in after-school activities and in-school programs
- ❖ Don't bring special attention to the fact they are homeless in front of other children
- ❖ Learn more about conditions from where the family is coming



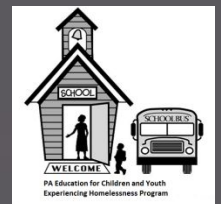
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

What the Staff Can Do Cont'd.

- ❖ Work closely with staff and administration when behavioral and/or medical needs are observed
- ❖ Be sensitive to needs of homeless children, but maintain consistent, high expectations
- ❖ Be aware homeless students often live in noisy, crowded conditions (tuning out)
- ❖ Try not to take away possessions or Physical Education as a disciplinary measure
- ❖ Be aware some assignments/projects may be difficult for the student (Things involving family, house, internet access, etc.)
- ❖ Communicate with shelter/agency and know community resources



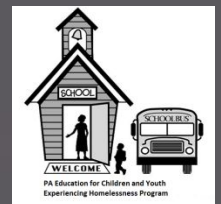
PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

**JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR**

ANDY KUHL,

What the Staff Can Do Cont'd.

- ❖ Discuss privately with the student what accommodations exist for doing homework and make necessary arrangements
- ❖ Inform liaison of situation (be aware of procedure)
- ❖ Don't penalize students who are being late as they may not have reliable transportation
- ❖ Stabilize the child's basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, medical care, basic hygiene)
- ❖ Administer brief educational assessment to determine level of academic ability



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

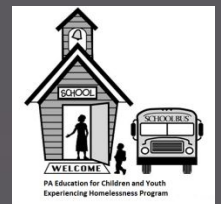
JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR

ANDY KUHL, COORDINATOR

Phone Numbers

Human Trafficking 1-888-373-7888

Northeast Migrant Education
570-490-0663 (David Baird)



PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

JEFF ZIMMERMAN, REGION 7 COORDINATOR

ANDY KUHL, COORDINATOR

Contact Information:

Phone Number: 570-718-4613 or 570-718-4697

Email: jzimmerman@liu18.org or akuhl@liu18.org

<http://www.liu18.org/index.php/ecyeh>

<http://www.liu18.org/index.php/esfcy>

