

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Safe and Healthy Students' Monitoring Report on  
the Utah State Office of Education's  
Title VII-B Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program**

**Scope of Review:**

During February 9-11, 2016, a review team from the U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS) monitored the Utah State Office of Education's (USOE's) administration of the Title VII-B Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

**Previous Monitoring:**

ED reviewed USOE's EHCY programs during the week of April 27-30, 2009. The report is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/monitoring/index.html>

**Current Review:**

In its review of the EHCY program, the ED team examined USOE's:

- Procedures and guidance for the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless students;
- Technical assistance provided to LEAs with and without subgrants;
- USOE's McKinney-Vento EHCY State Plan; and
- LEA applications for subgrants and local evaluations of projects in Jordan and Washington school districts, as well as the local liaisons and staff from Iron County and Ogden City public schools, both non-subgrantee school districts.

The ED team also interviewed the McKinney-Vento EHCY State coordinator to confirm information obtained at the local site and discuss administration of the program. Based on their review, ED has the following observations, commendation and recommendation:

**Emerging Practices:**

OSHS considers emerging practices to be operational activities or initiatives that contribute to successful outcomes or enhance agency performance capabilities. Emerging practices are those that have been successfully implemented and demonstrate the potential for replication by other agencies.

Typically, emerging practices have not been evaluated as rigorously as "promising," "effective," "evidence-based," or "best" practices but still offer ideas that work in specific situations. As a result of its monitoring activities, OSHS identified the following emerging practices for USOE:

- The EHCY program actively participates in State and regional interagency coordination to reduce and end family and youth homelessness. The Utah Department of Workforce Services issued a Comprehensive Report on

Homelessness, State of Utah 2015, which includes USOE’s EHCY data and compares them with HUD grantee data. This is evidence of interagency coordination, and ED would like to see all States issue annual or regular reports referencing the EHCY data in relation to other agency data on homelessness.

**Indicator 1.1: Monitoring and evaluation of LEAs with and without subgrants**

**Recommendation 1.1.1**

Observation: USOE staff recognized that it does not systematically use its annual State and LEA level data to improve overall homeless student program performance and outcomes. Furthermore, neither of the two reviewed subgrant projects included measurable goals that referenced baseline measures or annual milestones toward attaining those goals over three years.

Recommendation: ED recommends that USOE provide technical assistance to its subgrantees on creating goals (measurable to the maximum extent appropriate) that includes baseline performance measures and annual milestones. Subgrantees may not be fully aware of LEA data reported by SEAs to ED via the *EDFacts* Reporting System. These data include graduate and dropout numbers for homeless students and proficiency in math, reading, and science, grades 3-8 and high school, at the LEA and school levels.

One approach that USOE should consider is asking subgrantees for an annual program evaluation that accounts for any change in performance of the previous two year’s EHCY program performance data at the LEA and school levels.

**Table 2. Summary of Monitoring Results for the Title VII-B Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program**

<b>Indicator Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Page</b>
Indicator 1.1	The SEA conducts monitoring and evaluation of LEAs with and without subgrants, sufficient to ensure compliance with McKinney-Vento program requirements.	Met Requirements 1 Recommendation	2
Indicator 2.1	The SEA implements procedures to address the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless students through coordinating and collaborating with other program offices and State agencies.	Met Requirements	N/A
Indicator 2.2	The SEA provides, or provides for, technical assistance to LEAs to ensure appropriate implementation of the statute.	Met Requirements	N/A

<b>Indicator Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Page</b>
Indicator 3.1	The SEA ensures that LEA subgrant plans for services to eligible homeless students meet all requirements.	Met Requirements	N/A
Indicator 3.2	The SEA complies with the statutory and other regulatory requirements governing the reservation of funds for State-level coordination activities.	Met Requirements	N/A
Indicator 3.3	The SEA has a system for ensuring the prompt resolution of disputes.	Met Requirements	N/A