

SNOHOMISH COUNTY SCHOOLS

MCKINNEY-VENTO MEETING 01/15/16

IN ATTENDANCE: 31 staff from 11 districts plus NW ESD and OSPI

Arlington	Christy Byle	Administrative Assistant
Arlington	Connie Reiss	Director Of Special Education
Edmonds	Arlet Gess	Transportation Director
Edmonds	Craig Christensen	Transportation Director
Edmonds	Kareena Hooks	Diversity, Equity and Outreach Coordinator
Edmonds	Leanne Brisbios	McKinney-Vento Liaison
Everett	Amy Perusse	McKinney-Vento Facilitator
Everett	Cynthia Jones	Director Of Categorical Programs
Everett	Jeff Moore	Executive Director, Finance and Operations
Everett	Jennifer Farmer	Business Services Director
Everett	Mike Gunn	Executive Director, Facilities
Everett	Terrie Debolt	Transportation Director
Granite Falls	Carol Panagos	Director Of Special Programs
Granite Falls	Mike Sullivan	Director of Business/Operations
Lake Stevens	Gina Anderson	Executive Director of Assessment and Student Services
Lake Stevens	Kristi Morrow	Administrative Support, Business Services
Lake Stevens	Tina Vinnick	HomeLink Coordinator
Marysville	Vanessa Jamison	Route Analyst
Monroe	Barb Baanrud	Transportation Router Days
Monroe	Joe Banach	Transportation Director
Monroe	Lisa Carlson	Transportation Router Afternoons
Mukilteo	Cindy Steigerwald	Transportation Manager
NWESD	Anna Esquibel	NWESD Regional Transportation Coordinator
NWESD	Jerry Jenkins	NWESD Superintendent
OSPI	Allan Jones	State Director of Student Transportation
OSPI	Melinda Dyer	State Coordinator for Homeless Education
Snohomish	Veronica Schmidt	Transportation Supervisor
Stanwood-Camano	Elisse Sahlin	Family Support Specialist/Liaison
Stanwood-Camano	Lisa Orton	Transportation Director
Stanwood-Camano	Sheri Sandquist	Transportation Specialist
Sultan	Charlie Weaver	Transportation Director

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INTRODUCTION

Amy Perusse welcomed the group. Anna Esquibel welcomed the OSPI guests Allan Jones and Melinda Dyer. Jerry Jenkins told the group he is pleased with the group's collaboration efforts.

CHANGES IN ESSA COMPARED TO ESEA/NCLB

Melinda Dyer from OSPI shared a publication from the NAEHCY on the [Summary of Major Amendments on Homelessness and Foster Care in "The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015"](#)

She pointed out a few highlights in the summary:

1. LEAs must make a **best interest** determination with a *presumption that staying in the school of origin is in the child or youth's best interest.*
Effective July 2016:
2. The definition of school of origin *includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools*, when a student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin. (i.e. elementary to middle, middle to high.)
3. When a student obtains permanent housing, (if feasible) transportation to the school of origin must be provided until the end of the academic year. (We already do this.)
4. States must have procedures to ensure that homeless children and youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria do not face barriers to accessing academic **and** extracurricular activities.
5. The definition of school of origin includes preschools.

There was discussion on these highlights. Jeff Moore asked that OSPI develop a matrix of "feasibility" that might help liaisons in providing support for homeless students. Melinda responded that barriers to education for homeless students must continue to be addressed on a case by case basis and that the federal criterion bottom line is what is in the best interest of each student.

Melinda said there will be grant money associated with ESSA available in the near future. Jerry Jenkins is interested in NWESD accessing funds from that grant to provide training and support for the service area. The groups showed interest in accessing funds to pursue centralized dispatch of transportation for Snohomish County District's McKinney Vento.

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ACTION ITEMS & OUTCOMES (REVIEWED FROM 11/24/15)

Transportation Operation Allocation Workgroup meeting

Terrie Debolt and Jeff Moore shared that the workgroup identified **destinations** as an area that needs adjusting in STARS. **Funding issues** surrounding cars/vans and contracted service were also discussed. The group is looking at alternatives to allow district the ability to forecast the allocation for budgeting and other planning purposes. Jeff said that while there are some adjustments that need to be made to the STARS formula, it is doing an overall good job of funding transportation. He appreciated the wide spectrum of district characteristics within the state.

Draft Standardized MV Transportation Request Form

Anna Esquibel gathered input and forms from Snohomish Co. Districts. She reported that **there is a big difference between the forms** and to meld them into one form will be a daunting task. She recommended that those who use the form work on standardizing. It was discussed that those who used the forms which they were populated from initial intake info into a specific transportation form.

<p><u>Action Item:</u> Arlet Gess; proposed to use Googledocs to work with districts to create a standardized form. Sheri Sandquist; volunteered to assist her in this undertaking.</p>

Snohomish County Districts Coordination of Homeless Transportation

Mike Sullivan reported that he will be talking with his counterparts in other county districts. Allan Jones recommended that Mike talk with Linn Grant at ESD 112. That ESD provides a **co-op fleet of buses and drivers** that provide service for an extensive area. Cindy Steigerwald said that she thinks the only way a co-op venture will succeed will be if all routing and dispatching comes out of one place. The group voiced their agreement and discussion turned to the need to form a fleet for the the co-op's use, possibly out of contributions of equipment from member districts.

<p><u>Action Item:</u> Mike Sullivan will continue to pursue a co-op venture by gathering information about the logistics and financial arrangement and impact.</p>

Letter to OSPI regarding impact of ESSA and resources for Liaison Training

Anna Esquibel handed out a copy of [the letter to Melinda Dyer dated Dec 11](#). It was agreed that Melinda had addressed to the group.

Melinda provided:

- information currently known on ESSA rule development related to homeless students
- a response to the request for clarification of reasonableness (or “feasibility”) that decisions are governed by Federal law and must remove barriers to education and provide for the child’s best interest.

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- Resources will be coming available through an ESSA related grant. Districts or other related entities will have to apply.

Melinda did not respond to the request to create a stakeholder group and was not questioned further on that point.

Cedars Suggestions for Useful Tracking Fields (such as length of time in program)

Nola Hutton was not at the meeting and there was no status report back on her progress. Melinda Dyer suggested that Nola contact her regarding the tracking fields as any changes will need to go through her anyway. Melinda also stated that the tracking fields in Cedars are federally mandated. Allan also commented that OSPI has a policy of minimizing data collection wherever possible.

Action Item: Nola, please call Melinda about data fields in Cedars.

Data on McV Students Length of Time Identified as Homeless

Cynthia Jones and Amy Perusse provided a handout and reported that Everett and Sultan were the only two districts that responded to the data request. This data primarily reflects Everett demography:

<1yr	35%
1 yr	43%
2 yr	14%
3 yr	4%
4 yr	3%
5 yr	1%

Data showed that Sultan statistics were actually opposite of those shown above. Students tend to stay in McV status for longer possibly due to the more remote location. Also noted is that this is a difficult demographic to track due to the transitory nature; a question arose about how do you know if an inactive student is still homeless once they withdraw. Melinda was interested in the data collection focus.

Break Out Session:

There was a brief time where folks visited informally and discussion focused around topics discussed at the meeting.

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Next steps – future meetings and focus

The group decided that the two meetings have been very helpful and informative. There is a desire to continue on with quarterly meetings with the goal being to share best practices, identify solutions, and offer support to each other.

General requests for these meetings were:

- Centrally located at the Everett Public Schools Community Service Center
- During the 10:00am-12:00pm time slot
- Preferably on a Friday
- Before the start of school
- At least a week after major holiday breaks (thanksgiving, winter, spring)

Potential meeting dates: May 6th, August 12th, November 11th, February 10th

Amy Perusse volunteered to set future meetings and agenda.

<p><u>Action Items:</u> Amy Perusse will wrap up by sending out minutes of the meeting, set up the next meeting, send out a contact list for Snohomish Co Liaisons</p>
