



# Williamsburg County School District

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Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Superintendent

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 16, 2024**

## **EDUCATING HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH GRANT AWARDED TO WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Williamsburg County School District's Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Ernestine Young applied for the Educating Homeless Children and Youth grant. The State Department director informed her that the district was awarded \$60,000.00. The funds are divided into a three-year tiered system which will allow WCSD to spend \$20,000 per year to address McKinney-Vento's needs.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures educational rights and protections for children and youths experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program addresses the problems that homeless children and youths have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children, and youths.

*I am excited to announce that our school district has been awarded a generous grant of \$60,000 to support McKinney-Vento children and their families. This funding will be used to provide essential resources, including school supplies, books, clothing, and emotional support services, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed. This grant represents a crucial step in our commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable students and fostering an inclusive, supportive environment where all children can thrive. We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of these young learners. **Dr. Ernestine Young, Deputy Superintendent of Federal Programs and Extended Learning***

The purpose of the SCDE McKinney-Vento competitive subgrant program is to improve the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youths. McKinney-Vento funds can provide activities for and services to homeless children and youths, including preschool-aged homeless children, that enable them to enroll in, attend, and fully participate in school activities to be successful.