



Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center

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Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center
McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program
39105 Bradbury Road
Middleport, Ohio 45760
(740) 992-3883 or (740) 992-4286

February 26, 2015

**RE: Community Connector Grant
Letter of Support**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please let this serve as an unconditional letter of support for the awarding of a multi-county Community Connector Grant to our local applicants to help mentor and guide our youth.

My name is Linda Michael; I hold the title of Local Homeless Education Liaison. My responsibilities and primary goal are to quickly identify, enroll, and connect homeless students with necessary resources and educational services and to assist them in overcoming obstacles prohibiting their educational success. The McKinney-Vento sub grant is utilized through the Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center. The grant is awarded through the Ohio Department of Education.

Identifying homeless students is often a challenge. The collaboration between our school districts and other service providers within our county is very well established, however, some homeless students are still unidentified. This is partially due to lack of awareness of the educational criteria of homelessness and because students and families are reluctant to share such information. With the Community Connector Grant, students will have a more personal contact with mentors and those mentors will be able to refer the students who meet the educational criteria of homeless for additional help. I have worked with children and their families in Meigs County since 1994. I have seen families face a variety of challenges; the Community Connectors Grant would be extremely beneficial in our area and another step in the right direction to help improve the lives of many families. Should you need additional information you may call me at either number listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Michael".

Linda Michael