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← NCSE Researchers Receive Awards from the Council for Exceptional Children (</blogs/research/post/ncse-researchers-receive-awards-from-the-council-for-exceptional-children>)

A New Focus on Arts Education Research → (</blogs/research/post/a-new-focus-on-arts-education-research>)

A New Research Spotlight on Educating Highly Mobile Students (</blogs/research/post/a-new-research-spotlight-on-educating-highly-mobile-students>)

📅 May 3, 2016 👤 Blog Editor (<http://ies.ed.gov/blogs/research/author/blogeditor>) 🏛️ Funding Opportunities (</blogs/research/category/Funding-Opportunities>)

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Across America, schools struggle with addressing the academic and social needs of students who are homeless, in foster care, from migrant backgrounds, or military-dependent. These students typically change residences and/or schools frequently (often multiple times within a given school year) making it difficult for them to succeed academically.

This year, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is shining a research spotlight on improving the education outcomes of highly mobile K-12 students through a new special topic within its Education Research (http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer_progs.asp) grants program. The new Systemic Approaches to Educating Highly Mobile Students (http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer_rfas/special_topics.asp) special topic invites research on:

- support services that reduce barriers that highly mobile students typically face;
- policies that allow highly mobile students to receive credit for full or partial coursework completed while attending their previous schools;
- policies that facilitate the transfer of student records across jurisdictions, and help highly

mobile students navigate standards, course, and graduation requirements that change from state to state;

- policies and programs that address the academic, physical, psychological, and social needs of highly mobile students who may have experienced deprivation or trauma; and
- state and local implementation of services for highly mobile students that are required by federal law or are provided through federally funded programs or interstate agreements.



Through this special topic, IES also encourages studies that create or utilize shared/integrated data systems (such as records exchanges) to identify and track highly mobile students and pinpoint factors that could potentially be used to improve these students' outcomes.

(Dr. Jill Biden, pictured above, mentioned this new special topic area in her remarks (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/04/11/remarks-dr-jill-biden-american-association-education-researchers-annual>) at the American Educational Research Association's annual conference as part of her focus on military families.)

Additional Opportunities for Research on Highly Mobile Students

Researchers who are interested in studying highly mobile pre-K students are invited to apply through to the Early Learning Programs and Policies (http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer_rfas/early_childhood.asp) topic. Similarly, researchers who are interested increasing highly mobile students' access to, persistence in, progress through, and completion of postsecondary education are invited to apply through the Postsecondary and Adult Education Research (http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer_rfas/postsec.asp) topic.

IES also encourages researchers to partner with local school districts or state education agencies to carry out initial research on highly mobile students and develop a plan for future research. This can be done through the Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research topic (http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer_rfas/partnerships.asp).

For more information about funding opportunities for research on highly mobile students, please visit the IES website (http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer_rfas/special_topics.asp) or contact Katina Stapleton (<mailto:Katina.Stapleton@ed.gov>).

For examples of previously funded research on highly mobile students, see Promoting Executive Function to Enhance Learning in Homeless/Highly Mobile Children (<http://ies.ed.gov/ncer/projects/grant.asp?ProgID=5&grantid=1192&InvID=847>), Developing a Model for Delivering School-Based Mentoring to Students in Military Families (<http://ies.ed.gov/ncer/projects/grant.asp?ProgID=76&grantid=1537&InvID=1036>), and Students in Foster Care: The Relationship between Mobility and Educational Outcomes (<http://ies.ed.gov/ncer/projects/grant.asp?ProgID=81&grantid=1674&InvID=1113>).

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Photo of Dr. Biden courtesy of AERA