

Teachers

Support classroom access and success of students experiencing homelessness

Be familiar with common characteristics of children who are homeless, such as attendance at several schools, poor hygiene, gaps in learning, attendance and transportation problems, poor health and nutrition, and a lack of preparedness for class.

Assist other students in being sensitive to stereotypes of homeless people.

Adjust assignments so children not living in permanent settings can complete them. (Such children may not have a place to perform a science experiment or the resources to cut out an article for current events.)

Ensure that the student has every opportunity that a non-homeless student has for after-school activities and in-school programs.

Communicate with the parents about school performance.

Notify CIT/H if the student needs supplies or materials

Connect the child with tutoring and remediation services, if needed.

If you have a snack break, keep a store of snacks for students who don't bring one.

Do not take away possessions. Students may need their "stuff" nearby for security.

Hold the child accountable for what she or he can control (e.g., behavior or attitude) not what is not in the child's control (e.g., inability to watch a news program or purchase a poster board for a project).

When a student enters the class

- Introduce the student to the class.
- Assign a class buddy to assist with routines.
- Review the academic record and closely monitor the educational progress of the student.
- E-mail teacher specialist with concerns or questions

Show that you care about the student!