



Strategies to Help Homeless Students

Attendance Strategies

- Ask the student about his or her interests and needs
- Ensure that his or her school program, including classes and extra-curricular activities, matches these interests and needs
- Provide homeless students with supplies, such as:
 - Alarm clocks
 - Walking partner
- Help youth find quiet, supportive environments in which to study, some options include:
 - providing a study space on-site at the school during afterschool hours
 - providing access to Saturday schools
 - afterschool classes to make up seat time (ASES Programs on campus)
- Develop “success plans” or Student Learning Plans with youth that:
 - Outline goals
 - Specify concrete steps and services needed to reach them
 - Build in accountability for the school and student
- Assign youth consistent peer and adult mentor to provide:
 - Guidance
 - Encouragement
 - Assistance with challenges
- Intervene early when a student is missing a lot of days of school
- Ensure transportation is not a barrier (Contact Homeless Liaison)

Behavior Strategies

- Teachers of highly mobile students should:
 - Create a calm and quiet management style
 - Provide quiet reminders of appropriate behavior such as
 - a hand on a shoulder
 - proximity to the student, or
 - eye contact
 - Create a supportive environment for students
 - Create classroom rules together
 - Manage the classroom effectively by:
 - Organizing to reduce disruption
 - Responding appropriately when disruptions occur
 - Solve behavior problems as a class which creates a climate of trust
 - Provide students with the opportunity to take time out for themselves
 - Have an understanding of their students’ various backgrounds
 - Homeless
 - Migrant
 - Unaccompanied

Academic Strategies

- Teachers of highly mobile students should:
 - Assess and plan for students needs
 - Deliver instruction effectively
 - Assess student learning
 - Plan lessons in such a way that content and skills can be mastered in a short period of time
 - Maintain high expectations through assignments and lessons
 - Expose students to a rigorous curriculum
 - Offer a variety of instructional techniques, such as:
 - direct instruction
 - simulated instruction
 - integrated instruction
 - Integrate technology, whenever possible
 - Offer hands-on activities
 - Use cooperative groups settings
 - Use higher-level questioning strategies

Homework Strategies

- Avoid use of computers and other supplemental materials for homework (unless provided by school)
- Provide homeless students with supplies, such as
 - Portable light
 - Clipboard
 - School supplies