



What Teachers Can Do To Help Homeless Students

- ✎ Make students feel welcome
- ✎ Be aware of the common characteristics of children who are experiencing homelessness.
- ✎ Ensure the homeless child is enrolled in the free and reduced price meal program.
- ✎ Select a student to be their “buddy” on the first day of class.
- ✎ Refer to an on-site tutoring program for educational assistance, if needed and available.
- ✎ Provide an atmosphere that welcomes parents to participate in school activities.
- ✎ Coordinate an educational plan with the school counselor.
- ✎ Ensure that the homeless student has every opportunity that a non-homeless student has for before-school, in-school, and after-school programs.
- ✎ Don't bring special attention to the fact that they are homeless in front of others.
- ✎ Give homeless students a clipboard to take as a portable desk to work on.
- ✎ Offer tools to complete any required task. Supplies may not be readily available for the child.
- ✎ Try to give the child something that he/she can call their own – taking care of a certain plant, class pet, etc.
- ✎ Ensure that homeless children can participate in field trips, school wide activities, and class projects even if they do not have the transportation or necessary fees.
- ✎ Don't use a homeless child's recess or PE time as a make up or detention period. They may not have the space in the shelter or motel to run, jump, play and be a kid.
- ✎ Communicate with parents about the student's school performance.
- ✎ Hold the child accountable for what he/she can control (behavior, attitude, etc.); not for what is not in the child's control (purchase of materials for art, etc.).
- ✎ Assist other students in being sensitive to stereotypes of homeless people.
- ✎ Keep a supply of nutritional snacks in your classroom.
- ✎ Have necessary toiletry items on hand to assure proper hygiene at school.