

DALLAS ISD'S HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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WHEN IS A STUDENT CONSIDERED HOMELESS?

Per the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, students are considered homeless if they lack a **fixed**, **regular**, and **adequate** nighttime residence:

- “Fixed”** | Means stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
- “Regular”** | Means nighttime residence available on a predictable or routine basis.
- “Adequate”** | Means the residence is sufficient for both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environment, including adequate and quiet space for studying.

WHEN IS A STUDENT CONSIDERED HOMELESS?

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act indicates the following nighttime residences are considered a homeless nighttime residence:

- Doubled Up**-Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, incarceration of parent/guardian, or similar reasons.
- Hotel/Motel**-Living in motels/hotels/extended stay hotels.
- Emergency Shelters/Transitional Living**: Living in emergency or transitional shelters;.
- Unsheltered**: Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, campgrounds, substandard housing, etc.

RIGHTS

If a student and/or a parent is staying temporarily with someone else because they lost their housing, or staying in a motel, campground, shelter, or in an outside or inadequate place, the student and/or parent have special rights at school.

These include:

- Keeping their children in the same school even if they move, and receiving transportation to that school, as long as it is in the student's best interest
- Enrolling in school immediately without the documents schools usually required
- Receiving free school meals
- Getting help with school supplies and other needs
- Receiving extra support for youth who are on their own
- Connecting young children with early childhood services



WHAT DOES HEP OFFER?

The Homeless Education Program:

- ❑ Assist with enrollment advocacy, school transportation, school uniforms and school supplies.
- ❑ Assist with transportation for out of district students that want to stay at their school of origin (work with 22 surrounding school districts).
- ❑ Provide emergency food and hygiene items.
- ❑ Offer referrals to additional resources for food, housing, and other specific needs.
- ❑ Provide referrals to counseling and medical services as needed.
- ❑ Serve as liaison between campus staff and central staff to ensure students are receiving all supports, especially at the high school level to ensure their graduation.
- ❑ Assistance in crisis situations with parents/students/community (Hurricane Harvey, Highland Hills Apartments explosion, apartment fires, etc.)



THE NUMBERS FOR HEP

The 2022-2023 school year ended with a total of **4,354** students being coded as homeless.

As of Tuesday March 5th, we are currently at **4,282** students as homeless and we still have another 3 months of school. A breakdown of the number indicates that **3,112** students are doubled-up, **651** are in shelters/transitional housing, **435** are living in motels, and **79** are unsheltered.

In working with our families, the comments from them have been that a lack of affordable housing has caused them to seek refuge with friends/family members or try to move into hotels/extended stay hotels.

We have several shelters in Dallas, but the loss of Family Gateway downtown and Promise House has really hurt our families and students this year. Currently, there is no where to take a 17-year-old if they have no where to go. CPS will not engage with them, and they are too young for the adult shelters. They are our homeless students that are slipping through the cracks unless we step in and try to provide some fairly intensive case management for those students. We have been able to do that this year as we have an extra 16 specialists through COVID funding. Next year, we will be back down to a team of 4.

HOW CAN THIS COMMITTEE SUPPORT OUR WORK?

Our Everyday Needs:

Hygiene Items: soap, 3-in-1 (shampoo, conditioner, body wash), feminine hygiene, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair care for natural hair, washcloths, teen face wash, deodorant, teen body sprays, lip balm, smaller sized hand sanitizer, body wipes, 2-in-1 shampoo/conditioner

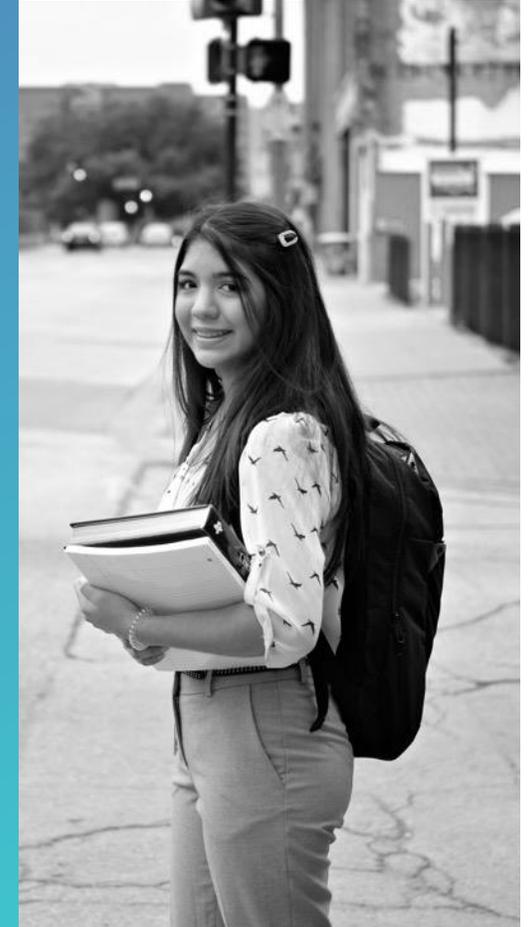
Shelf Stable Food: granola bars, single serving microwavable meals, Vienna sausages, tuna(cans and kits), peanut butter/cheese crackers, snack packs of cookies/chips etc., ramen, beef jerky, fruit gummies/rollups, dried fruit, trail mix, etc.

Our Big Dreams:

Crisis/Weekend Support: a place we could call for students that need a place to go on a Friday afternoon when there is no place to send them

Drop In Center: a drop in center that is open 24/7 to students for meals, assistance, a place to rest, a way to get off the streets during times when they would be most susceptible to trafficking, etc.

November Homeless Youth Awareness Month: collaboration with the Partnership to promote the November campaign to increase awareness throughout the DFW area





THANK YOU

Questions?