



STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

PRESENTED BY:

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ILLINOIS CENTER FOR SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT



Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support,
Illinois State University, College of Education

- creates, supports, and delivers professional development for career and technical education professionals across Illinois
- provides technical assistance, develops publications, and facilitates program improvement strategies for our partners
- strong focus on transition, recruitment, retention, and completion—encouraging achievement of special populations learners
- founded in 1977 at Illinois State University

AGENDA



Define



Informing and
Recruiting



Supports and
Services



Discussion
and Questions



Additional
Resources

PERKINS V DEFINES HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AS...

- McKinney – Vento Homeless Assistance Act, section 725
 - An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
 - This definition includes –
 - children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
 - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
 - living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
 - children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation
 - children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
 - migratory children (such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965)
- The Act also defines unaccompanied youth as “a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.”

INFORMING & RECRUITING FOR CTE

- Designate a single point of contact to take lead on all things related to assisting students experiencing homelessness
- Give students a chance to explore their interests and aptitudes using computerized career information software
- Inform students about the different career options within CTE and how they can get started during high school
 - partner with your local high school or community college for “CTE Exploration Days”
 - emphasize potential earnings and timelines for completion



INFORMING & RECRUITING FOR CTE

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- Identify and build relationships with community agencies that can help identify and assist homeless youth
 - Offer assistance with admission, registration, and financial aid for students who may have increased difficulty navigating the enrollment process
 - School districts should consider developing policies that support the enrollment of unaccompanied youth, including who is able to provide consent and sign for issues and extracurricular activities

SUPPORTS & SERVICES FOR STUDENTS



- Provide training for staff on federal resources available to students experiencing homelessness
- Identify and build relationships with community agencies that can help identify and assist homeless youth
- Offer counseling or academic advising services several times per semester
 - track student performance
 - provide opportunities for career assessments
 - assist in goal planning and a tailored graduation plan
 - provide academic intervention

SUPPORTS & SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

- Provide flexibility with school assignments, including deadlines and needed supplies
- Allow for flexibility in course scheduling as students may be balancing classes, employment, and parenting responsibilities
- Allow students access to school shower and laundry facilities
- Provide students with a secure place to store personal belongings
- Establish a food bank on campus or within the community

PROMOTING SUPPORT SERVICES

- Inform all students and their families about rights and services available under the McKinney-Vento Act
 - homeless status is self-disclosed
 - inform all students of available services in a nonjudgmental setting
- Post marketing materials about available support services in common areas across campus, in schools, and throughout the community
- Avoid using the word “homeless” in promoting services
 - use alternative wording such as “in a temporary living arrangement”
 - describe the different living arrangements that qualify as homeless



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QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

SPECIAL POPULATION WEBINAR SERIES

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- Student with Parents in the Military
 - Thursday, November 19th at 2:30 PM
 - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3216181872962382094>
 - Foster Care Involved Students
 - Wednesday, December 2nd at 2:30 PM
 - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2418104656496689934>
 - Economically Disadvantaged Students
 - Tuesday, December 15th at 2:30 PM
 - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3924680777642926862>

Special Populations Super Strategies:

<https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/special-populations/76-super-strategies>



Recruitment, Engagement, and Retention Webinar Series:

<https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/adult-education>



Universal Design For Learning Webinar Series:

<https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/universal-design-learning/2-home/68-universal-design-learning-series>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

