

Providing for Basic Needs

Audience: School personnel

Purpose: Participants learn what the basic needs of homeless students are and how to ensure that students get what they need.

Preparation: Make a copy of the worksheet on page 70 for each participant.

Equipment and Materials:

Worksheets

Large writing surface the whole group can see, marker or chalk

Procedure:

1. Individually or in small groups, have participants complete the worksheet.
2. Facilitate a discussion about participants' ratings. List basic needs that are not well met by your school.
3. Conclude by having participants consider what improvements the school could make. Discuss also whether other organizations are meeting any of these needs, and what the school could do in working with other organizations to better meet homeless students' needs.

Time: Approximately 30 minutes



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Ask yourself: How well does your school take care of the basic needs of students experiencing homelessness? Circle a response rating your school's performance.

Personal Hygiene			
Soap and shampoo	Poor	Moderate	Good
Showering	Poor	Moderate	Good
Laundering clothes	Poor	Moderate	Good
Dealing with head lice	Poor	Moderate	Good
Clothing			
Everyday wear	Poor	Moderate	Good
Uniforms	Poor	Moderate	Good
Seasonal clothing	Poor	Moderate	Good
Special event clothing	Poor	Moderate	Good
School Supplies			
Backpack	Poor	Moderate	Good
Pencils, pens, erasers, markers	Poor	Moderate	Good
Clipboard for doing homework without a desk or table	Poor	Moderate	Good
Portable battery-operated light	Poor	Moderate	Good
Art supplies	Poor	Moderate	Good
Reading materials	Poor	Moderate	Good
Materials to complete all homework assignments	Poor	Moderate	Good
Field trip and special event funds	Poor	Moderate	Good
Food			
Breakfast, lunch, or snacks	Poor	Moderate	Good
Transportation			
School bus service	Poor	Moderate	Good
Tokens, passes, or vouchers	Poor	Moderate	Good
Referrals			
Medical practitioner	Poor	Moderate	Good
Dentist	Poor	Moderate	Good
Social service provider	Poor	Moderate	Good
Mental health professional	Poor	Moderate	Good