

Why do students in homeless situations need extra support?

▶ Within a single year, 97% of homeless children move, many up to three times (National Center for Family Homelessness). With each change in schools, a student is **set back academically by an average of four to six months** (Rogers 1991).

▶ 75% of runaway and homeless youth have **dropped out or will drop out of school** (National Network for Runaway and Homeless Youth).

▶ Across the country, one in five homeless school-aged children **repeats a grade in school**, twice the national rate for all children (Homes for the Homeless and The Institute for Children and Poverty).

▶ Compared with housed children, children who are homeless experience **more developmental delays, anxiety, depression, and behavioral problems, and lower academic achievement** (Shinn and Weitzmann 1996).

▶ Children without a home are in **fair or poor health twice as often** as other children, and have **higher rates of asthma, ear infections, stomach problems, and speech problems** (Better Homes Fund 1999).



Items of Need

School Supplies

- ▶ Backpacks
- ▶ Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- ▶ Pencil sharpeners, small scissors
- ▶ Pencil boxes or bags

Other Needs

- ▶ Gift cards to Meijer, Target, Kroger
- ▶ New pairs of socks for all ages.
- ▶ New packages of underwear, particularly boxers for boys and teens.
- ▶ Hats, mittens, gloves, winter coats.
- ▶ Travel-size toiletries, including shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap, toothpaste and toothbrush.
- ▶ Healthy, nonperishable snacks such as granola bars, ramen, raisins, crackers

**Donations dropped off at
EPHY's office at the WISD:
1819 S. Wagner Road, Ann Arbor**

Note: EPHY is tax-exempt.



Mission:
**To ensure children and youth
experiencing homelessness
in Washtenaw County
enroll, regularly attend
and succeed in school.**

*EPHY is a project of the
Washtenaw Intermediate School District*

Kristin Duff, MSW
Program Manager

1819 S. Wagner Road
P.O. Box 1406
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
(734) 994-8100, x1518
Fax: (734) 994-2203

Email: kduff@wash.k12.mi.us

www.wash.k12.mi.us/students/ephy.cfm



Support and advocacy for students who are homeless in Washtenaw County

EPHY is a project of the Washtenaw Intermediate School District that works to ensure students experiencing homelessness or temporary living situations enroll, regularly attend and succeed in school.

We work with all 10 school districts and nine public school academies in the county to supplement services.

We are funded primarily through the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in January of 2002. The Act guarantees that students who are homeless have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to others.

Who qualifies for services?

The federal McKinney-Vento Act considers individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence as homeless. This includes students living in the following situations:

- ▶ Emergency shelters or transitional housing.
- ▶ Motels or hotels.
- ▶ Cars, parks or public spaces.
- ▶ Shared housing due to a loss of housing or economic hardship.
- ▶ Foster care placements less than 6 mo.

EPHY SERVICES

Advocacy

- ▶ Assist with school enrollment or transportation difficulties.
- ▶ Offer advocacy, technical support and guidance in matters involving homeless students, special education, school discipline and academic difficulties.
- ▶ Promote needs and rights of students experiencing homelessness within community.

Transportation

- ▶ Coordinate school transportation and provide funding for stop-gap transportation, based on availability.
- ▶ Broker creative solutions to transportation challenges such as rides to and from after-school tutoring and parent-teacher conferences.

School Supplies

- ▶ Distribute school supplies, including backpacks, binders, notebooks, folders, pens, pencils and calculators.
- ▶ Provide books through donated materials.

Financial Assistance

- ▶ Assist students with emergency school-related financial needs that cannot be met in other ways, such as fees for graduation, field trips, school photos, and summer school courses.

Academic Assistance

- ▶ EPHY helps arrange and fund correspondence classes that allow teens to graduate on time.
- ▶ EPHY sets up tutoring in partnership with the schools.

Case Management

- ▶ EPHY coordinates and monitors multiple services to meet the complex needs of unaccompanied youth and students experiencing chronic truancy or homelessness.

Early Childhood

- ▶ EPHY partners with the Child Care Network to connect families with quality, licensed childcare.
- ▶ EPHY partners with AAPS Rec and Ed to provide free before- and after-school care to qualifying students.
- ▶ Connect families of children ages 0-5 to a parent educator, who conducts home visits and shares books and resources.

Housing Crisis

- ▶ Help families access emergency assistance.
- ▶ Provide listings of housing options.

Clothing

- ▶ Collect donations of hats, mittens and gloves, underwear and socks to meet student needs.
- ▶ Make referrals for free clothing to a variety of community thrift shops and work creatively to meet clothing needs.

Post-Secondary Assistance

- ▶ Help teens, particularly unaccompanied youth, fill out federal financial aid forms and college applications.
- ▶ Help arrange job shadowing opportunities and other ways for teens to explore career interests.
- ▶ Help monitor academic progress and develop graduation plans.

Other Referrals

- ▶ EPHY makes referrals to meet an array of associated needs, including medical, counseling, emergency food and personal items.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

➡ Can a student who is homeless be enrolled without records?

📌 Yes. In fact, the law requires IMMEDIATE enrollment. Schools CANNOT require proof of residency, immunization or student records for enrollment of students who are homeless.

➡ When a family moves to a homeless situation out of district must they change schools?

📌 No. Individual determinations are made based on parents' wishes, length of commute and student's age. Students have the right to receive transportation to the school they last attended if it is determined this is where they should attend.

Please see www.serve.org/nche for more assistance.