



## A House is Not a Home: Students From Non-Traditional Families

**Course Description:** The concept of family has changed dramatically over the last few decades. The “traditional” model—that being one which includes a father, mother, and children—is slowly decreasing in numbers to a growing number of single-parent families, cohabiting parents, families of divorced parents, and same-sex families. While it is generally presumed that families live in single-family homes, there are number of families experiencing homelessness and undocumented status in the county. As educators are responsible for the wellbeing of all students in their classrooms, schools need to ensure that they are providing the necessary supports for students who do not fall under the definition of a “traditional family.”

This purpose of this course is to address the social, emotional, and academic barriers affecting students from nontraditional families. Participants will first analyze the privileges associated with growing up in a traditional family and understand the growing demographics of nontraditional families. Participants will then explore resources describing the experiences of students in nontraditional family situations, including adoption, foster care, divorce, homelessness, living with relatives, undocumented parents, and same-sex parents.

### **Clock Hours / Continuing Education Units: 5**

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Understand the privileges associated with children who live in “traditional” family settings
- Analyze the emotional, social, and academic barriers affecting students who are in foster care, have been adopted, have divorced parents, experience homelessness, and live with relatives
- Describe the unique barriers affecting children of undocumented parents and same-sex parents

**Course Requirements:** To receive full credit for the course, participants must complete ALL assignments. Failure to complete all assignments will result in a non-passing grade

#### **Getting Started:**

- After registering for the course, you will be sent an email with the website address, password and course key you need to access your online course, along with login instructions.
- Access each assignment through the course home page. All assignments will be submitted through the Moodle platform on each respective assignment page.
- Please save a backup copy of all course assignments and completed work.

#### **Course Outline:**

Lesson Number	Lesson Description	Clock Hours
<b>1</b>	<b>Introductions and Overview:</b> Take the time to get to know the class layout, read over the Help section, and review any other materials present in the class to get started. Take your time!	0.2 hours
<b>2</b>	<b>What Is Family?</b> – Participant will reflect on the idea of family and the privileges afforded to families who fit in the “traditional” model	0.6 hours
<b>3</b>	<b>Students in Adopted Families</b> – Participants will reflect on the educational and social barriers that exist when students are adopted or are in the midst of adoption through multiple articles and online resources.	0.6 hours

<b>4</b>	<b>Students and Foster Care</b> – Participants will analyze how students in the foster care system experience difficulties in the classroom. They will also review resources on how to best support foster students.	<b>0.6 hours</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Students with Divorced Parents</b> – Participants will analyze the emotional and social ramifications of students who live with divorced parents. Participants will examine first-hand accounts of how this affects their academic performance.	<b>0.6 hours</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Students in Single-Parent Homes</b> – Different from families with divorced parents, participants will read multiple articles on the barriers affecting families with one parent.	<b>0.6 hours</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Students Experiencing Homelessness</b> – Participants will analyze the accounts of families who experience homelessness and the effects that can have on youth.	<b>0.6 hours</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Students from Undocumented Families</b> – Participants will learn about the unique challenges of undocumented families and the work schools do to advocate for these children.	<b>0.6 hours</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Students with Same-Sex Parents</b> – Participants will learn about the barriers affecting children who have parents of the same gender.	<b>0.6 hours</b>
	<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>5 Hours</b>

**Student Requirements and Assessment:** No outside materials will be required for the completion of this course. Participants will be required to complete a series of electronic quizzes to assess their understanding. Participants can earn up to 40 points total for the course. Each quiz may be taken up to three times, with the highest score recorded in the final grade. All quizzes must be completed in order to earn credit.

**Grading Scale:**

100-80% (32-40)	Pass
79%-Below (<32 points)	No Pass

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** If you are a student with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations for this class, please email [academy@iowasafeschools.org](mailto:academy@iowasafeschools.org) or call 515.381.0588.

**Professional Development:** Prior to purchasing a course registration, it is your responsibility to ensure that National Safe Schools Convening Online Academy coursework satisfies the license renewal requirements for your state and/or district.