



Supporting Homeless Students in School

Course Description: Homelessness is a hidden problem in our schools and communities. While many know it is a problem, many educators are unaware of students who are homeless and what to do when a student discloses this. Students and families may be homeless due to a variety of reasons including disasters such as fire or flood, eviction due to financial hardship, or students may be kicked out of their homes. This course will provide an in-depth look at the problem of homelessness and provide educators an opportunity to explore a school’s responsibility.

Clock Hours / Continuing Education Units: 5

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, participants will be able to do the following.

- Understand definition of homelessness
- Gain knowledge about resources including information about homeless youth and services in their communities
- Consider how to more effectively work with homeless youth and their families

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 Canvas platform on each respective assignment page.
- Save a backup copy of all course assignments and completed work.

Course Outline:

| Lesson Number | Lesson Description | Clock Hours |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Introductions and Overview: 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 |
| 2 | Definitions: Participants will learn the variety of terminology used when referring to homeless youth populations. | 0.6 hours |
| 3 | Homeless Youth Statistics: Participants will watch a webinar looking at current numbers of homeless youth and analyze the breakdown of populations on who is homeless. Data from the National Alliance to End Homelessness will be examined. | 0.6 hours |
| 4 | Snapshot of Experiences: Participants will review a series of experiences of homeless youth and families who are homeless. Participants will actively reflect on what they viewed and read. | 0.6 hours |
| 5 | Unaccompanied Youth: Participants will learn about unaccompanied youth and the legal responsibilities around this population, including a brief from the National Center for Homeless Education. | 0.6 hours |
| 6 | LGBTQ Youth Homelessness: Participants will dive deeper into the issue of LGBTQ youth homelessness. This lesson will analyze how LGBTQ are often removed from homes and the responsibilities of schools in these situations. | 0.6 hours |
| 7 | Natural Disasters: Participants will look at several case studies on families who are homeless due to disasters and identify resources available to families after becoming homeless due to a variety of natural disasters including those caused by climate change. | 0.6 hours |

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| 8 | Cycle of Poverty: Participants will discuss the issue of poverty and how living paycheck to paycheck for families puts them at risk for homelessness. The entire Cycle of Poverty will be analyzed. | 0.6 hours |
| 9 | School Responsibilities: Participants will review legal requirements of schools to assist homeless youth, including the McKinney-Vento Act. Participants will reflect on how they, as educators, can provide supports in their schools and communities. | 0.6 hours |
| | TOTAL | 5 hours |

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:

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|------------------------|---------|
| 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 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.