School Counselor Supports for College Preparation and Readiness for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Welcome!
We’ll begin at 3 PM ET.
Recording…
School Counselor Supports for College Preparation and Readiness for Students Experiencing Homelessness

National Center for Homeless Education
American School Counselor Association
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Your Presenters

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About NCHE

NCHE is the U.S. Department of Education’s technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program.

- Website: [http://nche.ed.gov](http://nche.ed.gov)
- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)
- Products: [https://nche.ed.gov/resources/](https://nche.ed.gov/resources/)
- Webinars: [https://nche.ed.gov/group-training/](https://nche.ed.gov/group-training/)
- Listserv: [https://nche.ed.gov/resources/](https://nche.ed.gov/resources/) (click *Listserv* tab)
- Twitter: [@NCHEducation](https://twitter.com/NCHEducation) | Facebook: [facebook.com/NCHEducation](https://facebook.com/NCHEducation)
ASCA Vision

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is the foundation that expands the image and influence of school counselors through advocacy, leadership, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA empowers school counselors with the knowledge, skills, linkages and resources to promote student success in the school, the home, the community and the world.

ASCA Mission

The mission of ASCA is to represent school counselors and to promote professionalism and ethical practices.

Quick Facts:

Established: 1952
Membership: 41,000

Contact Us!
Website: www.schoolcounselor.org
Email: asca@schoolcounselor.org
Twitter: @ASCATweets

ASCA Work

- Professional Development
- National Recognition Programs
- Collaboration with Other Educational Support Associations
- Advocacy for the Profession
Introductions

Please share your name, organization, pronouns (he, she, they; if you’d like), and geographic location in the chat.
Icebreaker!

Please share in the chat...

Which superpower would you like to have?

(multiple responses allowed; feel free to explain your response)

A  Invisibility
B  Teleportation
C  Mind Reading
D  Flying
E  Already Have One!
Where We’re Headed

• The importance of education
• The role of school counselors in supporting college preparation and readiness for students experiencing homelessness
• ASCA’s work in support of students experiencing homelessness
• A school counselor perspective
• ASCA and NCHE resources

• Q&A and discussion throughout – let’s keep things interesting!
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The Importance of Education
“The Education Premium”

- People with higher levels of education
  - Have higher levels of income
  - Are more likely to have access to employer-provided benefits
  - Are more likely to move up the socioeconomic ladder
  - Are less likely to be unemployed
  - Are less likely to be receiving public benefits

- The education premium holds true across gender, race, and ethnicity, but inequities still exist

Sources included in slide notes
Homelessness and Education: A Bidirectional Relationship

Supporting young people’s housing stability makes it easier for them to stay in school and focus on their educational success.

Helping young people with educational opportunities increases long-term income and safety nets needed to exit homelessness for good.

Identifying and addressing common underlying risk factors can help prevent both homelessness and school dropout.

Source: Chapin Hall, *Missed Opportunities: Education Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America*
Educational Barriers

• While we know that education is important, we also know that students experiencing homelessness face many barriers applying to, paying for, and completing postsecondary education.

• **Share in the chat:** What barriers and challenges might students experiencing homelessness face?

• School counselors can support these students with college preparation and readiness to help address these barriers and pave the way to postsecondary education success.

Under-represented students reported their school counselor as being the most influential intervention in their postsecondary planning.

*Source: Are School Counselors Impacting Underrepresented Students' Thinking about Postsecondary Education? A Nationally Representative Study*
Questions?
The Role of School Counselors
The Role of the School Counselor

- School counselors are certified/licensed educators who improve student success for all students by implementing a comprehensive school counseling program

- School counselors help students
  - Apply academic achievement strategies
  - Manage emotions and apply interpersonal skills
  - Plan for postsecondary options (higher education, military, work force)

Source: The Role of the School Counselor
“[T]he local liaison, along with guidance counselors and other [local educational agency] staff tasked with college preparation, should ensure that all homeless high school students receive information and individualized counseling regarding college readiness, college selection, the application process, financial aid, and the availability of on-campus supports.”

U.S. Department of Education
Educational for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance, p. 51
School Counselor Supports

School counselors can support students experiencing homelessness by

• Collaborating with the local homeless education liaison
• Supporting students with credit recovery options
• Providing students with waivers for entrance exams and applications fees
• Exposing students to local postsecondary institutions
• Helping students select a postsecondary institution that is a good fit for each student’s needs
• Providing information on sources of financial aid
**Partnering in Support of Students**

1. **School counselors can partner with the local homeless liaison to help students access documentation that may be needed to apply for college, financial aid, and scholarships.**

2. **School counselors can partner with special education staff to ensure that homeless students with special education needs are supported in an intentional way.**

3. **School counselors can partner with parents/guardians/caregivers to help them know what to expect from the postsecondary environment and feel equipped to support the educational goals of their children.**
School counselors can partner with postsecondary institutions to provide a warm handoff to on-campus support services, including Single Points of Contact (SPOCs).

School counselors can partner with Federal GEAR UP and TRIO programs that provide supportive services as students move through the academic pipeline.

School counselors, local liaisons, and other education and community partners may wish to connect with and leverage national organizations to support college preparation and readiness.
Questions?
ASCA’s Work in Support of Students Experiencing Homelessness
The Work of ASCA

• How does the ASCA support school counselors in their work providing college prep and readiness to students experiencing homelessness?

• Does the ASCA work with other national organizations to support school counselors work in supporting college prep and readiness for homeless youth?

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School Counselor Perspective
1. What is your experience in providing college preparation and readiness supports to students experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied homeless youth?

2. Who have you developed partnerships with to help support your work in providing college preparation and readiness supports to these students?

3. How have those partnerships helped to expand your capacity to do this work?

4. What suggestions do you have for other people looking to develop similar partnerships?

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Questions?
Group Discussion Questions

Please share in the chat:

1. Based on your work, what college preparation and readiness challenges or barriers do you see these students experiencing homelessness facing?

2. In supporting students, what has worked for you in helping to address those challenges or barriers?

3. What challenges or barriers have you faced when providing college preparation and readiness supports to students experiencing homelessness?
In Summary

Postsecondary education attainment can play an important role in preventing and ending youth and family homelessness.

School counselors can play an important role in providing the individualized supports that students experiencing homelessness may need to prepare for and transition successfully to postsecondary education.
For More Information

• NCHE resources:
  • *Education Goals and Supports: A Guided Discussion Tool*
  • *Scholarships for Higher Education*
  • *Credit Accrual*

• ASCA resources:
  • *The School Counselor and Children Experiencing Homelessness*
  • *The School Counselor and Individual Student Planning for Postsecondary Preparation*
  • *The School Counselor and School-Family-Community Partnerships*
Thank You!

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