



February Newsletter 2019

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Supporting College Transition for Homeless Youth



This week, the John Burton Advocates for Youth, a statewide organization that works to improve the quality of life for California's foster, former foster and homeless youth, released their free, online training modules for school staff on how to support K-12 students who are experiencing homelessness. This training is approved by the California Department of Education to satisfy the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirement for schools to provide personnel with professional development opportunities to learn about how best to support students experiencing homelessness.

Resources



What College Costs for Low-Income Californians

With CHYP’s focus on higher education for transition age youth experiencing homelessness, this brief on the *actual* cost of attending college in California published by The Institute for College Access & Success gives the reader a more accurate view of what “college affordability” really means. For instance, community colleges with visibly lower tuition than nearby public universities actually end up having a higher net costs for low-income students. These findings recognize that the primary costs of education include housing, healthcare, food, transportation and books—and not solely tuition. This also indicates just how important ongoing support provided by college homeless liaisons is for youth who already face so many challenges to stability.



Implementing Change: School Personnel's Role in Addressing the Intersection of Homelessness and Juvenile Justice

This past spring, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice released a brief explaining the nature of students who become involved in the juvenile justice system because of the challenges they face while experiencing homelessness and, conversely, the ways in which being caught up in the juvenile justice system can directly contribute to homelessness. To help prevent schools from contributing to the juvenile justice system, this brief includes solution-focused recommendations for school administrators, educators and other school staff. Recommendations include connecting students to services, reviewing discipline policies and making sure alternative education such as homeschooling remains connected to the school.



Getting Help Fast for Disabled, Homeless Students Isn't Easy

This article featured on Education Week's website shines a light on the often ignored yet critical intersection of K-12 students who are disabled and simultaneously experiencing homelessness. In focusing on this phenomenon, it has been difficult to find current research that addresses the impact on youth who experience both a disability and homelessness. This short article features a quick breakdown of the federal laws that are in place to support students with disabilities as well as the McKinney-Vento Act which supports students experiencing homelessness.