

Viewpoints

Thoughtful Approach to Educating Children Impacted By Homelessness



Educating homeless students requires a comprehensive and empathetic approach that addresses the unique challenges these students face. Thought leaders in education must advocate for policies that ensure stability and access to essential resources for homeless students. This includes securing transportation to and from school, providing access to nutritious meals, and ensuring a safe and stable learning environment. Schools should establish dedicated support teams, including social workers, counselors, and liaisons, to assist homeless students in navigating the educational system and accessing necessary services. By integrating trauma-informed practices and offering personalized academic support, educators can help mitigate the adverse effects of homelessness on students' academic performance and emotional well-being.

Furthermore, fostering a culture of inclusivity and sensitivity within schools is vital for supporting homeless students. Educators and administrators must be trained to recognize the signs of homelessness and understand the specific needs and circumstances of these students. Partnerships with community organizations and local shelters can provide additional layers of support, offering resources such as tutoring,

clothing, and school supplies. Thought leaders must push for legislative changes that protect the educational rights of homeless students and allocate sufficient funding to programs that support them. By championing these efforts, educators can create an equitable learning environment that empowers homeless students to overcome their challenges and succeed academically and personally.

Youth homelessness has become such an issue that many local schools have boosted services for both kids and families, including public institutions like Perkins K-8 in Barrio Logan and the nearby Monarch School, which exclusively serves unhoused students.

Part of Father Joe's program is textbook preschool. There are Goldfish snacks and field trips to the Del Mar Fair. One parent, Somaye Jafari, who's originally from Afghanistan, said she loved finding her son lost in a book whenever she picked him up.

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