

Florida PTA Proposed Resolution

Supporting Florida's Homeless Students

Submitted by:

Pinellas County Council PTA

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Supporting Florida's Homeless Students

1 WHEREAS Families with children are the fastest growing homeless population, and

2 WHEREAS Since 2007, the Florida Department of Education has seen a dramatic increase in homeless and unstably housed students, and

3 WHEREAS Homeless children have much higher rates of emotional, behavioral, nutritional and other health problems compared to children who have a permanent home, and

4 WHEREAS High mobility, poverty, and other family stresses associated with homelessness create unique educational barriers that negatively impact learning, and

5 WHEREAS The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires schools to remove any barriers that limit the ability of a student experiencing homelessness to enroll, attend, and succeed in school; however, funding allocations have not increased at rates that correspond to the growing need, now therefore be it

RESOLVED That Florida PTA and its constituent associations educate their communities about of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act which is designed to aid in the education of homeless children by providing comprehensive services necessary to guarantee equal educational opportunities; and be it further,

RESOLVED That Florida PTA and its constituent associations urge policymakers to implement and full fund the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act provisions in all Florida school districts, and be it further,

RESOLVED That Florida PTA and its constituent associations urge policymakers to establish an ample funding allocation for the Title I-set-aside for Title X, which is a funding source used to support the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Background Summary

The number of Florida students who are considered homeless has doubled since 2007 and families with children are the fastest-growing segment of homeless people. Last school year, thousands more children were found living in hotels or shelters or crammed into homes with other families or neighbors.

Homelessness has a devastating effect on a student's mental and physical health, nutritional intake, and academic achievement. High mobility, trauma, and poverty associated with homelessness create unique educational barriers and challenges that permanently housed students may not face.

Homelessness is a multifaceted problem requiring comprehensive solutions. Unfortunately, during a time when the federal government should be increasing funding for homeless programs to keep pace with the increased numbers of homeless children and families, funding for these programs has been held level or cut.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is designed to ensure that children experiencing homelessness have access to the same free, appropriate public education and related services as their permanently housed peers. The Act requires State and Local Educational Agencies to remove any barriers that may limit the ability of a homeless student to enroll, attend and succeed in school. This critical act also emphasizes collaboration with other support service agencies and encourages parent participation as critical to the educational success of homeless students. It's imperative that the policy makers establish adequate funding allocations to support Florida's homeless students in accordance with the McKinney -Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Solutions like these have the potential to significantly improve the academic outcomes of students experiencing homelessness.

Resource List

1. Council on Homelessness, 2013 Report. Pg. ii,17.
<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2013CouncilReport.pdf>
2. Paquette, Kristen, and Bassuk, Ellen L. "Parenting and Homelessness: Overview and Introduction to the Special Section." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, Vol 79(3), Jul 2009: pg. 292, 294-5. <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/ResourceFiles/5r0at5l3.pdf>
3. "Supporting Homeless Young Children and Their Parents", Strengthening At Risk and Homeless Young Mothers and Children, The National Center on Family Homelessness, March 2012: Pg. 1. <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/327.pdf>
4. Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Federal Educational Program Homeless Students Identified in Florida 2008-2009 through 2012-2013. November 2013. <http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/pdf/HomelessEducationTrendData.pdf>
5. Bassuk, MD, Ellen L., Murphy, Christina, Thompson Coupe, Natalie, Kenney, Rachael R., and Beach, Corey Anne, "State Report Card On Child Homelessness, America's Youngest Outcasts 2010, The National Center on Family Homelessness". Pg. 10, 34,76.
http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/media/NCFH_AmericaOutcast2010_web_032812.pdf
6. The National Center on Family Homelessness, "The Characteristics and Needs of Families Experiencing Homelessness". Updated December 2011: Pg. 4-5.
<http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/306.pdf>
7. National Center for Homeless Education, "McKinney-Vento Law Into Practice Brief Series. Serving Students Experiencing Homelessness under Title I, Part A", Fall 2012, pg. 2-3. <http://ftp.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/titlei.pdf>
8. Aratani, Yumiko, "Homeless Children and Youth Causes and Consequences", *National Center for Children in Poverty*, September 2009. Pg. 7.
http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_888.pdf
9. "Guidance, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Using Title I, Part A ARRA Funds for Grants to Local Educational Agencies to Strengthen Education, Drive Reform, and Improve Results for Students", U.S. Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, September 2, 2009.
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/titlei-reform.pdf>
10. "Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as Amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 Non-Regulatory Guidance" United States Department of Education, Washington, DC, July 2004.
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.pdf>
11. "Funds for State Formula-Allocated and Selected Student Aid Programs, Index to State Tables", U. S. Department of Education.
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/history/index.html>
12. "Title X, Part C - Education of Homeless Children and Youth 2009-2010 to 2013-2014", Florida Department of Education Bureau of Federal Educational Programs.



Allocation Table-Trend Data-05-06 to 13-14-Final (1).pdf

Background Materials

Whereas 1

1 WHEREAS Families with children are the fastest growing homeless population, and

1. Council on Homelessness, 2013 Report
<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2013CouncilReport.pdf> pg ii.

Nationally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports homelessness amongst families with children as the fastest growing homeless population.

2. Paquette, Kristen, and Bassuk, Ellen L. "Parenting and Homelessness: Overview and Introduction to the Special Section", *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, Vol 79(3), Jul 2009, pg. 292. <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/ResourceFiles/5r0at513.pdf>

Families comprise the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population, now accounting for more than one-third of the overall group (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD], 2009).

3. "Supporting Homeless Young Children and Their Parents", Strengthening At Risk and Homeless Young Mothers and Children, The National Center on Family Homelessness, March 2012: Pg. 1.
<http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/327.pdf>

Families with young children are among the fastest growing groups in the United States affected by homelessness. One in 45 children in the U.S. experience homelessness each year, and 42% of these are under age 6. In the wake of the United States' economic recession families with children account at for least 34% of the homeless population, and are its fastest growing segment.

Whereas 2

2 WHEREAS Since 2007, the Florida Department of Education has seen a dramatic increase in homeless and unstably housed students, and

1. Council on Homelessness, 2013 Report
<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2013CouncilReport.pdf>
Pg. 17.

Homeless Students Reported in Florida Public Schools

School

Year

Homeless

Students Change

2007 - 2008 34,375 +11%

2008 - 2009 41,286 +20%

2009 - 2010 49,112 +19%

2010 - 2011 56,680 +15%

2011 - 2012 63,685 +12%

4. Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Federal Educational Program
Homeless Students Identified in Florida 2008-2009 through 2012-2013. November 2013. <http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/pdf/HomelessEducationTrendData.pdf>
5. Bassuk, MD, Ellen L., Murphy, Christina, Thompson Coupe, Natalie, Kenney, Rachael R., and Beach, Corey Anne, "State Report Card On Child Homelessness, America's Youngest Outcasts 2010, The National Center on Family Homelessness".
Pg. 34.
http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/media/NCFH_AmericaOutcast2010_web_032812.pdf

Whereas 3

3 WHEREAS Homeless children have much higher rates of emotional, behavioral, nutritional and other health problems compared to children who have a permanent home, and

6. The National Center on Family Homelessness, "The Characteristics and Needs of Families Experiencing Homelessness". Updated December 2011: Pg. 4-5.
<http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/306.pdf>

Children experiencing homelessness are sick four times more often than other children. They have: Four times as many respiratory infections. Twice as many ear infections. Five times more gastrointestinal problems. Children living below the poverty line are almost twice as likely to have asthma as those living above. One in nine homeless children are reported to have asthma related health conditions. In one study, 69% of asthmatic children entering the New York City shelter system had visited the emergency room at least once in the past year for asthma treatment. They go hungry at twice the rate of other children. Nutritional deficiencies in homeless children often lead to high rates of overweight and obesity. Children experiencing homelessness have three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems compared to non-homeless children. Among young homeless children: One out of six have emotional disturbances. This is twice the rate of other children. 16% of homeless preschoolers have behavior problems including severe aggression and hostility. Among school-age homeless children: 47% have problems such as anxiety, depression, and withdrawal, compared to 18% of other school-age children. 36% manifest delinquent or aggressive behavior, compared to 17% of other school-age children.

2. Paquette, Kristen, and Bassuk, Ellen L. "Parenting and Homelessness: Overview and Introduction to the Special Section." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, Vol 79(3), Jul 2009: pg. 294-5. <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/ResourceFiles/5r0at5l3.pdf>

Children who are homeless face distinct disadvantages related to their development, physical and mental health, and education. Forty-two percent of children in homeless families are under the age of six. (Burtetal.,1999). Homeless children are sick four times more often than other children. They have four times as many respiratory infections, twice as many ear infections, and five times more gastrointestinal problems compared with low income housed children. These children also experience high rates of asthma (Gewirtzetal.,2008;NCFH,1999). Hunger and nutritional deficiencies are pervasive (NCFH,1999), often leading to overweight and obesity (Grantetal.,2007;Schwartz,Garrett,Hampsey,&Thompson,2007). Before homeless children reach the age of 12, 83% have been exposed to at least one serious violent event (Bassuketal.,1996; Bassuketal.,1997; Buckner, Beardslee, & Bassuk ,2004; NCFH,1999). Almost one in four have witnessed violence within their own families (Bassuketal.1996; Bassuketal., 1997; Buckneretal., 2004;NCFH,1999). Not surprisingly, children who are homeless experience high rates of emotional and behavioral problems (Gewirtzetal. 2008). Some research has documented rates as high as three times those found among low-income housed children (National Child Traumatic Stress Network,2005). Furthermore, children who are homeless are four times more likely to show delayed development and have twice the rate of learning disabilities as low income housed children. One in three repeat a grade (NCFH,1999),and just over one-third are below grade level in either mathematics or reading (Gewirtzetal.,2008).

5. Bassuk, MD, Ellen L., Murphy, Christina, Thompson Coupe, Natalie, Kenney, Rachael R., and Beach, Corey Anne, "State Report Card On Child Homelessness, America's Youngest Outcasts 2010, The National Center on Family Homelessness". Pg.10.
http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/media/NCFH_AmericaOutcast2010_web_032812.pdf

Children who are homeless are more likely to suffer from acute and chronic medical illnesses. They go hungry at twice the rate of other children. They have three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems, such as anxiety, depression, sleep problems, withdrawal, and aggression

3. "Supporting Homeless Young Children and Their Parents", Strengthening At Risk and Homeless Young Mothers and Children, The National Center on Family Homelessness, March 2012: Pg. 1.
<http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/327.pdf>

High rates of physical, mental and developmental difficulties are common to adults and children who are homeless. Most homeless children do not receive the services they need to address their high rates of medical problems, developmental difficulties and mental health needs.

Whereas 4

4 WHEREAS High mobility, poverty, and other family stresses associated with homelessness create unique educational barriers that negatively impact learning, and

7. National Center for Homeless Education, "McKinney-Vento Law Into Practice Brief Series. Serving Students Experiencing Homelessness under Title I, Part A", Fall 2012, pg. 2. <http://ftp.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/titlei.pdf>

High mobility, trauma, and poverty associated with homelessness create unique educational barriers and challenges that permanently housed Title I, Part A students may not face. Homelessness can be associated with lower standardized test scores in reading, spelling, and math (Obradovic et al., 2009; Rafferty, Shinn, & Weitzman, 2004). Homeless students also transfer schools more often, which requires them to adapt to new curricula, teachers, and peers, while increasing the risk of "broken bonds" that negatively impact learning (Cunningham, Harwood, & Hall, 2010; Obradovic et al., 2009). Thus, homeless students often require supports beyond what is typically offered to achieve academic success.

5. Bassuk, MD, Ellen L., Murphy, Christina, Thompson Coupe, Natalie, Kenney, Rachael R., and Beach, Corey Anne, "State Report Card On Child Homelessness, America's Youngest Outcasts 2010, The National Center on Family Homelessness". Pg.10. http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/media/NCFH_AmericaOutcast2010_web_032812.pdf

Given these circumstances, it is not surprising that children experiencing homelessness have difficulty in school. The level of fear and unpredictability in their lives is damaging to their growth and development, and ability to learn. An estimated 40% attend two different schools in a year, and 28% attend three or more different schools (The National Center on Family Homelessness, 1999). They are four times more likely to have delayed development and twice as likely to have learning disabilities. They are 16% less proficient at reading and math than their peers (The National Center on Family Homelessness, 2009). One-third of these children repeat a grade (The National Center on Family Homelessness, 1999). The constant barrage of stressful and traumatic experiences has profound effects on their ability to learn, ultimately affecting their success in life.

8. Aratani, Yumiko," Homeless Children and Youth Causes and Consequences", National Center for Children in Poverty, September 2009. Pg. 7 http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_888.pdf

Family residential stability is highly associated with educational success of children and youth and conversely, homelessness contributes to poor educational outcomes for children and youth. Homeless children and youth are significantly more likely to report grade retention than their never-homeless counterparts. Former homeless children attended an average of 4.2 schools since kindergarten, while children who never experienced homelessness attended an average of 3.1 schools. An estimated 39 percent of sheltered homeless children missed more than one week of school in the past three months and changed school from two to five times in the last 12 months. Absenteeism and school mobility are among the major mechanisms that impact school success for children living in homeless families and for unaccompanied youth. Across age levels, homelessness impacts academic achievement and homeless children's reading, spelling, and mathematics scores are more often below grade level, compared with housed children. Almost half of sheltered homeless children merit a special education evaluation. Yet, less than 23 percent of those with any disability

had ever received special education evaluation or special education services. Runaway and homeless youth are much less likely to complete high school, compared with those without runaway or homeless experiences. and mathematics scores are more often below grade level, compared with housed children.

Whereas 5

5 WHEREAS The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires schools to remove any barriers that limit the ability of a student experiencing homelessness to enroll, attend, and succeed in school; however, funding allocations have not increased at rates that correspond to the growing need, and therefore be it

9. "Guidance, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Using Title I, Part A ARRA Funds for Grants to Local Educational Agencies to Strengthen Education, Drive Reform, and Improve Results for Students", U.S. Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, September 2, 2009. <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/titlei-reform.pdf>

10. "Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as Amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 Non-Regulatory Guidance" United States Department of Education, Washington, DC, July 2004. <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.pdf>

7. National Center for Homeless Education, "McKinney-Vento Law Into Practice Brief Series. Serving Students Experiencing Homelessness under Title I, Part A", Fall 2012, pg. 2-3. <http://ftp.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/titlei.pdf>

The requirement for cross-program coordination is also an opportunity for optimizing resource allocation. While more than 90% of U.S. school districts receive Title I allocations (U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2011. p. 4), only approximately 22% of U.S. school districts Serving Students Experiencing Homelessness under Title I, Part A receive subgrants through the McKinney-Vento program (National Center for Homeless Education, 2012, p. 4). In order to meet the needs of all students, including students experiencing homelessness, it is critical that both programs leverage resources to the greatest extent possible.

11. "Funds for State Formula-Allocated and Selected Student Aid Programs, Index to State Tables", U. S. Department of Education. <http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/history/index.html>

1,694,653 2001	2,343,738 2002	2,507,265 2003	2,809,161 2004
2,996,409 2005	3,171,863 2006	2,781,108 2007	3,092,149 2008
3,124,358 recovery act	2,886,780 2009	3,283,463 2010	3,364,395 2011
3,386,786 2012			

5. Bassuk, MD, Ellen L., Murphy, Christina, Thompson Coupe, Natalie, Kenney, Rachael R., and Beach, Corey Anne, "State Report Card On Child Homelessness, America's Youngest Outcasts 2010, The National Center on Family Homelessness". Pg. 76. http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/media/NCFH_AmericaOutcast2010_web_032812.pdf

During a time when the federal government should be increasing funding for homeless programs to keep pace with the increased numbers of homeless children and families, funding for many programs **has been held level or cut.** (see above)

U.S. House and U.S. Senate passed the final FY 2011 spending bill for discretionary programs (those programs that are funded annually). The bill

was signed into law on April 15, 2011 and was estimated to cut \$38.5 billion in spending for the remainder of the year—the largest ever reduction in annual spending.

12. “Title X, Part C - Education of Homeless Children and Youth 2009-2010 to 2013-2014”, Florida Department of Education Bureau of Federal Educational Programs.



Allocation Table-Trend Data-05-06 to 13-14-Final.pdf

(This table also shows funding held level or cut.)

