

MISSION

Our goal is to seek to improve the outcomes of students who are homeless through persistent and thorough identification of this population, by aligning internal resources to serve their needs, and by engaging with strong community partners to provide continuum of support to these students and their families.

GOALS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- To advance relationship with truancy officials and collaborate on how to recognize school absences as a result of homelessness. Engage with continuum of care to identify students who are homeless.
 - Expected outcome
 - Improved attendance for homeless students
- Develop, enhance and implement programs for homeless students
 - Expected outcomes
 - Students will be proficient with content standards and will earn class credits. Tutoring will minimize barriers that prohibit student success.
 - Through credit recovery, students earn credits they have lost and are able to get back on track.
 - Students will use strategies learned in class to deal with anger. This will result in fewer discipline referrals at school.
 - For students to receive their high school diploma
- Public Service Announcements
 - Expected outcome
 - Heighten awareness among the staff and students about issues and unique needs of homeless students and their families
- Create a resource book for parents and students as well as provide outreach activities on and off site. Furthermore, the district will create QR codes to inform parents of services which can be accessed via mobile phones
 - Expected outcome
 - Better coordination and awareness of services to support students and their families
- Work closely with community service agencies and school personnel in an effort to maximize access to educational, social, and enrichment programs. IUPUI interns will assist homeless students and their parents. Social work interns will work with students on pro-social behaviors. Homeless students may qualify to be mentored through referrals from the school administration, teachers, counsellors, parents or guardians and also the Marion County Juvenile Justice System.
 - Expected outcome
 - Promote academic success and student achievement

PROGRAMS

- *Beyond the Bell:* Afterschool and intersession tutoring are provided by highly qualified teachers. Tutoring will be offered on-site as well as at off-site locations (e.g., extended-stay motels).
- *Truancy Credit Recovery Classes:* Students participate in credit recovery and receive counseling. The program is designed to help students understand the consequences of their behavior and help them make better choice about their future.
- *Anger Management:* This training will help teach students how to identify their anger triggers and what to do when they get angry. Dr. John Jarett provides yoga classes for students who attend anger management classes to assist with a holistic approach to dealing with anger. In collaboration with James Taylor MSW, the district homeless liaison for the MSD of Warren Township, the school will identify and enroll students based on teacher discipline referrals, or recommendation from administration, counselors, teachers or parents.
- *GOAL (Graduation, Occupation, Address & Lifestyle):* This is a program developed by Outreach, Inc. Our partner, Outreach Inc., will provide support to MSD of Warren Township on the design and implementation of GOAL.
- *E-Course, Faces of Homelessness:* a national education and awareness initiative that addresses the realities of homelessness. High school students in homeroom classes will complete five modules exploring social, political, legal, and personal issues associated with poverty and homelessness.
- *Academic Growth and Recovery program:* The Academic Growth and Recovery (AGR) Program is a comprehensive initiative that works in collaboration with educators, mental health specialists, and other community agencies. The AGR program at Warren Central High School was originally developed to provide students experiencing homelessness extra assistance with academics, emotional and social support. The program also helps students at-risk for expulsion, truancy-related offenses and poor academic scores with credit recovery, truancy related issues, tutoring and other academic related concerns.

STRATEGIES

- Improve internal communication & collaboration to identify homeless students
- Launch regular parent meetings to increase awareness of opportunities and to engage parents of homeless students with new supports
- Engage with Continuum of Care to increase identification of students who are homeless
- Launch and expand Beyond the Bell (onsite and offsite tutoring program)
- Expand use of credit recovery course to help students regain credits or accelerate
- Improve the emotional health of students with homelessness through anger management classes
- Engage with Outreach Inc. to consult on services and supports to students with homelessness
- Launch E-Courses (Faces of Homelessness) to increase awareness of social, political legal and personal issues connected to homelessness
- Create homelessness resource guide and publish on multiple channels

- Create intern program connecting IUPUI students to families who are homeless for increased academic support and coordination of services

MEASURES AND TARGETS

- Truancy data and information is used consistently to identify students who are homeless
- Parents of students who are homeless are more aware of opportunities available and experience greater support
- A greater percentage of students who are homeless are identified and served
- Students who are homeless achieve proficiency on grade level standards and are on track with their peers
- Students who are homeless are on track to graduate from high school in four years
- Students who are homeless are not often referred to WCHS office for disciplinary action
- Students who are homeless graduate from high school
- Students who are homeless report that WCHS is a friendly environment and that staff and peers are understanding of their situation
- Family awareness of services and supports increases. Family participation in support programs for the homeless increase
- Students who are homeless achieve proficiency on grade level standards and are on track with their peers. Families who are homeless have someone to advocate on their behalf, as needed