



Standard Program and Service Evaluation Template

(Board of Education Approved on June 1, 2004)

Program Evaluation Questions:

1. How has a student's homeless status affected performance on MAP results?
2. What resources are available to students who become homeless during the school year?

I. Program/Service Information

Name of Program or Services:
Homeless services

Personnel Responsible for Evaluation:
Mary Lee Burlemann, Area Coordinator

Date of Evaluation:
September, 2004-January, 2005

Goal/Objective of Program/Services:
To identify homeless students and ensure that they have immediate access to a free, appropriate public education in the school of origin or in the school of best interest.

Brief description of relationship between program goals, CSIP and MSIP Standards:
Program goals are related to CSIP and MSIP standards. Information gathered about homeless students would ensure that homeless students are afforded the full range of educational programs in the district (MSIP Standards 8.3.1 and 6.3.6).

Demographic Description of Program:
Location(s): Central Office
Number of staff: Administrator plus support staff
Participants: Those identified
Length of program/service: Annual

II. Description of Stakeholders Engagement in Program Evaluation (check stakeholders utilized):

Parent engagement activities: Linda Caples (relative of a homeless student)
Community member (i.e., business): Joan Nenninger (Salvation Army Community in Partnership Program), Doris Magwood (SLPS Student in Transition Program)



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SSD staff: Marsha Meyers

Partner district staff: Cheryl Thomas (Rockwood Social Worker)

III. Evaluation Criteria for Programs/Services Offered

File reviews, census information

IV. Data Collection Methodology

Parent/guardian interview

File review

V. Results

Strengths of program/service:

- DESE now conducts an annual homeless census (beginning '03-'04) instead of counting homeless students every three years. The number identified for the '03-'04 school year was 32 versus only 8 in the '00-'01 school year.
- The homeless coordinators in each school district are invited to meet quarterly to discuss topics of mutual interest regarding the needs of homeless students thereby creating a network of persons interested in providing immediate response to families facing a housing crisis.
- SSD social workers provide a wide range of services to students whose families are facing a housing crisis. Services provided include parent contacts, referral to outside resources, and participation in school conferences. This information was gained through a review of files of students who became homeless last year.
- SSD teachers are familiar with the process to refer a self-contained student for homeless for services and transportation. Please see Attachment A for a description of the process.

Concerns regarding program/service:

- Families are reluctant to come forward to identify themselves as homeless for a variety of reasons. There is a stigma associated with that situation, but families need to know that there are services available to them in order to maintain a consistent school life for their children.
 - School district homeless coordinators respond collaboratively when information becomes available about a homeless situation. The child's prompt return to school should be of foremost importance.
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- MAP scores are not appropriate tools for tracking the progress of homeless students. None of the students identified as homeless last school year took the MAP assessment.

Recommendations regarding program/service:

- Social workers and teachers, usually the first to know about a change in circumstances, need to make families aware that they are entitled to the same programs and services their children had prior to becoming homeless and that the child (ren) will receive transportation to and from the school or origin or the school of best interest. School personnel need to make contact with the homeless coordinator as soon as possible to ensure a quick return to school.
- The homeless coordinator or a representative in each school district should attend the regional quarterly meeting of homeless coordinators to keep abreast of changes in the McKinney-Vento Act.

Time spent on program evaluation

Approximately 26 hours

VI. Action Plan for Recommendations as A Result of Program Evaluation

- The rights of homeless students need to be advertised in each of our SSD buildings to make families aware that there is a process in which to privately notify the district homeless coordinator of a change in housing status.
- The SSD homeless coordinator will remind other SSD Directors/Liaisons of the homeless coordinator meetings.

Date: _____
Signature of Administrator Responsible for Charing Evaluation
