STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
To Support Students Experiencing Homelessness

• Promote a school climate that welcomes all students and supports students with the greatest needs.

• Ensure that posters and brochures on the educational rights of homeless children and youth are displayed in the school, and announce information on the rights of homeless children and youth at school assemblies and parent meetings.

• Ensure that you and all school staff are familiar with the key provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act that remove barriers to the school enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless students; arrange time for school staff to view the training and awareness materials related to McKinney-Vento.

• Ensure that all school staff and teachers are familiar with trauma -informed services for homeless families, children, and youth.

• Welcome new students.

• Invite homeless parents or guardians to be partners in their children's education, volunteer at the school, and share their ideas for improving school services.

• Ensure that homeless students have every opportunity that non-homeless students have for academic and extracurricular activities.

• Maintain a school supply and clothing closet on site where students may obtain items as needed to be prepared for classes and avoid being stigmatized as homeless.

• Ensure that discipline policies take into account situations over which homeless students have no control, such as absences and tardies that result from a parent's or youth's car breaking down.

• Implement discipline policies that reinforce positive behaviors and personal responsibility and that keep children and youth in their classes.

• If a homeless parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth disagrees with school or district policies, discuss the issue in person to attempt to deescalate the situation. If the individual remains dissatisfied over an issue related to eligibility, school enrollment, or school selection, refer him or her to the local liaison to initiate the dispute process.

RESOURCE: https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/

Taken from: https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/back-to-school-training-resources/

Los Angeles County
Office of Education
Leading Educators ▪ Supporting Students ▪ Serving Communities