From the US Dept of Education for your consideration:

## The Institute for Children, Poverty, & Homelessness (ICPH) has just released a report entitled *Empty Seats: The Epidemic of Absenteeism Among Homeless Elementary Students*

This report, based on data on New York City public school elementary students, examines the relationship between school mobility, absenteeism, and school performance. Key findings of the report include:

* Homeless elementary students missed an average of four weeks of school (19 days) in SY 2013–14. This was a week and a half more than low-income housed students (12 days) and two weeks more than non low-income housed students (9 days).
* Homeless children were chronically absent at almost twice the overall citywide rate — 36% compared to 19% in SY 2013–14.
* Among homeless elementary students, those living in shelter had the highest rate of chronic absenteeism. In SY 2013–14, 58% of students living in shelter were chronically absent compared to 25% of homeless students who were living doubled up.
* Homeless children enroll in schools where high rates of chronic absenteeism are already a problem. More than 10,000, or 28% of homeless elementary students were enrolled in schools where over 1/3 of all students were chronically absent in SY 2013–14.
* School transfers greatly increase rates of chronic absenteeism. Of the 1,600 homeless elementary students living in shelter who transferred twice or more in SY 2013–14, 80% were chronically absent.
* Chronically absent homeless children repeated the same grade at over three times the rate of homeless students who missed fewer than five school days in SY 2013–14.
* Homeless elementary students who missed fewer than five days of school passed State assessment tests at about the same rate as their low-income housed peers (38% compared to 37%). Just 12% of chronically absent homeless students achieved proficiency in either their English Language Arts or Math test.

Download *Empty Seats: The Epidemic of Absenteeism Among Homeless Elementary Students* at [http://www.icphusa.org/PDF/reports/ICPH%20Policy%20Report\_Empty%20Seats\_Chronic%20Absenteeism.pdf](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUxMTI1LjUxOTM4NzcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MTEyNS41MTkzODc3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTIyNTAzJmVtYWlsaWQ9c2tpcC5mb3JzeXRoQGZsZG9lLm9yZyZ1c2VyaWQ9c2tpcC5mb3JzeXRoQGZsZG9lLm9yZyZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&102&&&http://www.icphusa.org/PDF/reports/ICPH%20Policy%20Report_Empty%20Seats_Chronic%20Absenteeism.pdf).

From the FL Homeless Education Program for your consideration:

VALUE TO HOMELESS LIAISONS: This publication shows how important school attendance is for elementary students experiencing homelessness, especially its impact on academic achievement.  It’s greatest value to us is in how the district that published the report looks at school attendance for needs assessment purposes.  The report does not recommend strategies for achieving regular attendance for homeless students.  Current attendance strategies include:

* Train school registrars and guidance counselors (front office support staff, too) to identify students who enroll or withdraw from school for reasons pertaining to the McKinney-Vento Act and what action to take to notify the School Homeless Contact and Homeless Liaison and how to assure continued school of origin attendance or immediate enrollment, if a change in schools is necessary.
* Train school attendance staff how to recognize when an absence or tardy is related to homelessness so that barriers to on-time attendance can be identified and removed and students are not penalized in these circumstances.
* Set up a notification system so that the School Homeless Contact and the District Homeless Liaison are immediately notified of a homeless student’s third consecutive day of absence.
* Track homeless student absences and tardies regularly (at least monthly) to identify homeless students who may be experiencing regular or periodic barriers to attendance.
* Set up and carry out a protocol for identifying and removing barriers to attendance for homeless students.

Skip

Skip Forsyth

Interim Director

Homeless Education Program

Bureau of Federal Education Programs

Florida Department of Education

850-245-0089

skip.forsyth@fldoe.org

