Shine a Light: How Do You Track the Educational Progress of Students Experiencing Homelessness?

Research shows that education offers the surest path out of homelessness: children in quality preschool programs are more likely to graduate from high school and own homes; without a high school diploma, students are 4.5 times more likely to experience homelessness later in life; and 99% of the jobs created since the Great Recession have gone to workers with at least some postsecondary education. By more accurately measuring and tracking the educational progress of homeless students, we can improve identification efforts; better recognize and address barriers related to access, participation, and achievement; and measure state and local progress in addressing such barriers.

The chart below is intended to help you and your colleagues (1) develop a clearer understanding of how you currently track the educational progress of homeless students; (2) think critically about the data that most effectively draws attention to the needs of homeless students in your community; and (3) establish a plan for accessing or collecting data as needed.

Metric:	Does my state and/or district collect this? Yes No Don't Know	Next Steps		Relevant Link(s)
		If yes, how can I access this information?	**If no, how can I advocate to obtain this information about homeless students?**	
Kindergarten readiness rates (*states that have developed language regarding the assessment of readiness for kindergarten students*: AK, AZ, AR, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, NE, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, RI, SC, UT, VA, WA, WY)				NCES: Early childhood school readiness definitions, assessments, and interventions for children not meeting expectations, by state 2018
Children ages 0-5 enrolled in federally funded ECE programs identified as homeless				NCHE Federal Data Summary

3rd grade academic achievement: English/Language Arts, Math, Science (some states do not test Science this year)				(state-specific)
8th grade academic achievement: English/Language Arts, Math, Science (some states do not test Science this year)				(state-specific)
High school (9th-12th) academic achievement: English/Language Arts, Math, Science (select grade with most relevant data for your state)				(state-specific)
9th grade on-track (*states disaggregating by H*: AR, ID, LA, WA)				Achieve - 9th grade on track
Absenteeism/attendance rates of students identified as homeless				**(state-specific)** ED Office of Civil Rights 2013-2014 (see here for rates for all students and other sub-groups)

Dropout rates of students identified as homeless				**(state-specific)** NCES 2017 (see here for rates for all students and other sub-groups)
Four-year graduation rate (*states disaggregating by H*: AK, AR, CA, CO, DE, GA, HI, ID, LA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NH, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OH, SC, SD, TN, VA, WA, WY)				Achieve - Class of 2018 four-year graduation rate

				Achieve - CCR assessments
College- and career-readiness: Assessments[1] (*states disaggregating by H*: AL, CO, CT (Math only), DC, ID, KY, ME, MI, MN (Reading only), MS, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NC, WV, WY) Measures[2] (*states disaggregating by H*: AR, CA, FL, ID, KY, LA, WA, WV) Coursework completion[3] (*states disaggregating by H*: CA, MN, NC, TN, VA)				Achieve - CCR measures Achieve - CCR coursework completion

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[1] Data are limited to states that report the percentage of students who score at the college- and career-ready (CCR) level on high school assessments anchored to state CCR standards in English 11/III and Math 11/Algebra II/Integrated Math III or that administer a college admissions assessment (i.e., SAT or ACT) to at least 90 percent of students.

[2] College and career readiness measures in states typically include multiple measures or ways for students to demonstrate their readiness for college or career, including earning college credit while in high school (e.g. through AP, IB, and dual enrollment), completing CTE pathways or industry-recognized credentials, apprenticeships or workplace learning experiences, results on college-ready assessments, completing a college- and career-ready course of study, and demonstrating military readiness.

[3] This indicator includes a denominator of all students who entered 9th grade four years earlier and graduated having completed the state-adopted CCR course of study.

Postsecondary enrollment (2017 graduates)[4] (*states reporting*: all except DC, NY, OR, VT, WY; *states disaggregating by H*: AR, CA, MI, MT, NH)				[Achieve - Postsecondary enrollment](#)
FAFSA completion by students identified as homeless				[Homelessness Reported for Federal Student Aid Applicants (2014-2017, by state)](#)

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[4] Data may include students who attend a state's two-year and four-year systems, public and private institutions, and in-state and out-of-state institutions.