



Preparing Families for the First Day of School

Presented by NYC DHS, NYC DOE & NYS-TEACHS

NYC
Department of
Homeless Services

NYC
Department of
Education
Carmen Fariña, Chancellor



Who we are

- ▶ **Department of Homeless Services, Office of Public/Private Partnerships**
 - ▶ Provides resources and supports to shelter staff and collaborates with the Office of Family Services, which provides direct services to clients residing in temporary emergency shelter (families with children and pregnant women)
- ▶ **Department of Education's Students in Temporary Housing (STH)**
 - ▶ Unit within the Office of Safety and Youth Development
 - ▶ Provides technical assistance and works directly with schools and students in temporary housing, including those in shelters
 - ▶ Provides services students are entitled to under the McKinney Vento Act and Chancellor's Regulation A-780
- ▶ **Administration for Children's Services, Division of Early Care and Education (ECE)**
 - ▶ Administers NYC's subsidized early care and education system including EarlyLearn NYC, which provides quality early education services to eligible children ages 6 weeks to 4 years old in center and family child care settings. EarlyLearn NYC includes subsidized child care, Head Start and Pre-K.
 - ▶ Eligible families with children ages 6 weeks to 13 years old can be issued vouchers to purchase childcare from providers in the City.
- ▶ **Human Resources Administration, Emergency Intervention Services, Office of Domestic Violence**
 - ▶ Provides resources and supports to shelter staff and collaborates with the Department of Education.
- ▶ **NYS-TEACHS**
 - ▶ Funded by the State Education Department and housed at Advocates for Children
 - ▶ Provides technical assistance on homeless education issues. Services include: hotline (800-388-2014), website (nysteachs.org), webinars, workshops, and trainings

Today's Agenda

- ▶ Resources to help shelter staff with preparing families for back to school:
 - ▶ Enrollment
 - ▶ Busing
 - ▶ MetroCards
 - ▶ School Supplies
 - ▶ Clothing
- ▶ How to request an education shelter transfer
- ▶ How to connect children with pre-k or EarlyLearn
- ▶ How to connect older youth with alternative educational programs
- ▶ Collaborative strategies for DOE and shelter staff, which are critical to children's success in school.



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Before we get started...

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Partnerships with DOE

Share Information with Parents about:

- Enrollment Workshops and Trainings (dates to be determined)
- Middle School and High School Directories (available in many languages)
- School Enrollment Timeline (handout will be distributed)



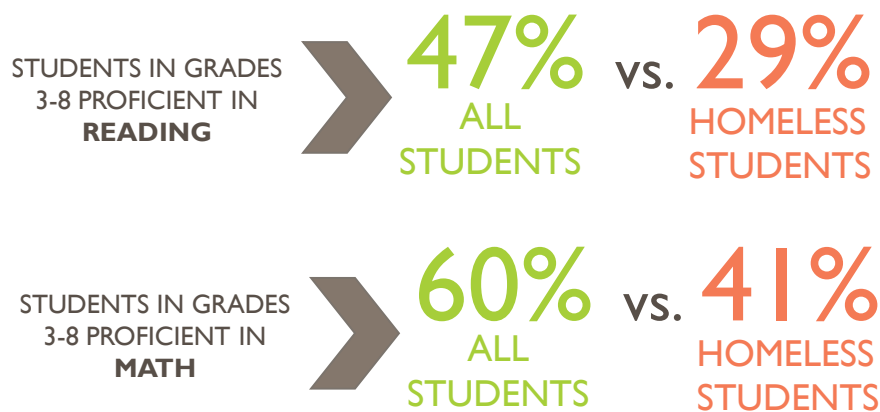
DOE High School Fairs

- Encourage 8th graders and their parents to attend a fair!
- **When:** Saturday, September 24 & 25
10am-3pm
- **Where:** Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Green Place, 11217

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Outcomes for Students in Temporary Housing:

Students Testing Proficient in NYC, 2011-12



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Back to School Checklist



Step 1: Confirm School Enrollment and Talk about School Options



Step 2: Talk about School Stability



Step 3: Confirm Transportation



Step 4: Make a Connection if transferring schools



Step 5: School Supplies and Clothes

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Step 1: Confirm School Enrollment and Talk about School Options

Stay in the same school and get free transportation



-Or-

Immediately enroll in local school

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Step 2: Talk about School Stability

- Let parents know that **SCHOOL STABILITY IS IMPORTANT!**
- **Students who stay in their same school do better** academically and socially/emotionally.
- Having the same **friends, counselors, teachers, aides, coach, and principal** can **help students better cope** with having lost their housing.



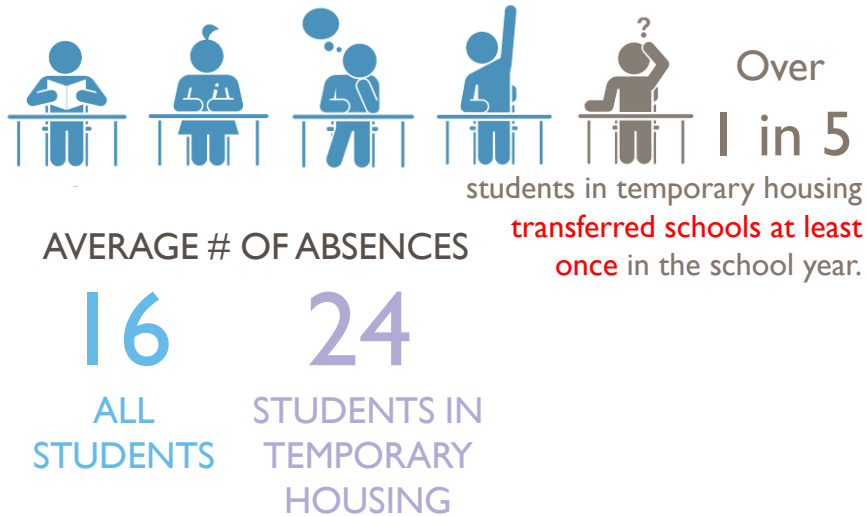
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Fill in the blank:

Students who transfer schools frequently are ____ times more likely to repeat a grade than their peers.

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Outcomes for Students in Temporary Housing: School Transfers and Absences in NYC, 2011-12



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Shelter Transfers

- ▶ Tell clients that they can ask for a shelter transfer based on school needs.
 - ▶ Shelter transfers are not guaranteed (based on capacity)
 - ▶ Depends on approval from Program Administrator & vacancies
 - ▶ Dept of Education and DHS collaborate to escalate urgent cases
- ▶ How do you request a shelter transfer?
 - Parent → Shelter Staff → Program Administrator
- ▶ There is NO form. The shelter staff should email request to Program Administrator. Include reasons for transfer in email. For example:
 - ▶ Parent has to travel over an hour each way to get kids to school which prevents her from looking for perm housing. Kids are very attached to their teachers, and family wants the children to stay in same school.

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Step 3: Confirm Transportation



- For all students K-6
- For any grade if on IEP



- FREE full-fare MetroCard for any student who is not getting busing
- FREE MetroCard for parent to go with student (pre-k - 6) to/from school

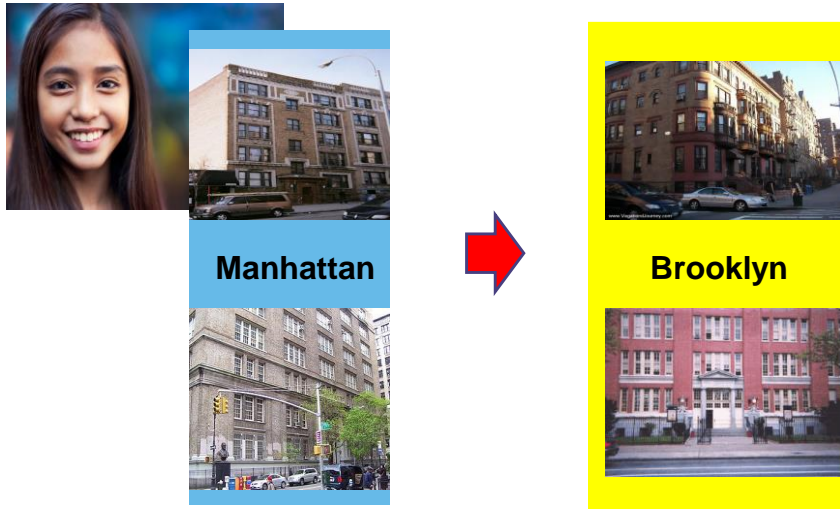
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Who can help?

- ▶ **Call OPT Customer Service (718) 392-8855**
- ▶ **Check online at <http://www.optnyc.org>.**
 - ▶ You will need the child's ID number and date of birth.
- ▶ **Still have questions, call:**
 - ▶ STH Content Experts or Family Assistants
 - ▶ NYS-TEACHS (800) 388-2014

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Jessica



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**What type of transportation
will Jessica receive?**

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Step 4: Make a Connection Where parents can go to enroll or transfer schools?



Grades K-8

- Go to the **ZONED SCHOOL**
- Call **3 1 1** or visit:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/schoolsearch/>

High School or no zoned school

- Go to the **FAMILY WELCOME CENTERS**
- Call **3 1 1** or visit:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/choicesenrollment/newstudents/welcomecenters/default.htm>

District 75 Citywide Special Education

- Call the **District 75 Borough Placement Officer: 212-802-1500**

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Over-age and Under-Credited?

Middle School

- For information about option for students in middle school who have been held back at least once, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/overage-mdl-sch>

Transfer Schools & Young Adult Borough Centers (YABC's)

- Visit <http://tinyurl.com/NYC-transferHS>

High School Equivalency (formerly GED)

- For information about High School Equivalency programs:
- Call the **Referral Center Hotline: 718-577-2525**
- Visit <http://pathtograd.org/>

Jobs & Internships

- Visit:
<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships>

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Don't forget enrolling young children in preschool!

Did you know?

- ▶ Access to preschool is key to future educational success, especially for children in high-need communities
- ▶ Children who don't attend preschool often start kindergarten at a disadvantage
- ▶ Children who attend high-quality preschool not only do better in school than those children who didn't but they also are more likely to graduate, go on to hold job, and earn more.



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Pre-K for All, EarlyLearn, and Head Start

- ▶ To find the closest early childhood education programs in your neighborhood:
- ▶ Call 311 or the Child Care Resource and Referral Consortium at (888) 469-5999
- ▶ Or Visit:
 - ▶ <http://schools.nyc.gov/prek> for information about pre-k in public schools and community-based early childhood centers
 - ▶ http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/child_care/earlylearn.shtml for information about EarlyLearn NYC programs.
 - ▶ <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/HeadStartOffices#map-home> for information about Head Start programs.



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Step 5: School Supplies and Clothes

▶ School Supplies

- ▶ Most shelters will receive backpacks and school supplies.
- ▶ If a shelter doesn't get backpacks, refer parent to DOE Family Assistant or Content Expert.



▶ Clothes/Uniforms

- ▶ Free clothing:
http://www.informationforfamilies.org/Theres_No_Place_Like_Home/Clothing.html
- ▶ Schools with uniforms: If family needs help getting a uniform, refer parent to the school. They should be able to purchase a uniform for the student using Title I set-aside funds.
- ▶ Schools cannot turn students away even if they aren't wearing a uniform

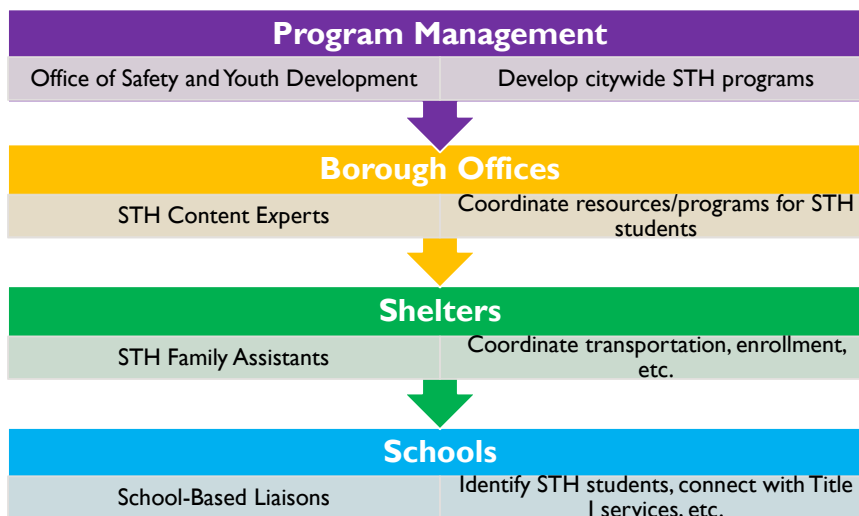


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Where to get help?

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DOE STH Program



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STH Content Experts

OSYD Borough Center Location	Districts	STH Content Expert Name	Office Number	E-mail
Bronx 1 Fordham Plz, Rm 816 Bronx, NY 10458	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12	Stephanie Dyer	718-741-7783 718-741-8595	sdyer@schools.nyc.gov
Brooklyn North 131 Livingston St, 4 th Fl Brooklyn, NY 11201	13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 23, 32	Wayne Harris	718-935-3296 718-935-3562	wharris22@schools.nyc.gov
Brooklyn South 1780 Ocean Ave., Rm 1B Brooklyn, NY 11230	17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 31	Charlene Mitchell Edonine Castor	718-758-7722 718-758-7635	cmitchell4@schools.nyc.gov ecastor@schools.nyc.gov
Manhattan 333 7th Avenue, 7th Fl New York, NY 10001	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Cecilio (Bo) Diaz Iris Gersten	917-339-1698 917-339-1718	cdiaz@schools.nyc.gov igersten@schools.nyc.gov
Queens 28-11 Queens Plaza N LIC, NY 11101	24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30	Linda Wilson- Animashaun Shaquieta Boyd	718-391-6849 718-391-6843	lwilson33@schools.nyc.gov sboyd5@schools.nyc.gov
Special Education 400 First Ave, Rm 113 New York, NY 10010	75	Michele Marcel Joan Boreland	212-802-1579 917-256-4262	mmarcel@schools.nyc.gov jboreland@schools.nyc.gov

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Resources from NYS-TEACHS



Hotline 800-388-2014 or visit: www.nysteachs.org

Resources from the DOE

- Residency Questionnaire
- Contact Information for STH Content Experts
- McKinney-Vento Guide for Families and Youth
- To download, visit:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/NonAcademicSupport/StudentsinTemporaryHousing/default.htm>

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Best Practices

Collaboration is the Key!



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What can shelter staff do to help children in shelters succeed in school?

Build a community that rewards academic achievement by:

- ▶ **Sharing Resources:**
 - ▶ Provide space for after-school activities and homework
 - ▶ Make internet, phone, and office space available to DOE Family Assistant
- ▶ **Improving Communication:**
 - ▶ Invite DOE Family Assistant to attend shelter staff meetings/case conferencing meetings (address attendance issues).
 - ▶ Ensure that DOE staff are informed of upcoming shelter transfers or moves into permanent housing so that they can help minimize any disruption to the child's education.
 - ▶ Consult with DOE Family Assistant or STH Content Expert when child has enrollment issue, MetroCard or busing issue, several school absences, or a suspension

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What can shelter staff do to help children in shelters succeed in school?

- ▶ **Improving Attendance:**
 - ▶ Help **distribute MetroCards** for parents to take children to school when DOE Family Assistant not at the shelter.
 - ▶ Establish **daily check-in system** onsite at shelter to ensure that students who may not have left for school on time are sent to school for remainder of the day.
 - ▶ Discuss **attendance reports** and what shelter staff and STH program staff can do to improve attendance for students who are frequently absent.
 - ▶ **Ensure that parents don't keep kids out of school** when the parent has appointments. For example, if the parent has a meeting at PATH, shelter caseworker may call to ask if appointment can be scheduled early enough for parent to pick up kids from school.
 - ▶ **Celebrate students who regularly go to school** and are doing well with treats, awards, or special ceremonies.

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Back to School Checklist:

- ✓ Families in my facility are aware of school options and importance of school stability
 - ✓ All children in my facility are registered in school
 - ▶ Young children referred to preschool
 - ▶ Older youth who are out of school referred to District 79 or transfer high school
 - ✓ My staff are working the STH Content Expert to make sure that all children in my facility have a MetroCard or busing by the start of school on September 8th
 - ✓ All children in my facility have school supplies and clothes
 - ✓ My staff are working with the DOE to promote educational events (for example, High School Fairs)
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Questions?

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Thank You!

NYC Children's Services

Division of Early Care and Education

Shari Gruber, Executive Director, Policy and Procedure

shari.gruber@acs.nyc.gov

(212) 393-5109

NYC Department of Homeless Services

Office of Public/Private Partnerships

Susana Vilardell, Director of Educational Services

svilardell@dhs.nyc.gov

Tel: (212) 607-2407

NYS-TEACHS

Jennifer Pringle

jpringle@afcnyc.org

Hotline: (800) 388-2014

Website: www.nysteachs.org

NYC Department of Education, Students in Temporary Housing (STH) Program

Charlene Mitchell, STH Content Expert

Katherine Marshall-Polite, Director

kpolite@schools.nyc.gov

Tel: (718) 935-3494

Website:

[http://schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/](http://schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/NonAcademicSupport/StudentsinTemporaryHousing/default.htm)

[NonAcademicSupport/StudentsinTemporary](http://schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/NonAcademicSupport/StudentsinTemporaryHousing/default.htm)

[Housing/default.htm](http://schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/NonAcademicSupport/StudentsinTemporaryHousing/default.htm)

NYC Human Resources Administration

Emergency Intervention Services/Office of Domestic Violence

Lisa Rachmuth, Director of Clinical Initiatives and
Programming

rachmuthli@hra.nyc.gov

Tel: (929) 221-7232