

Act 1 of 2022 – Assisting Students Experiencing Education Instability

Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Did you know?

Children and youth experiencing homelessness who have experienced “education instability” are eligible for assistance under Pennsylvania law.

What are some benefits Act 1 of 2022 may provide children and youth experiencing homelessness?



Establishes a Point of Contact for the student.



Ensures equal access to participate in school-sponsored and extracurricular activities.



Eliminates fees for students.



Assesses graduation progress to ensure timely graduation of students.



Considers alternative pathways to graduation for students.

Why is Act 1 important?

Students experiencing homelessness face a number of systemic barriers. Schools can reduce these barriers and contribute to positive childhood experiences by facilitating equal access to academic and extracurricular activities, and to promote grade retention and on-time high school graduation.

For more information, visit the webpage for [Pennsylvania Department of Education's Basic Education Circular, "Act 1 of 2022."](#)

Contact RA-EDDOP@pa.gov.

Learn more about Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (PA ECYEH) Program at ECYEHpennsylvania.center-school.org.



Scan QR code to go to PDE Act 1 of 2022 webpage.

How to put Act 1 into Action

Address fees

School entities should explore regional and local resources, or other funding sources to address fees covered under Act 1. Contact the appropriate Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (PA ECYEH) Program Regional Office to inquire if assistance may be available.

Title I, Part A funds must be used only as a last resort after other funding sources have been exhausted.

Identify and name a Point of Contact

School entities may identify their existing Homeless Liaison, or building-level contacts, as the Act 1 Point of Contact.

Build a community of support

When students experiencing homelessness begin at a new school, the Act 1 Point of Contact and Homeless Liaison should meet with the goal to promote the student's belonging in their new school by determining ways in which Act 1 can support them.

Assess all prior work and award credits

The Act 1 Point of Contact assesses the student's academic history and investigates whether the student has already completed partial credit or a course that meets a requirement at the current school.

Develop pathways to graduation

The Act 1 Point of Contact works with grade 9-12 students to create a graduation plan that specifies the courses necessary to graduate on time.

Consider Act 1 and special education

Ensure graduation and credit recovery plans align with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 plans. Students who have IEPs may elect to remain in school until age 22, even if Act 1 offers an earlier pathway to graduation.

