



## Wish List

- Miniature First Aid kit
- Laundry detergent/quarters
  - Deodorant
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Head lice kits/combs
  - Combs/brushes
  - Soap
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Disposable razor
  - Panty liners
  - Lotion
- Gently used children/teen clothes and shoes
  - Toys/books

## HOMELESS STUDENT RIGHTS

### Immediate Enrollment

- Homeless students must be enrolled immediately, with or without documentation.
- The process for middle and high school students must be expedited.
- School of origin is considered the last place attended while housed or living in an attendance area where the student currently resides. The Program Coordinator will determine the best possible placement for each student and consider the best interest for that student.
- Free or Reduced Lunch forms do not need to be filled out for students in the Welcome Room Program. Meals are automatically free when the Program Coordinator confidentially sends the name to Food Services.

### Transportation

- Transportation will be set up by the Program Coordinator.
- Transportation is provided to and from school of origin (scheduled school bus, Intercity Transit pass, gas vouchers, taxi services).
- Services are provided for the entire academic year, even after housing is established.

## McKINNEY- VENTO ASSISTANCE ACT

Children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. In response to this, The Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program was established by Congress in 1987 as part of the Stewart B. McKinney Act.

In December of 2001, this program became the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act. In January 2002, the Act was reauthorized as Title X, Part C of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

All children are enrolled in mainstream classes at their age appropriate grade level according to our District's 100% inclusion policy. Students are in no way labeled during their time with us.



**Olympia School District**

1113 Legion Way SE • Olympia, WA 98501  
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## Olympia School District



*Every Child Achieving  
Success Every Day*



**Sarah Greenwell, Program Coordinator**

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# ABOUT OUR PROGRAM



**The Welcome Room** is a federally-funded program, located at Madison Elementary School in Olympia's Eastside neighborhood. The program is designed to support students who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness. We continually seek ways to remove all barriers to children's enrollment, attendance and academic achievement in school, as well as offer an array of programs and enrichment classes to enhance a student's education and life. Our goal is to meet each student's needs and ensure success for every child every day.



## WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

- Inadequate night time residence, (emergency shelters, cars, tents, motels, parks, no heat or water).
- Unaccompanied youth (couch surfing, no primary care giver).
- Doubled up (families sharing household due to economic circumstances).
- Migrant workers.
- Staying with friends or family because returning home would be "unsafe" due to domestic violence or other factors.
- Families living in substandard structures considered unsafe for children.
- Awaiting Foster care placement.

## BARRIERS

- Students can experience a lack of records, delays in the transfer of school records or no proof of immunizations.
- Frequent moves disrupt the learning routine and leave gaps in education.
- Sudden moves can leave students without supplies or adequate school clothing.
- Moving and homelessness cause stress, making it difficult to concentrate.

## CURRENT PROGRAMS

- A before-school group specifically designed to reduce stress and prepare children for the school day.
- Tutoring, academic support and academic monitoring.
- After school Homework Club and enrichment programs including meals, field trips and other activities.
- Guidance with community resources.
- School supplies and clothes for students as they need them.
- Breakfast and lunch.
- Support and counseling to assist parents in meeting their children's needs.
- Preschool program for four and five-year-olds.
- Monthly fundraisers, such as canned food, toilet paper, umbrella and penny drives.

Community involvement is critical to our students and program. We strongly encourage you to get involved with fundraisers and donate items from the Wish List to help our students and families in need.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

Contact Sarah Greenwell, the Welcome Room Program Coordinator, at (360) 596-6313 or [sgreenwell@osd.wednet.edu](mailto:sgreenwell@osd.wednet.edu) if you would like to hear about more opportunities. The Program Coordinator will determine whether a student qualifies for the Welcome Room Program.

## Contacts & Resources

### Food

- **Thurston County Food Bank**  
220 Thurston Ave. NE, Olympia  
360-352-8597  
M/W/F 1:00-3pm
- **Community Kitchen**  
(located at Salvation Army Shelter)  
808 Fifth Ave. SE, Olympia  
360-349-2808  
Lunch 11am to 12:30pm Dinner 5:00 to 6:30pm
- **Olympia Union Gospel Mission**  
413 Franklin St. NE, Olympia  
360-709-9725  
Monday-Friday: 6am, 12:00pm, 5:30pm  
Saturday: 10am to noon Sunday: 8am to noon

### Emergency Needs

- **YWCA Other Bank** (hygiene supplies)  
220 Union Ave. SE, Olympia  
360-352-0593  
Wednesdays 1-3:30pm
- **Community Youth Services**  
**Rosie's Place** (Homeless Teen Drop In Center)  
360-711 State St. NE, WA  
360-943-0780 x130
- **Family Support Center**  
108 State St. SE, Olympia (located upstairs)  
360-754-9297

### Shelter

- **Salvation Army Shelter**  
808 5th Ave. SE, Olympia  
360-352-8596
- **Safeplace**  
Domestic Violence Shelter  
360-754-6300
- **Emergency Shelter Network**  
Overflow/ overnight shelter/ Family Support  
108 State St. SE, Olympia (located upstairs)  
360-528-8999