

December 2022 ➤

COHHIO COURSE TO HOME



Winter Edition

PREPARING FOR WINTER



PLANNING AHEAD

While winter break can be a time of celebration and relaxation for many students, it is often the opposite for students experiencing homelessness that rely on school for stability. School personnel can support students during this time by connecting them with community organizations that can support their needs and provide a safe place to spend time in lieu of school.

CHECKING IN

For students and families experiencing homelessness, the winter holidays can be a time of uncertainty and tough emotions. This is a good time to check-in with students about how they're feeling and where they might need help. School personnel can utilize these [Conversation Starter Cards by United Healthcare](#) to start mental health conversations with empathy and honesty.

AWARENESS

As the holidays approach, people take time to consider what they're thankful for. This is a prime opportunity to increase awareness by educating your district, drawing attention to local issues, and hosting an assortment of events that highlight the reality of youth homelessness. [Download this toolkit](#) by Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week for awareness campaign ideas.

MENTAL WELLNESS MONTH



January is Mental Wellness Month, highlighting the importance of integrating both emotional and physical health. The World Health Organization defines mental wellness as “a state of well-being in which the individual realizes their own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to their community.” There’s no better time than the beginning of a new year to encourage mental health reflection among your students and school staff.

[EMOTIONAL WELLNESS TOOLKIT](#)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



February is [Black History Month](#), a celebration of the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the United States. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) designates a new theme for Black History Month every year, with [2023's theme being Black Resistance](#). This February, take time to honor the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are a permanent part of our country's past and present.

[BLACK LIVES ACTION CENTER](#)



●●● INFANTS AND TODDLERS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

PREVALENCE AND ACCESS TO EARLY LEARNING

School House Connection
recently released a report in partnership with the Pritzker's Children Initiative (PCI) that analyzes data from twenty states that receive PCI funding to increase the number of infants, toddlers, and their families receiving high-quality services. The report highlights the prevalence of homelessness among infants and toddlers in these twenty states, with an estimated **311,961 infants**

and toddlers having experienced homelessness across the twenty PCI states in 2020-2021. Ohio's state profile revealed an estimated 11,581 infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness, yet less than 9% are enrolled in a program. This report additionally displays gaps in access to early learning programs and recommendations for increasing enrollment and support.

District

Spotlight

CANTON CITY SCHOOLS

Canton City Schools has been working with a housing navigator contracted through Canton for All People, a Community Development Corporation with a mission of improving the quality of life for all residents in Canton. This increase in capacity for supporting students experiencing homelessness has opened doors to new, innovative partnerships. When faced with finding secure housing for an unaccompanied homeless youth, Canton City's housing navigator reached out to one of the City's local community colleges to ask about their dorm capacity. Through this new partnership, Canton City was able to acquire a dorm to house this unaccompanied homeless youth, despite this youth not being an enrolled student at the college. Canton City is hopeful that this unique accommodation for this youth is only the beginning of an innovative partnership and that other local colleges will be inspired to follow suit.



**Know a district or
ESC whose work
needs the spotlight?
Tell Us About It !**

Featured Resources

Healthy Relationships: Assess, Improve, Take Action

Creating healthy peer relationships takes work. A practice known as the “4 Cs” can help support healthy relationships and resolve conflicts. Check out [this infographic](#) by the Family & Youth Services Bureau that describes characteristics of relationships and provides tips and strategies to support healthy relationships.



A Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Non-Binary Youth

It can be tough for transgender and nonbinary people to bear the burden of educating others about their lived experience. That's why the Trevor Project created [this guide](#): an introductory educational resource that covers a wide range of topics and best practices on how to support transgender and nonbinary people.

Keeping Ohio Students Present, Engaged, and Supported

To address educator concerns about student attendance and engagement, the Ohio Department of Education has developed a [webpage that offers multi-tiered interventions](#) that schools and districts can implement to address and prevent chronic absenteeism.

Becoming a Better Mentor: Strategies to be There for Young People

This [free resource by MENTOR](#) is written by experts in the field to benefit any adult looking to support young people. Full of real-world advice and evidence-based strategies, it provides tangible strategies to “be there” for young people in their various life journeys and teaches them about the core skills, key principles, and critical practices of mentoring.

Infographic: The Adolescent Brain

Early adolescence is a very dynamic period for brain development. Created by the Family and Youth Services Bureau, [this infographic](#) provides insights into the adolescent brain and tips on what youth-serving providers and parents/caregivers can do to support healthy adolescent risk-taking and positive learning experiences.



Free Virtual Tutoring for Foster and Adoptive Youth

Miami University recently launched the Miami University Learning Lab, which pairs pre-service teachers with K-12 students across the state to provide high-dosage, evidence-based tutoring in literacy and math. [Learn more here!](#)



PREVENTION

AWARENESS

COLLABORATION



HAVE A SAFE WINTER

COHHIO



COHHIO.ORG/HOMELESS
[EDUCATION](https://COHHIO.ORG/HOMELESS)

