

**Field Instruction & Seminar II SWK-557**

**Practice Application 8.6 A Macro Approach to the Educational Needs of Children Who Are Homeless**

Imagine that you are a social work student in a homeless shelter. When children come to the shelter, many must change schools, and many miss a number of days before they are enrolled again in school. You have been directed to work with a group that is drafting state legislation to remedy the situation. The group will also try to find a sponsor for the legislation and will work to pass the bill. (Research current Legislation such as COVID Relief Bill and share how it can apply to this case scenario)

Answer the following questions in a journal entry, and share your answers during the next class discussion.

1. What might be some solutions to the problem? ***One solution is to allow a period of grace for children within the shelter system to attend their local school soon after the relocation. As a former case manager at a shelter, many school-aged children who come from PATH accumulate several absences because of the transition they often experience when they move from shelter to shelter or residence to respite sites.***

2. How would you begin to work on this issue within your practicum site? ***As a social work student, I would have a conversation with the administration and attend meetings around this issue. Seeking to find ways to serve or provide support to remedying this problem would be my top priority. Furthermore, I would identify external sources and advocate at some level to draw attention to the problem.***

3. What people or groups would you identify as important to this effort? ***I would identify as important shelter administration, DHS (Department of Homeless Services), and the DOE (Department of Education). These organizations at the macro level would be the agencies that would design a policy that would address enrollment procedures. As far as the COVID Relief Bill, special attention would be given to these children to get settle before enrolling in school. Efforts would also include COVID-19 testing for these children before enrollment.***

4. How might you go about engaging important people or groups in this effort? ***I would rally a group of parents and obtain a petition giving me leverage to make a case that would support the argument suggested earlier. Furthermore, I would obtain a rooster highlighting the number of children absences within the shelter system. This would be proof presented to DOE and DHS administrators to effect change.***

5. What kinds of activities might be needed to pass this legislation? ***The activities I would engage in a petition as stated earlier and to write a letter to the local legislator, assemblyman/woman, and congressperson to stir up dust that would garner the attention of the community. This would put pressure on the planning committees within the educational and shelter system.***