



Chicago HOPES

Heightening Opportunity and Potential for Educational Success

Chicago Public Schools Educational Support for Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS)
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Mission

Chicago HOPES is an initiative of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Department of Educational Support for Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS) which empowers students to succeed academically despite the challenges of homelessness.

With the support provided by committed and caring volunteers, we collaborate with schools, shelters, and communities to establish after-school shelter-based tutoring programs throughout the city. These sessions feature educational support and cultural enrichment activities for Chicago's school-aged homeless children.

The program's consistent efforts to provide academic support, a positive, welcoming environment and passionate advocacy will help to counteract the negative effects of homelessness on the lives of our students. It is our goal to motivate and provide students with the academic support necessary to break the cycle of homelessness that threatens their futures and our communities.

History

In 2006, the STLS department created Chicago HOPES to provide students with additional support outside the classroom. The program, which now operates at Cornerstone Community Outreach in the Uptown neighborhood as well as Lena Washington Food & Shelter Foundation in the North Lawndale neighborhood, is operated primarily by dedicated volunteers with a modest staff. All tutors are volunteers from local communities and universities.

The HOPES Program

The HOPES program maintains three core components: homework help, math and reading support, and enrichment. We offer a safe space and tutor support for students to complete their homework. In addition we provide a number of games, worksheets, books, and other resources to develop math and reading aptitude. Several times each semester volunteers or educational organizations provide enrichment programming – such as an interactive lesson in arts, science, or personal development – to students. For more information and a complete list of Chicago HOPES shelter locations, dates, and times in 2011-2012, please visit www.chicagohopes.org.

Recent special events include Chicago HOPES Around the World Summer 2011, holiday celebrations for our students, and, to celebrate MLK Day 2011, mural painting and other activities at our shelter sites.