



Defining Homeless

Being homeless does not always mean living in a shelter or on the street. "Homeless" is defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes any child:

- Living in a shelter
- Living in a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative, adequate accommodation
- Living in a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Not living with a parent or guardian due to hardship or an emergency circumstance



How You Can Help

There are several ways you can assist Project Rise in our mission to help Akron's students and families experiencing homelessness.

Donate. Your monetary or in-kind donation will allow us to continue to meet the basic needs of our families and provide them with services, programs and activities to help improve their lives. For in-kind donations, please visit the Project Rise most-needed items page on the APS website or contact us.

Refer. If you know a student or family living in the Akron area who may be experiencing homelessness, please contact us as soon as possible or have them contact us directly using the information below.

Volunteer. Project Rise, our partner organizations and the shelters we work with are always looking for a helping hand. We are in particular need of people with specialized skills, such as teachers and tutors. Please see the Project Rise volunteer opportunities on the APS website or contact us.



Contact us: projectrise@apslearns.org.

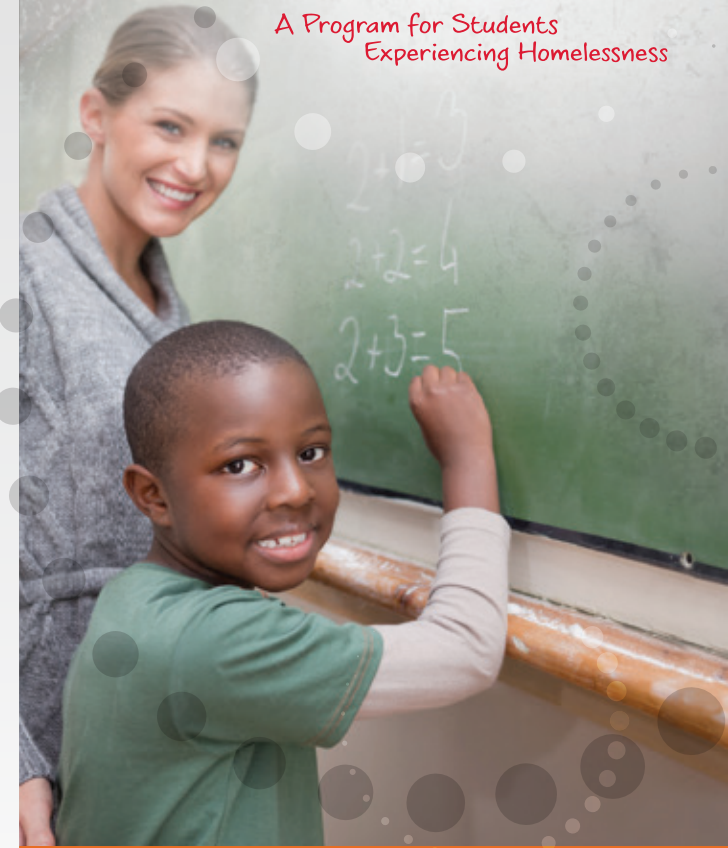
Shannah Cariño
Homeless Education Liaison
Project Rise
330.761.2969
scarino@apslearns.org

Project Rise is an Akron Public Schools program and is federally funded through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

The Akron Board of Education does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed or ancestry, age, gender, marital status, or disability in employment or in its educational program and activities. Copyright 2018 Akron Public Schools



A Program for Students Experiencing Homelessness



Community Overview



Akron Public Schools

330.761.1661

akronschools.com

Did You Know?

There are approximately 1,800 Akron Public Schools students experiencing homelessness each year.



Living without permanent, long-term housing can have a profound effect on a child. Not only does schoolwork suffer, homelessness can also cause developmental delays, learning difficulties, depression and anxiety.

However, education is one key to breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

Project Rise is a collaboration among Akron Public Schools, local shelters and the community. We empower students and families to improve the quality of their lives through educational, cultural and community resources.

Regardless of their living conditions, all children have the right to receive high-quality educational and social services in a safe and caring environment.

Our Services

Advocacy

Families experiencing homelessness don't always know or realize they may qualify for certain rights when it comes to their children's education, according to federal law.* Project Rise helps families understand these rights and advocates on their behalf by making sure students can enroll, ensuring they stay in their home school/school of origin and arranging transportation, if needed.

Community Resources

Project Rise partners with several organizations in the community to serve our students and families. We help them identify, locate and connect with the resources they need. This includes producing our comprehensive Akron Resource Guide and the Akron Street Card for distribution to all families. We also help manage the DLM Food and Resources project, specifically for Project Rise clients.

Our resource partners are:

- Akron Summit County Public Library
- Christ Child Society
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- Head Start
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- Shelter Care Drop In Center
- The University of Akron
- Weathervane Community Playhouse



Education and Enrichment

Project Rise helps students stay in school and on track. We help them raise their grades, we assist at-risk youth to stay in school and empower parents to be more involved in their child's education. Our tutoring staff is made up of certified teachers and our academic advocates work in the schools to ensure students are being connected to available resources.

Our programs include:

- After-school tutoring in nine local shelter sites
- Love and Learn Doll Project
- Parents RISE-ing programs
- Performing Arts Can Teach (PACT) Program
- Summer Program (includes educational field trips, visits to the Akron Art Museum, programming with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and arts and literacy activities at the shelters)