

# TALKING POINTS FOR EDUCATION ADVOCATES

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Educators know that children learn better and are more likely to graduate when they live in a stable, affordable home. Congress must take immediate action to ensure housing stability during and after the coronavirus pandemic. Unless Congress acts quickly to provide emergency housing resources and protections, our nation will see a spike in housing instability, evictions, and homelessness, with a direct impact on educational outcomes for children in households with low incomes and their communities.

### Housing instability and homelessness will harm educational outcomes for students during and after the pandemic.

- Emergency rental assistance and other resources and protections for renters are needed to help students remain stably housed. Students experiencing housing instability and homelessness will face additional challenges in keeping up with their schooling.
- Congress should take every action to prevent evictions and homelessness, especially for children. Evictions can cause students to move from school to school, undermining their ability to learn. Low-income children who switch schools frequently due to housing instability or homelessness tend to perform less well in school, have learning disabilities and behavioral problems, and are less likely to graduate from high school. When they grow up, they are also more likely to be employed in jobs with lower earnings and skill requirements.

### Congress should provide emergency rental assistance and other resources and protections for low-income renters. These investments can also help drive stronger student outcomes.

- Children in affordable housing score better on cognitive development tests than those in unaffordable housing. Researchers suggest that is partly because parents with affordable housing can invest more in activities and materials that support their children's development. Parents also save more money for their children's college tuition when they are not rent-burdened and are more likely to attend a parent-teacher conference.
- Students who attend schools with large populations of hypermobile children also suffer academically because more time must be devoted to review and catching up on work.
- Children who live in a crowded household at any time before age 19 are less likely to graduate from high school and tend to have lower educational attainment at age 25.
- Living in poor-quality housing and disadvantaged neighborhoods is associated with lower kindergarten readiness scores.

*For more information on the intersection between housing and education, see the Opportunity Starts at Home campaign [factsheet](#).*