



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

OSSE 2022 School Year College Starter Kit for College Bound Students Experiencing Homelessness

Purpose & Eligibility Criteria: The Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE) Homeless Education Program is offering an opportunity for graduating high school students who are experiencing homelessness to receive a College Starter Kit. The kit will include items such as a laptop, school supplies, and other essential items to prepare students for success in their first year of college.

Qualifications:

1. Students must have experienced homelessness during the 2021-22 school year.
2. Students must have been identified as experiencing homelessness in the LEA McKinney-Vento Database application or by an advocate/caseworker during the 2021-22 school year.
3. Students must show proof of acceptance and/or enrollment into a college or university for the 2022 summer/fall semester.

Instructions: Applicants must submit an application via email or via the [2022 OSSE College Starter Kit Opportunity Online Application](#). A complete application includes the following:

1. A completed application form;
2. A personal essay consisting of 1,000-1,500 words about the impact of experiencing homelessness on your life and desire to attend college (see essay evaluation criteria listed below);
3. A minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or another adult who can speak to your educational qualifications (e.g., Advanced Placement classes, honor roll selection, academic improvement, standardized tests, academic certificates, or awards) and life experiences; and
4. Proof of acceptance into a college or university (e.g., acceptance letter, class schedule, or housing confirmation letter).

Deadline: Completed packets must be submitted through the [2022 OSSE College Starter Kit Opportunity Online Application](#) or emailed to Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov by **5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1, 2022**. This opportunity is available while supplies last.

Award Timeline: Recipients will be notified in July 2022 by phone, email, or other information provided in the application. Details on College Starter Kits distribution will be provided in the award notification and will be distributed to recipients no later than August 2022.

Recipient Check-ins: Students will be required to participate in scheduled virtual check-ins before the end of the fall and spring semesters (dates and time TBD) to monitor progress during the 2022-23 academic year.

For more information or questions, please contact Tasheen Stallings, Homeless Education Program Analyst, at Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov or (202) 478-5927.



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OSSE 2022 School Year College Starter Kit Application Checklist

The 2021-22 College Starter Kit application and all supporting documents must be submitted to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) via email to Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov or uploaded through the [2022 OSSE College Starter Kit Opportunity Online Application](#) by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, June 1, 2022**.

1. 2022 School Year College Starter Kit Application

Application has been submitted via email to Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov or uploaded through the [2022 OSSE College Starter Kit Opportunity Online Application](#)

☐ Please check this box to confirm that this has been completed.

2. Essay

Applicant has submitted an essay about the impact of experiencing homelessness on the student's life and their desire to attend college, consisting of a 1,000–1,500-word range. Essays must be submitted as a Microsoft Word attachment. Each essay will be evaluated based on the following:

- Demonstrated commitment to education during their experience of homelessness;
- Academic achievement and accomplishments;
- Potential impact of receiving the College Starter Kit on the student's educational career;
- Statement of goals and career interests; and
- Grammar and use of language.

☐ Please check this box to confirm that this has been completed.

3. Proof of Acceptance into a College or University

Applicant has provided evidence of acceptance into a college or university. Acceptable evidence includes an acceptance letter, a class schedule, or a letter confirming housing.

☐ Please check this box to confirm that this has been completed.

4. Letter of Recommendation

Applicant has provided at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or another adult who can speak to the applicant's educational qualifications (e.g., Advanced Placement classes, honor roll selection, academic improvement, standardized tests, academic certificates, or awards) and life experiences.

☐ Please check this box to confirm that this has been completed.

Applications are not complete unless all supporting documentation has been successfully submitted.



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OSSE 2022 School Year College Starter Kit Application

Student's Information:

First and Last Name _____

Pronoun Preference (he/she/them/they) _____

High School/Community Organization _____

Most Stable Mailing Address _____

City/State/ZIP Code _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____ Alternate Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

College/University (attending in summer/fall 2022) _____

College City/State/ZIP Code _____

Have you applied for District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant (DC TAG)? _____

If yes, did you receive your award letter? _____

Social Media Profiles:

Instagram _____

Facebook _____

LinkedIn _____

Twitter _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

First and Last Name _____

Phone Number _____ Alternate Number _____

Email _____

Relationship to the Student _____



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Contact Person for the Student:

Please provide the name, title, and organization of a contact person with whom we can communicate regarding the student's application. An appropriate contact person would be in regular communication with the applicant and is able to reach him, her, or them (e.g., school counselor, teacher, social worker, coach, case manager, or shelter director).

Name _____ Title _____

School/Organization _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Student Consent for Follow Up:

During the 2022-23 academic year, OSSE would like to check in with the recipients for no more than 30 minutes to discuss their transition and progress during the following months (dates and time TBD):

- October 2022
- April 2023

An email reminder and calendar invite will be sent to recipients one week prior to the scheduled date to participate via Microsoft Teams or Go To Webinar.

Student first and last name _____

Student personal email _____

Student college email _____

Student cell phone _____