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**City of Berkeley Youth  
Commission**

Ginsi Bryant, Secretary  
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October 15, 2019

City of Berkeley School Board

Dear Honorable School Board,

We are writing in our capacity as the City of Berkeley Youth Commission to urge you to contract the Institute for Child Poverty & Homelessness (ICPH), a non-profit organization, to collect data on the homeless students of Berkeley. This data could be used to bring attention to the adversity this demographic faces and to propel policy to combat it.

The ICPH is an independent nonprofit which works to collect information on issues of health, education and housing in a community. Their work in cities such as Seattle and New York has provided analysis of the struggles of homeless students and the effectiveness of programs which support them, as well as demographic data to inform the policy makers and the public.

The programs working in Berkeley to address youth homelessness rely on outdated information and speculation on population and lifestyle for those they wish to support. While these programs certainly have merit, it is difficult for them to adequately serve without knowing who they serve or what is effective. This would be a crucial first step towards adequately helping these disadvantaged young people.

Sincerely,

City of Berkeley Youth Commission