

# Additional Item Set: Students in Need



## What is a CCSSE additional item set?

The end of the CCSSE instrument contains space for an additional 20 items. The first five of those are always developed by the Center and administered to all colleges as part of the core survey administration. Colleges have the option of using the remaining 15 to create a custom item set (see [Additional Items Catalog](#)) or choosing from the Center's collection of [standard additional item sets](#) for an additional fee:

- » Academic Advising and Planning
- » Academic Mindset
- » Assessment and Placement
- » Information Literacy
- » Student Financial Health
- » The Working Learner

Frequently, the Center offers a specific additional item set free of charge, as part of an initiative exploring a topic of interest to the community college field. This free additional item set is provided to all colleges administering CCSSE that do not add items of their own choosing. Students are asked to mark their responses under "Additional Items" at the end of the [survey](#). The results from these items are provided as frequency distributions with colleges' standard CCSSE reports.

## 2021's Students in Need item set

Colleges that administer CCSSE 2021 and do not add their own items will receive 15 free items about Students in Need (shown below). These items solicit insight from students who may be experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness.

The Center is offering a corresponding set of items on Students in Need for *SENSE* 2021. A fall 2022 report will feature national findings on this topic.

*Mark only one response for each item*

1. In the last 30 days, the food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more.
  - a. Often true
  - b. Sometimes true
  - c. Never true
  
2. In the last 30 days, I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.
  - a. Often true
  - b. Sometimes true
  - c. Never true

3. In the last 30 days, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
4. If, in the last 30 days, you did cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food, how often did this happen?
  - a. Every day
  - b. More than once a week, but not every day
  - c. About once a week
  - d. Only 1 or 2 days
  - e. I didn't cut the size of my meals or skip meals
  
5. In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
6. In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
7. In the last 30 days, did your college ever help you get food when you could not afford to purchase it?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No, and I needed this kind of help
  - c. No, but I didn't need this kind of help
  
8. In the last 12 months, were you ever unable to pay your rent or mortgage payment in full?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. I don't have a rent or mortgage payment
  
9. In the last 12 months, were you ever unable to pay your utility bill(s) in full?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. I don't have utility bill(s)
  
10. In the last 12 months, were you ever homeless?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
11. In the last 12 months, did you ever stay in temporary housing (such as a shelter, hotel, or motel) because you had no other place to stay?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

12. In the last 12 months, did you ever sleep in an outdoor location or a space not meant for human habitation (such as a car or vehicle) because you had no other place to sleep?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
13. In the last 12 months, did you ever temporarily stay with a relative or friend or couch surf because you had no other place to stay?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
14. In the last 12 months, did your college ever help you obtain or maintain secure and affordable housing?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No, and I needed this kind of help
  - c. No, but I didn't need this kind of help
  
15. In the last 12 months, did your college ever help you pay your utility bill(s)?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No, and I needed this kind of help
  - c. No, but I didn't need this kind of help