



Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness with American Rescue Plan Funds

Tuesday, September 26, 2023



General Housekeeping



The Question and Answer Session will last 1 hour and 15 minutes



Please type questions into the Q&A box



Session is being recorded

The big picture: the impact of homelessness on enrollment, attendance, and educational success

About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection
works to overcome
homelessness through
education.

We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

WEBSITE:

schoolhouseconnection.org

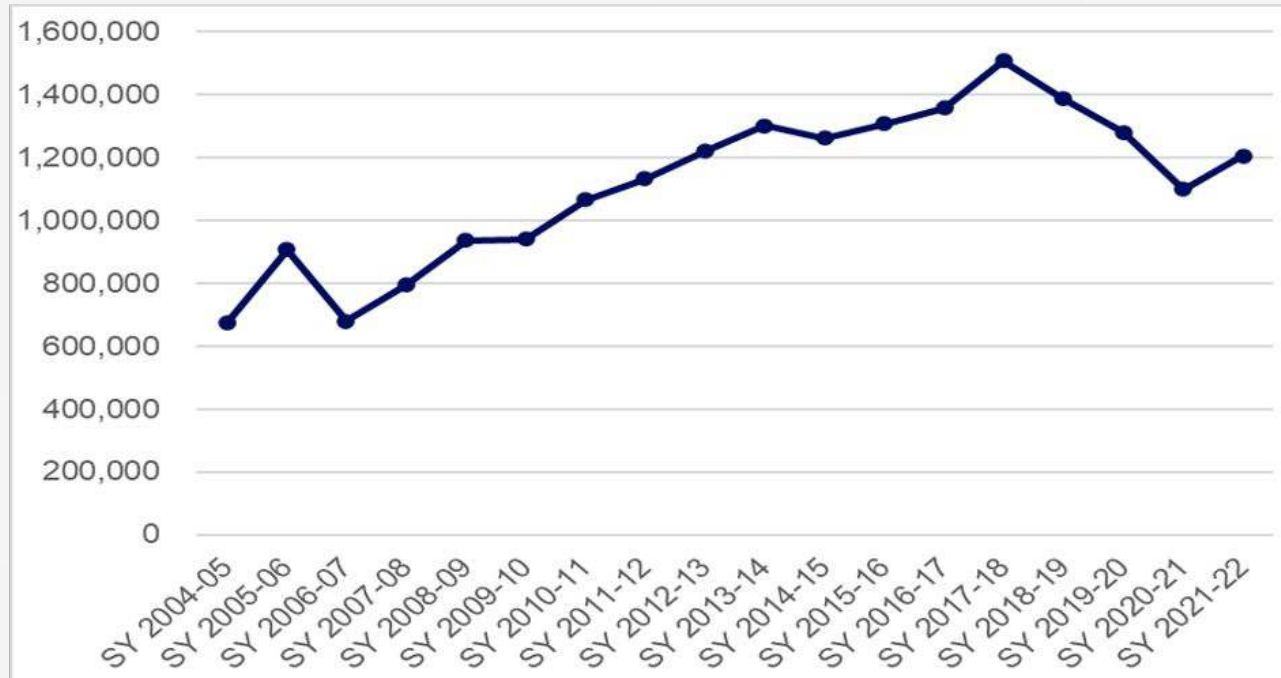
NEWSLETTER:

schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

COVID-19 impacted identification

Number of Students Identified as Experiencing Homelessness in the United States, 2004-05 to 2021-22



Source: National Center for Homeless Education. <https://nche.ed.gov> and <https://eddataexpress.ed.gov/>



1.2 million students

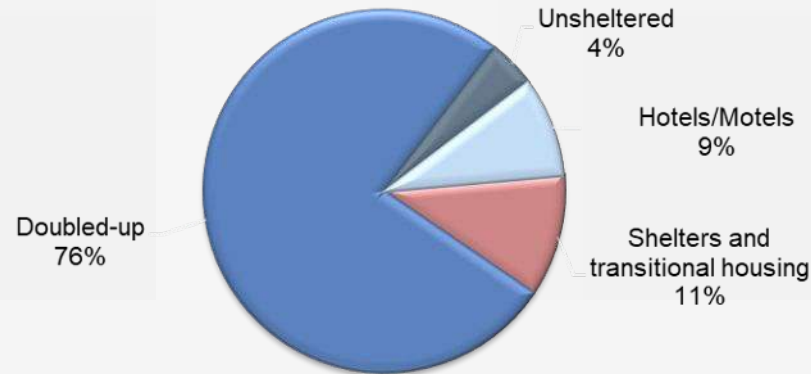
Identified as experiencing homelessness in 2021–22.

That's approximately 2.4% of all prek-12 students enrolled in public schools.

This number is almost certainly a significant undercount.

Most students experiencing homelessness are staying with others when first identified

Percentage of enrolled students experiencing homelessness by primary nighttime residence, School Year 2021--22



■ Shelters and transitional housing ■ Doubled-up ■ Unsheltered ■ Hotels/Motels

Impact on health and well-being

- ▶ High school students experiencing homelessness are at much higher risk of experiencing violence
 - The prevalence of sexual and physical dating violence and sexual violence was two to four times higher among students experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ High school students experiencing homelessness face much higher risk of suicide.
 - Students who experienced homelessness were nearly twice as likely to have seriously considered suicide or made a suicide plan during the past year, and more than three times as likely to have attempted suicide during the past year.

Impact on attendance and achievement

- ▶ Chronic Absence
 - In 2020–2021, 41.9% of students experiencing homelessness were chronically absent, more than twice the rate of stably-housed students.
- ▶ Academic Performance
 - In 2020–21, approximately 28.4% of students experiencing homelessness achieved proficiency in reading/language arts, 22.8% in mathematics
- ▶ High School Graduation
 - The 2019–2020 national average graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness was 68.2%, 13 percentage points below other low-income students and nearly 18 percentage points below all students.

McKinney-Vento Act: Local Educational Agency (LEA) Requirements

- ▶ Appoint district liaisons with 10 specific duties
- ▶ Immediate enrollment
- ▶ Right to remain in school of origin
- ▶ Provide transportation
- ▶ Training and professional development
- ▶ Eliminate barriers to full participation:
 - Identification through outreach and coordination with other agencies
 - Referrals to health, housing, and other services
 - Academic credit transfer

Even if you have:

- Uncertain housing
- A temporary address
- No permanent physical address

You are guaranteed enrollment in school by the federal McKinney-Vento Act and California state law if you live:

- In a house or apartment with more than one family due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- With friends or family because you are a runaway or an unaccompanied youth
- In substandard housing (without electricity, water, or heat)
- In a shelter (family, domestic violence, or youth shelter or transitional living program)
- In a motel, hotel, or weekly rate housing
- In an abandoned building, in a car, at a campground, or on the streets

You can enroll in school immediately even without the documents normally required for enrollment, such as:

- Proof of residency
- Immunization records or other required health records
- School records
- Legal guardianship papers

Your child may:

- Participate fully in all school activities and programs for which he/she is eligible
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin if you request it
- Continue to attend the school in which he/she was last enrolled even if you have moved away from that school's attendance area
- Qualify automatically for school number programs

Your responsibilities are to:

- Make sure your child gets to school on time and ready to learn
- Stay informed of school rules, regulations, and activities
- Contact the homeless liaison for assistance in removing barriers to your child's education
- Attend parent/teacher conferences, Back-to-School Nights, and other school-related activities

For questions about enrolling in school or for assistance with school enrollment, contact:

- Your local school district homeless liaison:
- Your county homeless liaison:
- Your homeless state coordinator: **Leanne Wheeler**, State Coordinator, California Department of Education, 1430 N Street, Suite 4400, Sacramento, CA 95814, Phone: 1-866-438-9214

You can ENROLL in school!

Why it matters

Lack of a high school diploma or GED is **single greatest risk factor** associated with continued homelessness as a young adult.

- ▶ Youth without a high school diploma or GED or 4.5 times more likely to experience homelessness as a young adult

In 2022, workers whose highest level of education was a high school diploma made over 25 percent more than those who didn't finish high school—and earnings improved with every level of education completed

Federal and state funding to support students experiencing homelessness

Three sources of federal funding

Federal Funding Source	Funding Amount (FY2023)	Type of Funding
McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program (EHCY)	\$129 million	Dedicated annual
American Rescue Plan Act – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) (Bipartisan amendment)	\$800,000,000	Dedicated one-time
Required Set Aside of ESEA Title I, Part A Funds	Amount set aside for students experiencing homelessness varies by district*	Annual required set-aside

* This amount was previously not tracked at the national level, but as of the 2022–23 school year will be collected by the Department of Education.

Source: U.S. Department of Education (2022). Department of Education budget tables; American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, H.R. 1319, 117th Cong. (2021); U.S. Department of Education (2022). Fiscal year 2023 President's Budget Request. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget23/23pbapt.pdf> (accessed 09/20/22).

Federal funding challenges

- ▶ In 2020–21, less than 20% (1 in 5) of LEAs received funding at current funding levels (subgrants are competitive due to low overall national funding)
- ▶ One-quarter (25%) of all school districts — 4,930 school districts — reported no students experiencing homelessness. These school districts collectively enrolled 300,599 students.
- ▶ 92% of the school districts that reported no students experiencing homelessness also received no dedicated homeless education funding.
- ▶ ARP-HCY funding is more generous, but one-time only
 - \$800 million across 2 rounds (around \$577 per identified student experiencing homelessness)
 - An unprecedented number of LEAs are now receiving dedicated funding to support these students: approximately 53% nationally
- ▶ Districts must set-aside Title I funding for students experiencing homelessness, but more oversight and enforcement is needed

Flexible use of ARP-HCY funds

U.S. Department of Education Guidance

<p>Transportation to enable children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities, including gas cards and car repairs when reasonable and necessary</p>	<p>Supplies needed by individual students (e.g., eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items), including prepaid debit cards</p>	<p>Cell phones, technological devices, and access to high-speed internet for individual students</p>	<p>Short-term, temporary housing (e.g. motel stays) when such emergency housing is the only reasonable option for safe temporary housing and when necessary to enable attendance and full participation in school</p>	<p>Wrap-around services provided in collaboration with or through community-based organizations, including academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services</p>	<p>Increase liaison and McKinney-Vento program capacity</p>
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- **Official guidance** from the U.S. Department of Education released on September 12, 2023
- **Asks states to expedite funding** including by modifying administrative procedures.
- **Please circulate widely** to superintendents, school business officers, and other administrators involved in spending decisions

Some Highlights from the New Federal Guidance On Allowable ARP-HCY Uses

- **Motel stays of longer than three days** if “reasonable and necessary” to allow children and youth to attend school, and as a last resort when other funding resources are not available.
- The **purchase of vehicles** by LEAs for the specialized transportation of homeless children and youth, as well as reimbursing parents and youth for gas costs, purchasing prepaid gas cards, and paying for limited car repairs if such costs are reasonable and necessary.
- Providing **food assistance** if it is reasonable and necessary to assist homeless students to take advantage of educational and extracurricular opportunities when food is not available to the student through other sources (e.g., free school meals).

More Highlights from the New Federal Guidance On Allowable ARP-HCY Uses

- Providing **early childhood education** to young children age birth to five who are not formally enrolled in the LEA, but who are experiencing homelessness in the LEA.
- ED further elaborated that activities to **transition children to kindergarten, coordinating screenings, referrals, activities to determine eligibility for subsidy, and early intervention services (including transportation to those services)** are examples of other allowable early childhood activities.
- Assisting youth and their parents/guardians with completion of the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** and **many other** college readiness and college access activities, adding staff hours to provide such assistance, and providing transportation so that homeless youth may participate in these activities.



Sustaining support for students experiencing homelessness

Most states provide “at-risk” funding

- ▶ 44 states and D.C. provide additional funding for students from low-income backgrounds through education funding formulas
- ▶ At-risk students can include free or reduced-price meal eligible, direct certification, students in foster care, U.S. Census poverty estimates, and more.
- ▶ Mechanisms vary (flat weight, multiple weights, categorical program, etc.)

Source: Education Commission for the States. (2021). *K-12 and special education funding: Funding for students from low-income backgrounds*.

<https://reports.ecs.org/comparisons/k-12-and-special-education-funding-06><https://reports.ecs.org/comparisons/k-12-and-special-education-funding-06>

Several states provide additional funding that can support students experiencing homelessness

- ▶ **Minnesota** transportation funding to maintain school of origin
 - Provides funding for transportation of students experiencing homelessness through Special Education Aid Entitlement Formula
- ▶ **Ohio** Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid and Student Success and Wellness funds
 - At-risk funding with allowable uses for services for students experiencing homelessness, among other things
- ▶ **Texas** State Compensatory Education
 - At-risk funding with dedicated weight for students experiencing homelessness

State funding:

A few states provided dedicated funding

State Funding	Funding Amount	Type of Funding	Number of Identified Students Experiencing Homelessness (2021–22)
California	\$183.3 million	One-time	225,747
Colorado	\$825,000	Annual	16,540
Maine	\$1.5 million	One-time (pilot)	3,087
Massachusetts	\$23 million	Annual	21,388
New York	\$22.6 million	Annual	133,578
Washington: Homeless Student Stability Program	\$2.0 million	Annual	37,614
Washington: Homeless Student Stability education Program	\$1.2 million	Annual	

Thank you!

▷ Resources

- <https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/federal-state-resources-students-experiencing-homelessness-report>
- <https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/supporting-students-homelessness-report>
- <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/data-profiles>
- <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/fy24-ehcy-fact-sheet>
- <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/seen-and-served>
- <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/arp-hcy>

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