

# HOMELESS STUDENTS IN OREGON

The right of homeless children and youth to have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other children is ensured under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program, enacted in 1987. Students qualify for McKinney-Vento Homeless Program assistance when they reside in living situations that are not fixed, regular, and/or adequate. The Act requires that every district designate a Homeless Liaison to identify and provide services to homeless students and to contribute to the annual data collection on preschool (ages 3-5) through grade 12 public school-enrolled homeless children and youth.

The Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program works to ensure that school age-eligible homeless children and youth are provided with immediate school enrollment and access to education services, despite lack of a permanent residence, a supervising parent or legal guardian, or lack of records from a previous school. To reduce frequent school changes, districts are asked to stabilize homeless students in their school of origin, if feasible, even though the transportation route might involve crossing district boundaries.

## How is “Homeless” Defined?

For the purposes of the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Programs under the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act, homeless children and youth “lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” A homeless family could live in an emergency shelter or transitional housing unit, share housing with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship, reside in motels, or live in tents or trailers for lack of alternative, adequate housing. Unaccompanied minors who have been abandoned by their parents or who have run away from home – whatever the reason - are also eligible for educational rights and services as homeless students.

## What are the Living Situations of Homeless Students in Oregon?

School Year	In Shelters	Sharing Housing	Unsheltered	Motels
2013-14	1,836	14,275	1,842	949
2014-15	1,853	15,298	2,272	1,101
2015-16	1,926	16,163	2,377	1,210

\* Collection methodology changed in 2012-13. See below for details.

## How are Homeless Students Counted? Methodology Changes in 2012-13

From 2004-05 through 2011-12, annual data on homeless students was a district-based spreadsheet collection. In 2012-13, it became a student-based collection, with each district now responsible for recording the Secure Student ID (SSID) of each homeless student served and three additional pieces of information:

- 1) student’s living situation (Shelter, Unsheltered, Sharing Housing, Motel/Hotel);
- 2) student’s unaccompanied status;
- 3) whether the district is a federal homeless education subgrantee

Prior to 2012-13, only those districts receiving competitive subgrant funds were required to record homeless student SSIDs. With over 150 districts now involved, achievement data on many more students is now available. ODE will soon be able to extract socioeconomic data, graduation rates, and other relevant data on homeless students.

## How many homeless students attend public schools in Oregon?

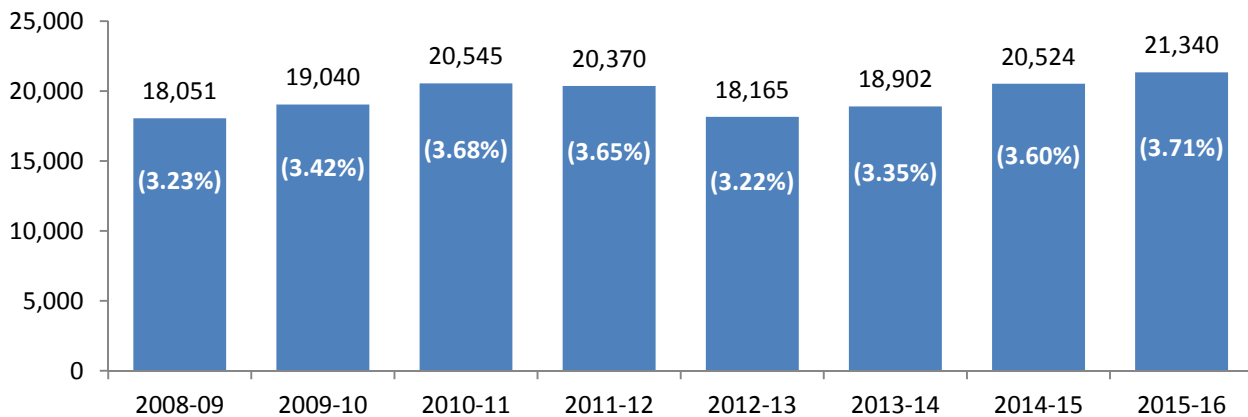
Grade Level	Count 2015-16
PK	1,929*
KG	1,794
1	1,737
2	1,824
3	1,762
4	1,650
5	1,457
6	1,480
7	1,345
8	1,406
9	1,439
10	1,462
11	1,546
12	2,450
Total	21,352

\* PK enrollment is optional

## What are the trends in poverty and homelessness?

Counts of homeless students continue to rise, despite Oregon’s improving economy. A lack of affordable housing throughout the state is considered the chief cause.

**Homeless Student Counts, K-12**  
(Percent of Total K-12 Enrollment)  
2008-09 to 2015-16



K-12 Students enrolled in Oregon School Districts only. Excludes students enrolled in ESDs, correctional programs, and other non-school district run programs.

\* Collection methodology changed in 2012-13. See page 29 for details.

### Districts with the Highest Number of Homeless Students

District	K-12 Total Homeless 2015-16	% of enrollment 2015-16
Portland SD 1J	1434	2.96%
Beaverton SD 48J	1382	3.41%
Medford SD 549C	1365	9.87%
Reynolds SD 7	1128	9.76%
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	1120	2.73%
Eugene SD 4J	810	4.71%
Lincoln County SD	768	14.17%
Bend-LaPine Administrative SD 1	576	3.29%
Bethel SD 52	524	9.24%
Central Point SD 6	484	10.53%

### Districts with the Highest % of Homeless Students

District	K-12 Total Homeless 2015-16	% of enrollment 2015-16
Butte Falls SD 91	52	35.62%
Dayville SD 16J	10	20.00%
Falls City SD 57	35	19.66%
Myrtle Point SD 41	108	18.69%
Mapleton SD 32	30	18.29%
Marcola SD 79J	37	17.05%
Monument SD 8	10	16.13%
Lincoln County SD	768	14.17%
Port Orford-Langlois SD 2CJ	28	13.86%
Warrenton-Hammond SD 30	130	13.00%
McKenzie SD 68	24	12.97%
Riddle SD 70	45	11.22%

While districts with fewer students often have “volatile” data, note that the districts with the highest percentages of homeless student in the state are mainly rural and some distance from the I-5 corridor. Their homeless counts are attributed to unemployment, lack of family-wage jobs, and lack of affordable housing in their regions.

**Homeless Students by County of Enrollment, 2015-16**

County	Total Enrolled, K - 12
Baker	129
Benton	290
Clackamas	1392
Clatsop	287
Columbia	209
Coos	569
Crook	84
Curry	141
Deschutes	1007
Douglas	472
Gilliam	1
Grant	28
Harney	39
Hood River	18
Jackson	2452
Jefferson	130
Josephine	610
Klamath	265
Lake	23
Lane	2388
Lincoln	768
Linn	976
Malheur	286
Marion	1740
Morrow	46
Multnomah	4064
Polk	177
Sherman	0
Tillamook	204
Umatilla	161
Union	190
Wallowa	37
Wasco	116
Washington	2202
Wheeler	3
Yamhill	632

\*Suppressed; 5 or fewer students

NOTE: Students enrolled in a district that contains schools in more than one county are included in the total of the county where the district administrative office is located.

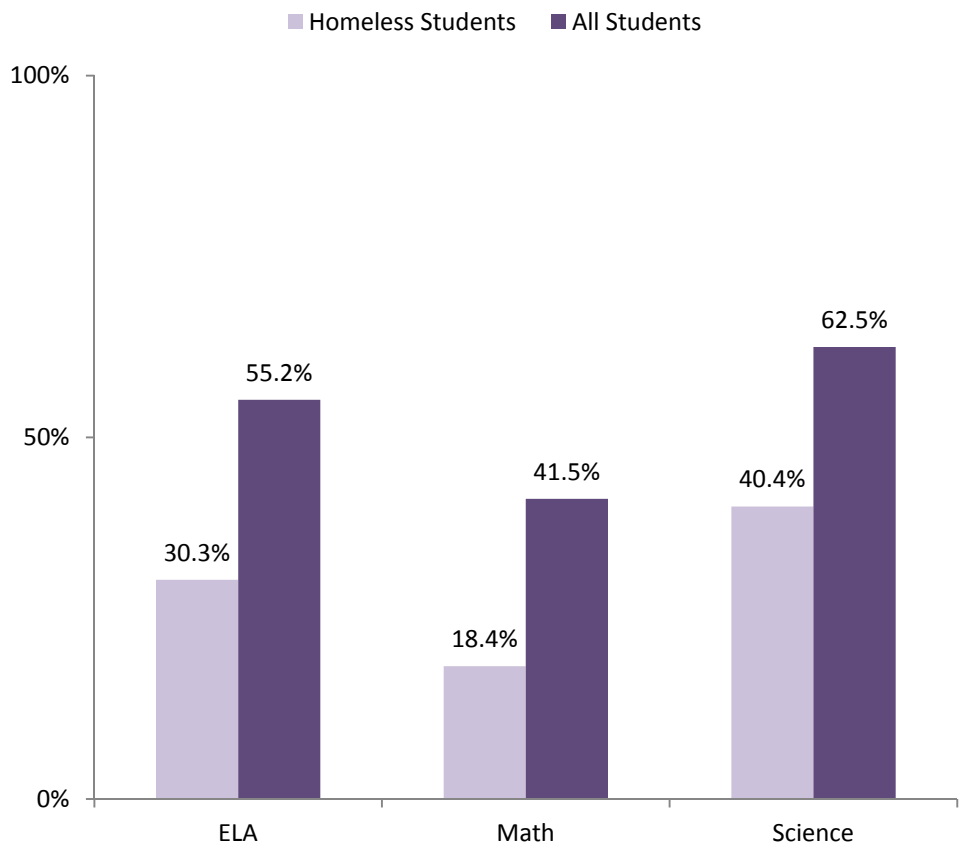
**How do public school programs serve homeless students?**

Services and accommodations for homeless students may include school transportation, tutoring, extended-day and summer school programs, shoes, clothing and hygiene supplies, and referrals to social services and housing programs. Local district general funds may be supplemented by Title I-A funds, McKinney-Vento competitive subgrants, community agencies, and local donations. Many districts receive donations from community sponsors, foundations, and local businesses to help provide resources for homeless students such as dental and medical care, glasses, mentoring, family support, and other services.

Partnerships extend across the state between school districts, communities, and county agencies working to end homelessness. Many Liaisons are involved in county Continuum of Care Committees and Homeless Councils, Oregon Pre-Kindergarten Programs, and Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs. Liaisons find collaboration and assistance from non-profit agencies, coalitions, and faith-based service organizations. The role of the Homeless Liaison in school districts, as well as the role of school districts in statewide efforts to prevent and end homelessness, has become an imperative. It is hoped that these collaborations will eventually help reduce the number of homeless students in Oregon.

**Homeless Student Performance**

2015-16 Percent at Level 3 or 4 / Meets or Exceeds Standard, All Grades



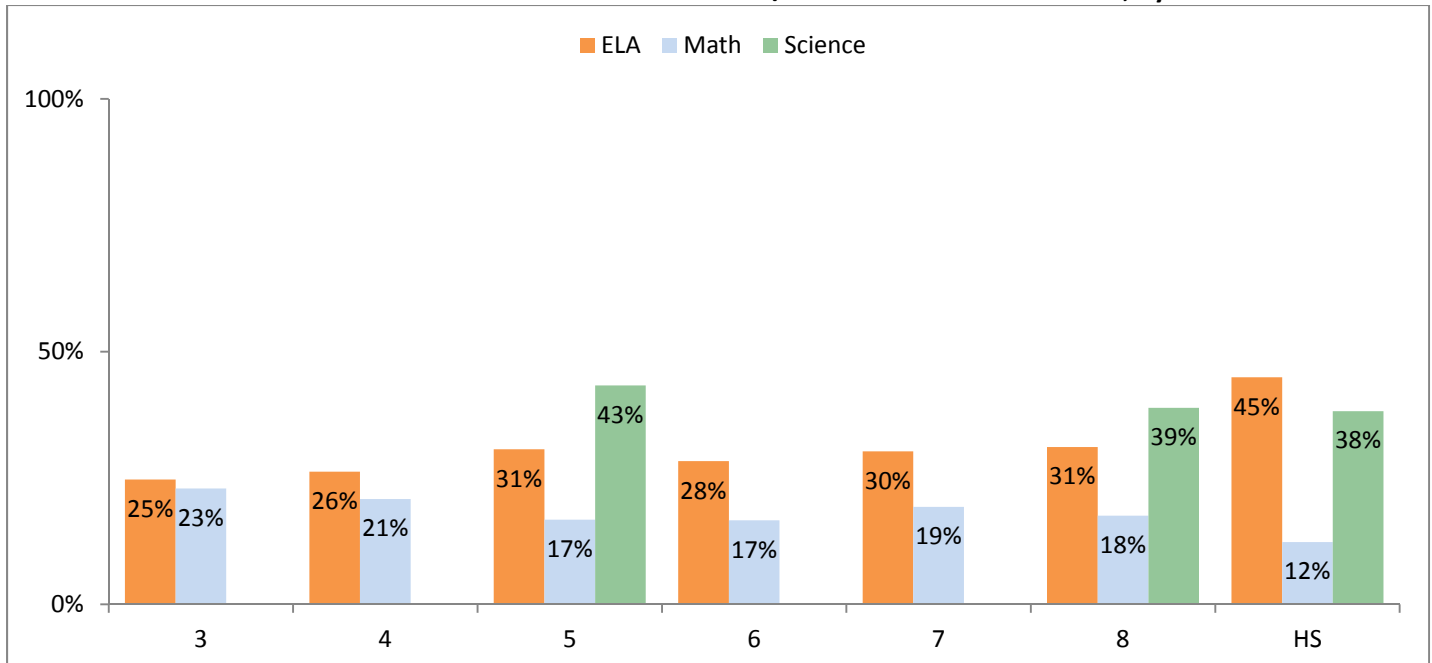
## McKinney-Vento Subgrant Projects

Oregon received \$613,967 in federal McKinney-Vento Act funds in 2015-16 to serve homeless students. More than 75% of this amount went to districts in the form of competitive subgrants. During the 2015-16 school year, 41 local districts were served by ten subgrant projects from this program.

McKinney-Vento Subgrant Projects were required to report results on Oregon State Achievement tests for the homeless students in their districts. Following are the results of those tests.

Grade Level	English Language Arts			Mathematics			Science		
	NUMBER OF HOMELESS STUDENTS TESTED IN ELA 2015-16	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3/4 2014-15	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3/4 2015-16	NUMBER OF HOMELESS STUDENTS TESTED IN MATH 2015-16	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3/4 2014-15	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3/4 2015-16	NUMBER OF HOMELESS STUDENTS TESTED IN SCIENCE 2015-16	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS WHO MET OR EXCEEDED STANDARD 2014-15	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS WHO MET OR EXCEEDED STANDARD 2015-16
3	1,486	23.71%	24.70%	1,471	22.30%	22.91%			
4	1,422	25.02%	26.23%	1,406	19.70%	20.84%			
5	1,265	30.87%	30.67%	1,253	17.44%	16.76%	1,265	47.10%	43.32%
6	1,278	26.61%	28.33%	1,257	15.58%	16.63%			
7	1,110	30.15%	30.27%	1,100	16.98%	19.27%			
8	1,179	30.82%	31.13%	1,168	17.87%	17.55%	1,098	41.11%	38.89%
HS	1,053	43.91%	44.92%	1,006	11.48%	12.33%	866	38.10%	38.22%

2015-16 Percent of Homeless Students at Level 3 or 4 / Meets or Exceeds Standard, by Grade Level



For more information about the ODE Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program: Contact Dona Bolt, Coordinator: [dona.bolt@state.or.us](mailto:dona.bolt@state.or.us) or visit the Homeless Education webpage on the ODE website at the following link: [www.ode.state.or.us/Go/HomelessEd](http://www.ode.state.or.us/Go/HomelessEd).