



NEWS RELEASE

November 21, 2019

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Oregon's Students Experiencing Homelessness Will Have More Opportunities To Thrive Thanks To Student Success Act

Homeless Student Count release is a reminder of our students' needs and services available to them

(Salem, Ore.) – Oregon Department of Education Director Colt Gill reminded Oregonians of existing and future services available to students experiencing homelessness as ODE released the [2018-2019 Homeless Student Count](#) this morning.

“Today’s release of the Homeless Student Count is another reminder of the services available to our students, the challenges they face and the bright futures that await them if we can meet their needs. Thanks to the Student Success Act, we’ll be able to do more to help students experiencing homelessness graduate from high school with a plan for their future,” Gill said. “Right now school districts use federal funds to provide essential services such as clothing, school supplies and transportation to school. Student Success Act funds will allow school districts to increase transportation so students can participate in off-campus career and technical programs, after school activities, summer school and other opportunities outside the school day. Student Success Act funds may also be used to coordinate housing for youth and make early learning programs accessible to young children and their families who are experiencing homelessness.”

ODE is not alone in supporting children and families experiencing housing insecurity. Oregon Housing and Community Services and Oregon’s Statewide Housing Plan prioritize housing solutions for families with children, recognizing that children cannot succeed in the classroom without a safe and stable roof over their heads. Through the [Local Innovation Fast Track \(LIFT\) Program](#), Oregon has financed the development of over 2,200 family homes. The Oregon Legislature recently allocated \$150 million to the LIFT program, which will bring thousands of homes to communities across the state.

According to the 2018-19 Homeless Student Count, 22,215 students in Oregon lacked “a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” during that school year.

The 22,215 figure represents a two percent increase over the 2017-18 total of 21,746 homeless students, and a slight decline from the record of 22,541, set in the 2016-17 school year. Under the guidelines of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, a student is considered homeless



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Colt Gill

Director of the Oregon Department of Education

if they 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 substandard housing, tents or trailers.

Every school district has a liaison to identify and provide services to students experiencing homelessness. More information can be found on [ODE's McKinney-Vento webpage](#).

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