

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 required to stabilize homeless students in their school of origin, 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
2015-16	1,926	16,163	2,377	1,210
2016-17	1,999	17,210	2,515	1,124
2017-18	1,817	16,399	2,549	1,236

How are Homeless Students Counted?

Since 2012-13, each district provides the Secure Student ID (SSID) of each homeless student served and two additional pieces of information:

- 1) living situation (Shelter, Unsheltered, Sharing Housing, Motel/Hotel);
- 2) unaccompanied status

In addition to providing count data for required federal reports, results are used to assist districts with homeless student needs assessments in attendance, academic performance, and dropout prevention. ODE initiatives such as High School Success, Career and Technical Education, Trauma-Informed Practice, Early Learning and Successful School Transitions are particularly helpful in retaining homeless students through graduation and into college and career.

How many homeless students attend public schools in Oregon?

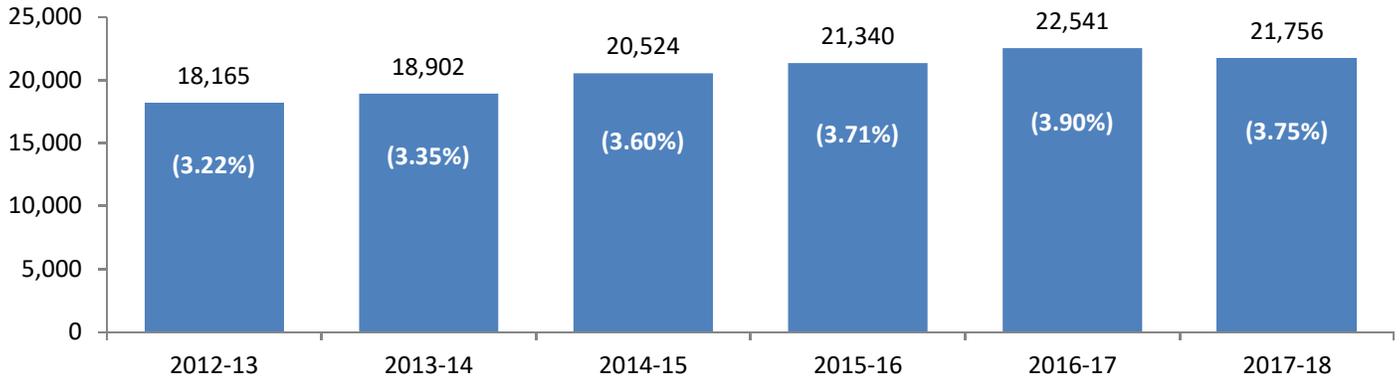
Grade Level	Count 2017-18
PK*	1,953
KG	1,734
1	1,640
2	1,568
3	1,662
4	1,694
5	1,615
6	1,490
7	1,459
8	1,439
9	1,465
10	1,534
11	1,737
12	2,719
Total	21,756

* PK enrollment is optional

What are the trends in poverty and homelessness?

Counts of homeless students in high-rent districts are dropping, while many rural districts are seeing increases, as families move seeking more affordable housing.

Homeless Student Counts, K-12
(Percent of Total K-12 Enrollment)
2012-13 to 2017-18



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

Districts with the Highest Number of Homeless Students

District	K-12 Total Homeless 2017-18	% of enrollment 2017-18
Beaverton SD 48J	1,799	4.40%
Medford SD 549C	1,164	8.16%
Portland SD 1J	1,142	2.35%
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	1,065	2.54%
Reynolds SD 7	866	7.68%
Eugene SD 4J	864	4.98%
Lincoln Co. SD	825	14.93%
Grants Pass SD 7	500	8.17%
Three Rivers/Josephine Co. SD	477	9.84%
Bend-LaPine SD 1	467	2.55%

Districts with the Highest % of Homeless Students

District	K-12 Total Homeless 2017-18	% of enrollment 2017-18
Mapleton SD 32	43	30.28%
Butte Falls SD 91	58	24.68%
McKenzie SD 68	43	21.61%
North Lake SD 14	43	20.28%
Port Orford-Langlois SD 2CJ	45	19.82%
Reedsport SD 105	128	18.60%
Ukiah SD 80R	*	16.13%
Warrenton-Hammond SD 30	160	15.92%
Falls City SD 57	31	14.98%
Lincoln County SD	825	14.95%

* Values under 6 are suppressed for privacy

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. Increasing homelessness in Oregon and other western states is attributed to a lack of sufficient affordable housing to meet the demands of a growing and increasingly mobile population.

Note: The districts with the highest number and highest percent of homeless students change year to year.

Homeless Students by County of Enrollment, 2017-18

County	Total Enrolled, K - 12
Baker	175
Benton	259
Clackamas	1147
Clatsop	312
Columbia	229
Coos	576
Crook	92
Curry	129
Deschutes	884
Douglas	629
Gilliam	0
Grant	6
Harney	68
Hood River	32
Jackson	2206
Jefferson	137
Josephine	969
Klamath	367
Lake	48
Lane	2296
Lincoln	825
Linn	1024
Malheur	261
Marion	1649
Morrow	112
Multnomah	3349
Polk	269
Sherman	0
Tillamook	249
Umatilla	177
Union	168
Wallowa	26
Wasco	141
Washington	2638
Wheeler	22
Yamhill	589

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.

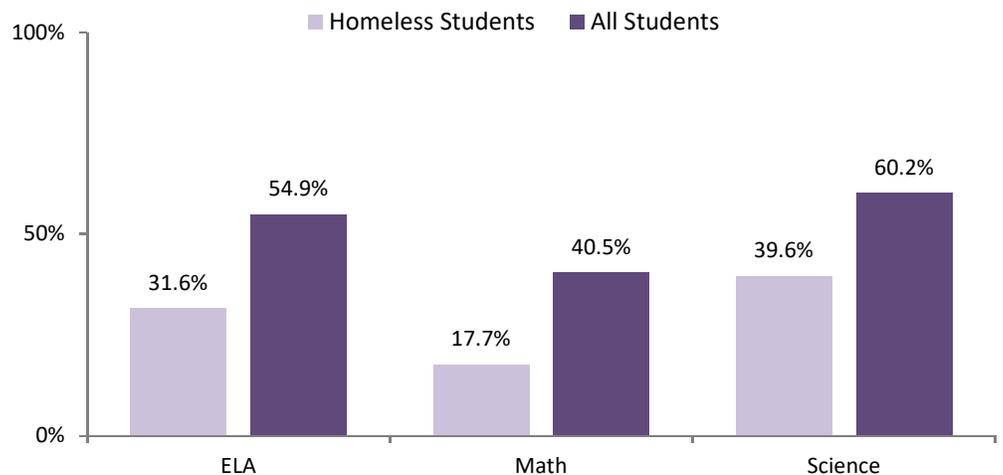
How do public school programs serve homeless students?

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.

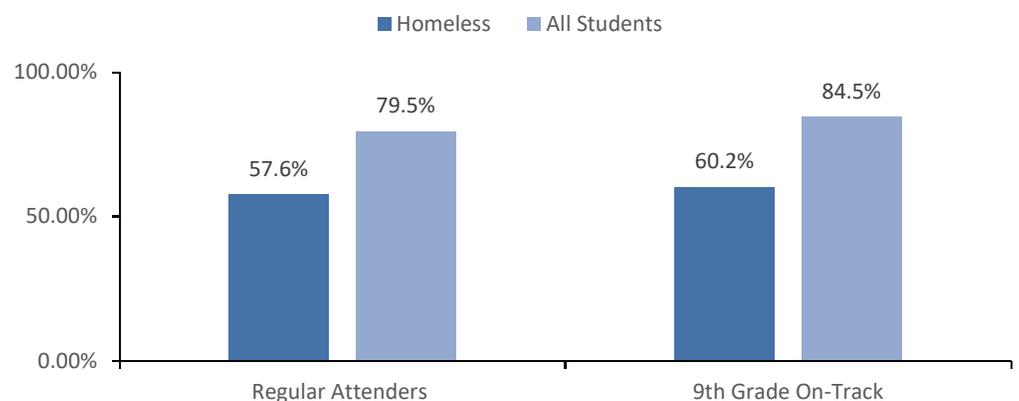
Homeless Student Performance

2017-18 Percent at Level 3 or 4 / Meets or Exceeds Standard, All Grades



Homeless Student Performance

2017-18 Percent Regular Attenders, Percent of 9th Grade On-Track



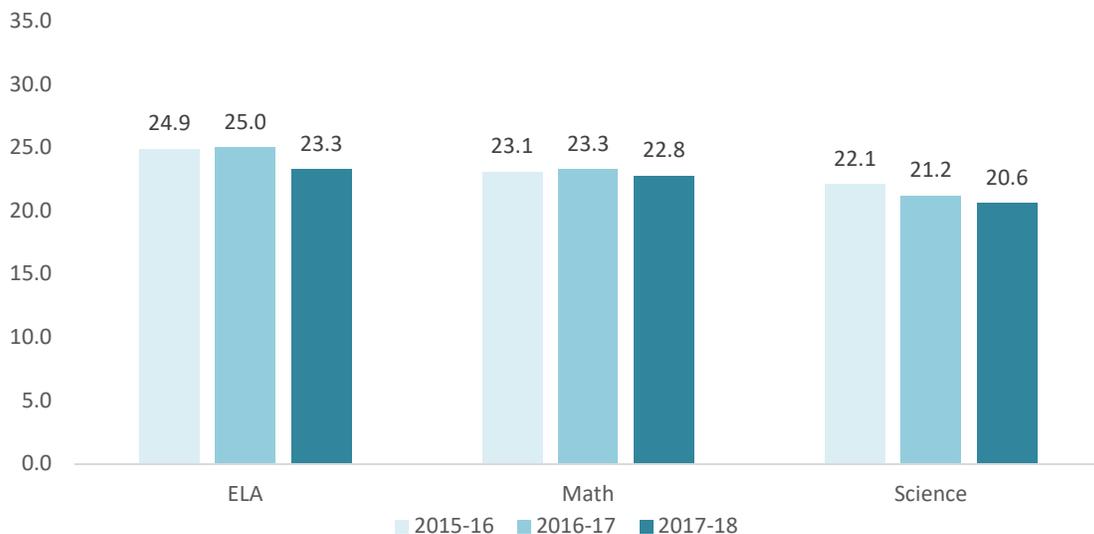
McKinney-Vento Subgrant Projects

Oregon received \$742,271 in federal McKinney-Vento Act funds in 2017-18 to serve homeless students. More than 75% of this amount went to districts in the form of competitive subgrants. During the 2017-18 school year, 26 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 2017-18	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3/4 2016-17	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3/4 2017-18	NUMBER OF HOMELESS STUDENTS TESTED IN MATH 2017-18	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3/4 2016-17	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3/4 2017-18	NUMBER OF HOMELESS STUDENTS TESTED IN SCIENCE 2017-18	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS WHO MET OR EXCEEDED STANDARD 2016-17	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS WHO MET OR EXCEEDED STANDARD 2017-18
3	1,414	21.49%	25.60%	1,401	22.69%	23.84%			
4	1,471	22.97%	27.74%	1,456	19.42%	20.12%			
5	1,376	28.48%	31.69%	1,362	14.87%	17.03%	1,385	42.54%	44.98%
6	1,242	27.11%	29.79%	1,230	14.08%	15.77%			
7	1,182	29.52%	30.54%	1,164	18.03%	16.32%			
8	1,174	29.17%	32.11%	1,148	17.98%	16.29%	1,165	40.04%	39.83%
HS	1,159	46.90%	46.59%	1,119	13.43%	12.42%	984	37.02%	31.81%

The achievement gap between homeless students and all students has decreased in recent years. The following chart shows the difference in percent meeting between homeless students and all students over the past three years.



For more information about the ODE Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program: Contact Dona Bolt, Coordinator: dona.bolt@state.or.us or visit the [McKinney-Vento Act: Homeless Education Program](https://www.oregon.gov/ode) webpage.