

# 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
2012-13*	1,793	13,964	1,600	808
2013-14	1,836	14,275	1,842	949
2014-15	1,853	15,298	2,272	1,101

\* 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?

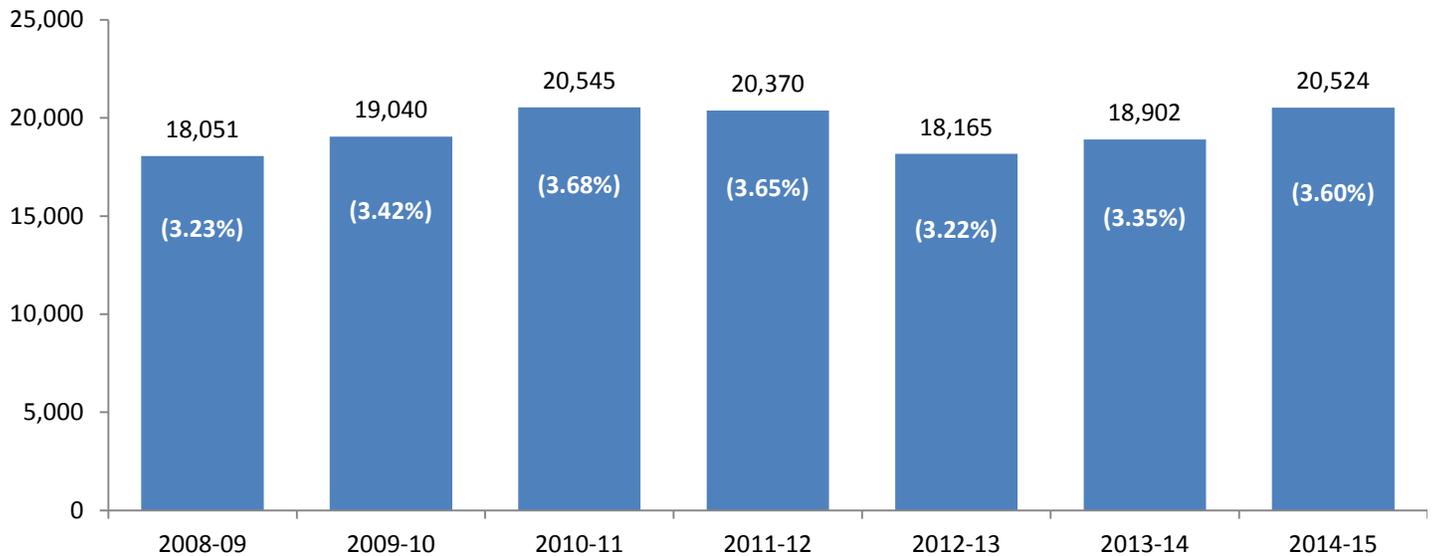
Grade Level	Count 2014-15
PK	1,314*
KG	1,695
1	1,862
2	1,717
3	1,641
4	1,460
5	1,466
6	1,275
7	1,333
8	1,331
9	1,416
10	1,403
11	1,480
12	2,445

\* PK enrollment is optional

## What are the trends in poverty and homelessness?

Counts of homeless students are at pre-recession highs, despite Oregon's improved economy.

**Homeless Student Counts, K-12**  
(Percent of Total K-12 Enrollment)  
2008-09 to 2014-15



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 1 for details.

### Districts with the Highest Number of Homeless Students

District	K-12 Total Homeless 2014-15	% of enrollment 2014-15
Beaverton SD 48J	1380	3.47%
Reynolds SD 7	1350	11.54%
Portland SD 1J	1325	2.78%
Medford SD 549C	1206	8.85%
Salem-Keizer SD 24J	971	2.39%
Eugene SD 4J	722	4.24%
Bend-LaPine SD 1	680	3.97%
Lincoln County SD	571	10.90%

### Districts with the Highest % of Homeless Students

District	K-12 Total Homeless 2014-15	% of enrollment 2014-15
Butte Falls SD 91	42	29.37%
McKenzie SD 68	44	19.73%
Culver SD 4	131	18.85%
Mapleton SD 32	23	15.44%
Dayville SD 16J	8	15.38%
Falls City SD 57	22	15.38%
Port Orford-Langlois SD	32	15.24%
Central Linn SD 552	89	13.69%
Prospect SD 59	30	12.35%
Marcola SD 79J	27	12.22%
Reynolds SD 7	1350	11.54%
Adrian SD 61	30	11.28%

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, 2014-15

County	Total Enrolled, K-12
Baker	140
Benton	261
Clackamas	1259
Clatsop	213
Columbia	176
Coos	408
Crook	97
Curry	131
Deschutes	1264
Douglas	502
Gilliam	*
Grant	8
Harney	43
Hood River	45
Jackson	2218
Jefferson	210
Josephine	637
Klamath	394
Lake	16
Lane	2156
Lincoln	571
Linn	989
Malheur	381
Marion	1618
Morrow	42
Multnomah	4069
Polk	144
Sherman	11
Tillamook	137
Umatilla	118
Union	216
Wallowa	37
Wasco	94
Washington	2150
Wheeler	*
Yamhill	494

\*Suppressed; 5 or fewer students

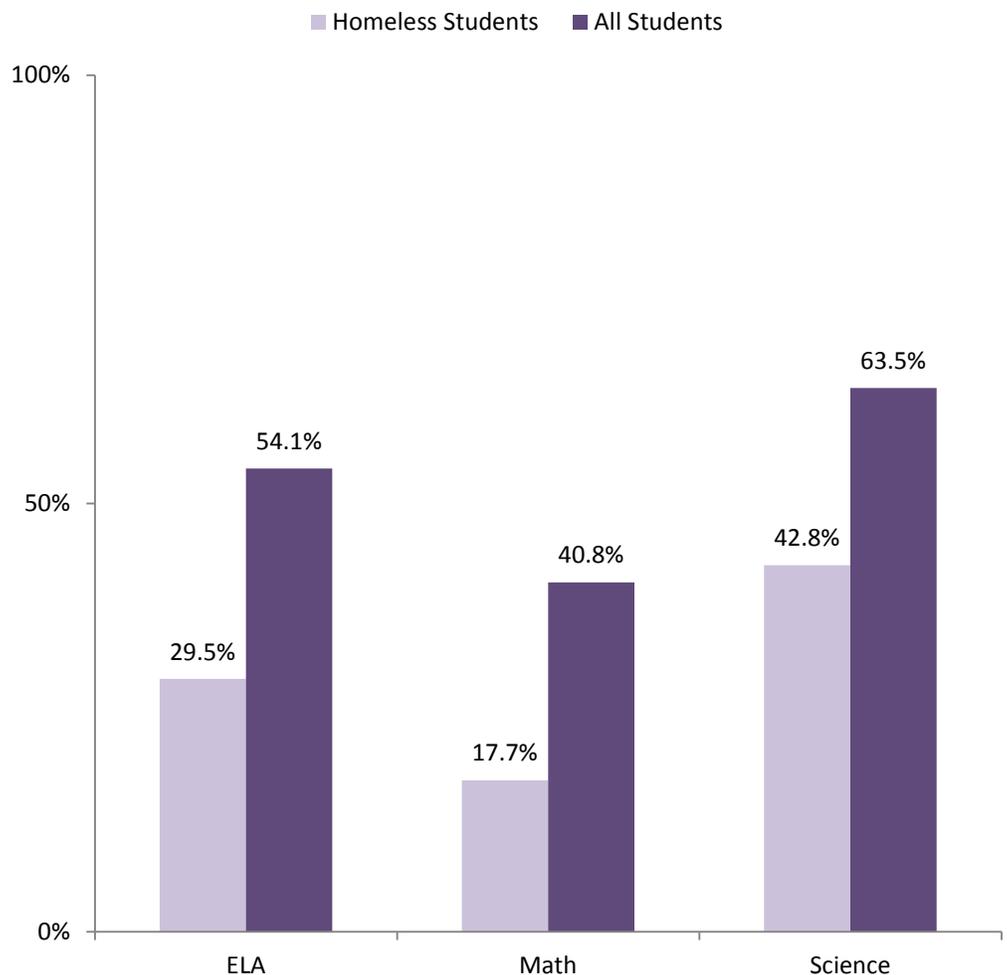
NOTE: Students enrolled in a district that contains schools in more than one county are included in the total of the county where the district administrative office is located.

## 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.

## 2014-15 Percent at Level 3 or 4 / Meets or Exceeds Standard, All Grades



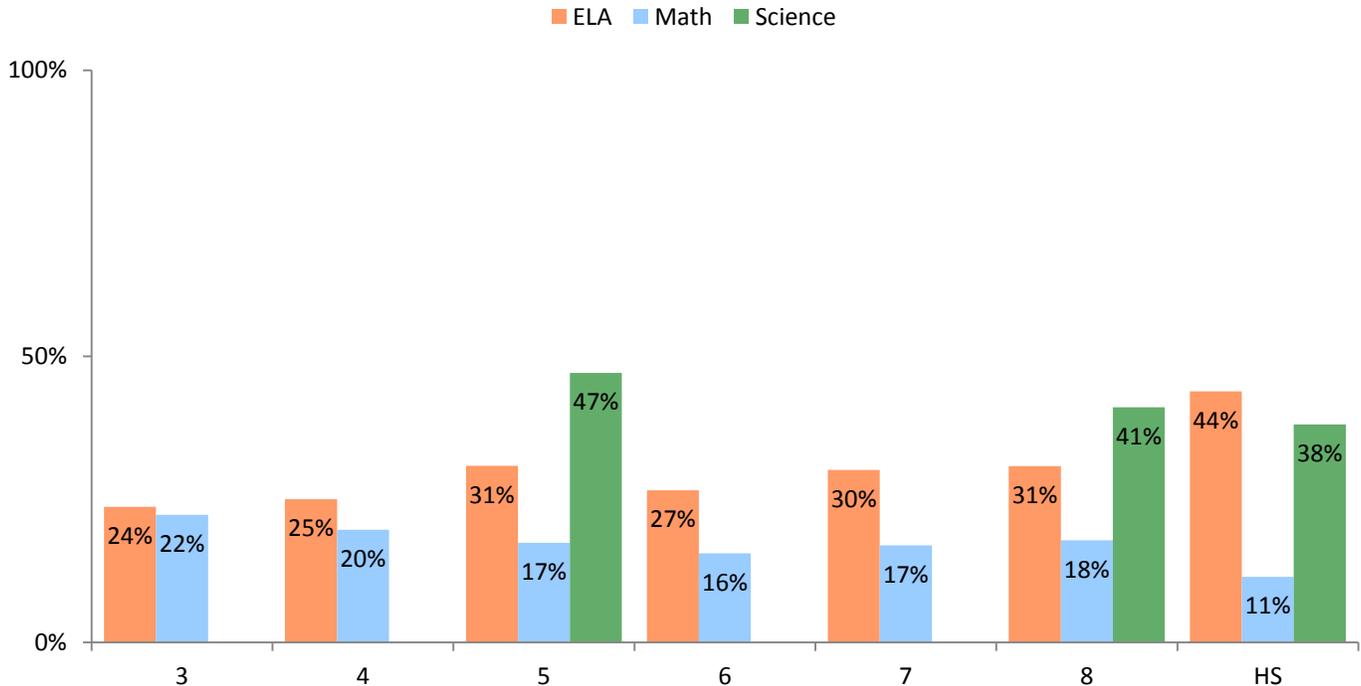
## McKinney-Vento Subgrant Projects

Oregon received \$657,555 in federal McKinney-Vento Act funds in 2014-15 to serve homeless students. More than 75% of this amount went to districts in the form of competitive subgrants. During the 2014-15 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	ELA		Math		Science	
	NUMBER OF HOMELESS STUDENTS TESTED IN ELA 2014-15	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3/4 2014-15	NUMBER OF HOMELESS STUDENTS TESTED IN MATH 2014-15	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3/4 2014-15	NUMBER OF HOMELESS STUDENTS TESTED IN SCIENCE 2014-15	PERCENT OF HOMELESS STUDENTS WHO MET OR EXCEEDED STANDARD 2014-15
3	1,417	23.71%	1,408	22.30%		
4	1,259	25.02%	1,249	19.70%		
5	1,286	30.87%	1,273	17.44%	1,293	47.10%
6	1,086	26.61%	1,078	15.58%		
7	1,121	30.15%	1,113	16.98%		
8	1,100	30.82%	1,091	17.87%	1,041	41.11%
HS	927	43.91%	915	11.48%	798	38.10%

2014-15 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).

