

“

Every six months, it's like you're in a new family. It's so destabilizing. One of the biggest problems is that the next housing assignment is not in the same community. If the housing assignment is anywhere near where they were, you could stabilize those kids in schools. But if you're going from Rockaway to Staten Island to the Bronx, any kid would really lose it. We would lose it if our home moved every six months and the people we know and trust weren't available to us ... It takes several months to gain the trust of a student and to figure out what kind of learning support they need, to put a program in place. By January you're feeling the flow and have figured out what triggers a tantrum or causes the child to run away. Just as you start to figure it all out, the kids are gone.

”

Former Principal, Community School in Brooklyn

“

We work with a fourth-grade student who was placed in a shelter in Manhattan and he misses a lot of school. If the bus is late, or if he misses the bus, or if he sleeps in for five minutes, there's no way for him to get to school. He's very delayed. He's made a lot of progress this year, but he feels like he doesn't have many friends. He doesn't know a lot of the kids because they live close to the school in the neighborhood, and they have been going to the same school since pre-K.

”

Social Work Director, Partnership with Children,  
working in Brooklyn public schools

# Section 1

## Growth of Student Homelessness in New York City

More than 140,000 New York City public school students have been homeless at some point between SY 2010–11 and SY 2015–16. One in seven New York City children will be homeless before they finish elementary school unless current trends change. Looking at this cohort over six years, children who were homeless in elementary school faced heightened school instability and educational challenges. This section explores where students experiencing homelessness are attending school, building off of the *2016 Atlas of Student Homelessness* to examine the patterns of formerly homeless students in public schools and homeless students attending charter schools in SY 2015–16.

### What's New?

The number of homeless students in NYC public schools jumped by 20% in just one year, reaching close to 100,000 students in SY 2015–16.

In addition to the nine percent of students homeless in SY 2015–16, another four percent were currently housed but had experienced homelessness at some point since SY 2010–11 (formerly homeless).

On average, 6.6% of students in New York City charter schools were homeless in SY 2015–16—lower than the rate among students in public schools (9.3%).

### Policy Considerations

Every type of unstable housing setting is not the same. Living in a shelter, living doubled up, or having a history of housing instability can impact children's lives differently. Identifying students by their specific experience is one critical tool that can help educators and policymakers further target interventions to children who are most vulnerable.

Children are most likely to experience housing instability and homelessness when they are young. Identifying barriers and supporting young homeless students and their families is crucial to helping them access early education programs.

# Student Homelessness Is Growing

Close to 100,000 homeless students attended New York City public schools in SY 2015–16. This was a 49% increase in six years. Over the same period, the overall enrollment among housed students declined.

This increase was seen across housing statuses, with doubled-up students driving the growth. The number of doubled-up students grew to over 60,000 in SY 2015–16, a 25% increase from the prior year.

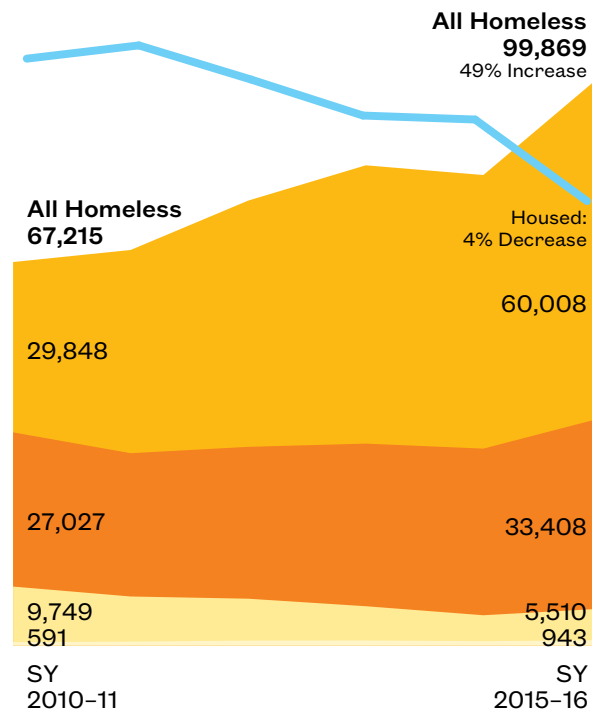
For every homeless student living in shelter, roughly two more are homeless living in some other temporary location, such as doubled up with another family.

**With little growth in City family shelter capacity, more and more families are doubling up. Ensuring that the varied social and educational needs of the close to 100,000 homeless students are met will be critical for New York City’s future.**

## Homeless Students in New York City Public Schools

SY 2010–11 to SY 2015–16

- In Shelter
- Doubled Up
- Unsheltered
- Other
- All Housed

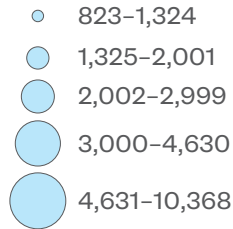


Note: In earlier years, the total number of “unsheltered” students may be less reliable than other categories.

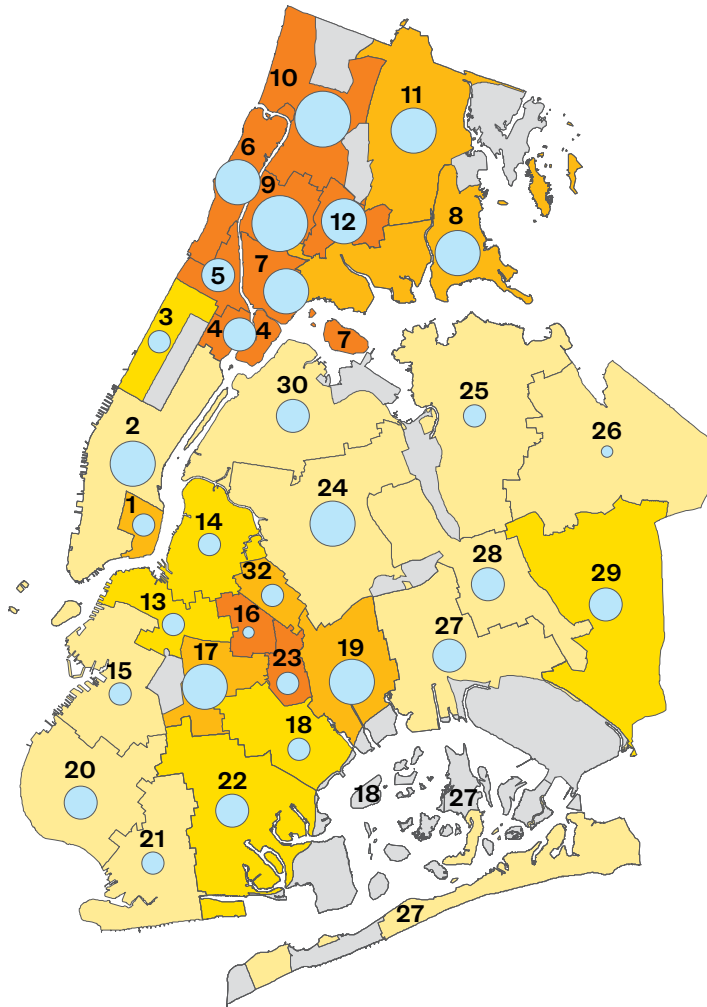
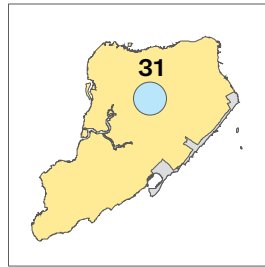
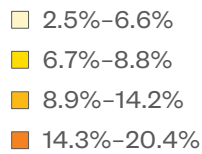
# Where Are Homeless Students?

Number and Percent of Students Homeless, by School District  
SY 2015-16

### Number Homeless



### Percent Homeless



## Districts with Highest and Lowest Concentrations of Homeless Students, SY 2015-16

Rank	Select Neighborhoods (School District #)	Number Homeless	Percent Homeless
<b>Districts with Highest Concentrations of Homeless Students</b>			
1	Highbridge/Concourse (9)	7,798	20.4%
2	Central Harlem/Manhattanville (5)	2,311	18.1%
3	East Tremont (12)	4,567	17.8%
4	Brownsville (23)	1,811	17.7%
5	Riverdale/Bedford/Fordham/Belmont (10)	10,368	17.6%
<b>Districts with Lowest Concentrations of Homeless Students</b>			
28	Rego Park/Forest Hills/Briarwood (28)	2,332	5.4%
29	Carroll Gardens/Park Slope/Sunset Pk (15)	1,655	5.0%
30	Flushing/Whitestone (25)	1,738	4.4%
30	Staten Island (31)	2,783	4.4%
32	Bayside/Little Neck/Fresh Meadows (26)	823	2.5%

Note: Data are by school district and do not include schools in non-geographic districts.

An average of nine percent of New York City public school students were homeless in one year. This ranged from a low of 2.5% in Queens' **Bayside** to a high of 20% in the Bronx's **Highbridge/Concourse**. (Districts 26 and 9)

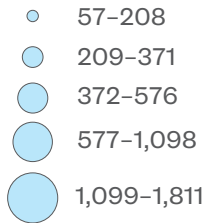
**Riverdale/Bedford** in the Bronx continues to have the largest number of homeless students citywide (over 10,000). (District 10)

**Bayside** in Queens ranks lowest citywide for both the percent of students homeless and the overall number of homeless students (823).

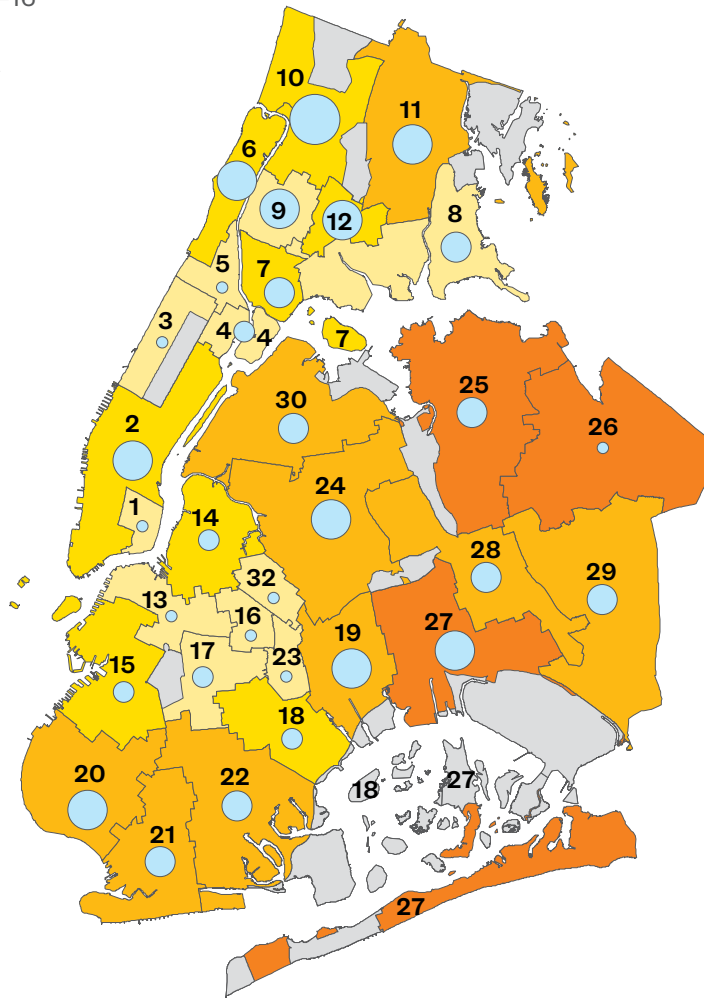
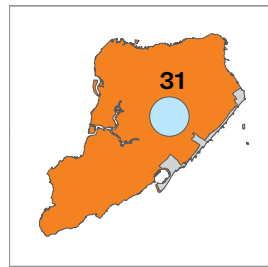
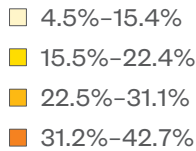
# Where Is Homelessness Growing?

Percent Increase in Student Homelessness, by School District  
SY 2014-15 to SY 2015-16

## Increase in Number of Homeless Students



## Percent Change



Note: Data are by school district and do not include schools in non-geographic districts.

## Growth of Student Homelessness, SY 2014-15 to SY 2015-16

Percent Rank	Select Neighborhoods (School District #)	Number Homeless	Percent Change SY 2014-15 to SY 2015-16
<b>Top Districts for Growth of Student Homelessness</b>			
1	Flushing/Whitestone (25)	1,738	42.7%
2	Staten Island (31)	2,783	38.9%
3	Woodhaven/Ozone Park/Howard Beach (27)	2,763	37.7%
4	Bayside/Little Neck/Fresh Meadows/(26)	823	33.8%
5	Williamsbridge/Morris Park/Co-op City (11)	4,630	31.1%
<b>Bottom Districts for Growth of Student Homelessness</b>			
28	East Harlem (4)	2,200	11.7%
29	Upper West Side/Morningside Heights (3)	1,917	10.6%
30	Central Harlem/Manhattanville (5)	2,311	8.4%
31	Lower East Side (1)	1,467	4.7%
32	Bedford-Stuyvesant (16)	1,324	4.5%

Homelessness increased in every school district in New York City between SY 2014-15 and SY 2015-16.

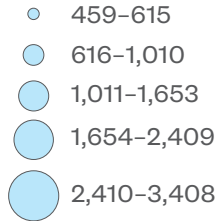
**Riverdale/Bedford** in the Bronx saw the largest number increase in student homelessness, with an increase of more than 1,800 students in one year. (District 10)

Both **Flushing** in Queens and **Staten Island** saw substantial growth in homelessness from the prior year, with increases of at least 520 homeless students each. This represented a 39% growth or more in the numbers of homeless students in those districts. (Districts 25 and 31)

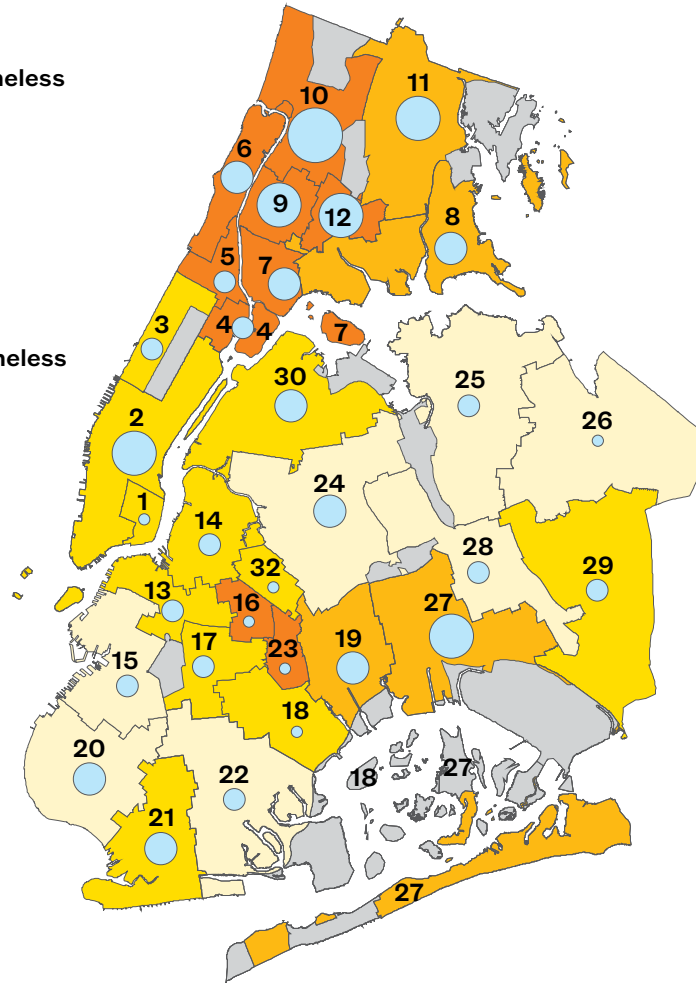
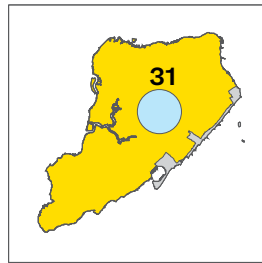
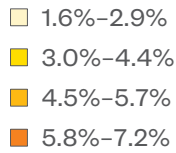
## Where Are Formerly Homeless Students?

Number and Percent of Students Formerly Homeless, by School District  
SY 2015–16

### Number Formerly Homeless



### Percent Formerly Homeless



Note: Data are by school district and do not include schools in non-geographic districts. “Formerly Homeless” includes students who were housed during SY 2015–16 but were homeless at any point during SY 2010–11, SY 2011–12, SY 2012–13, SY 2013–14, and/or SY 2014–15.

### Formerly Homeless Students, SY 2015–16

Rank	Select Neighborhoods (School District #)	Number Formerly Homeless	Percent Formerly Homeless
<b>Districts with Highest Concentrations of Formerly Homeless Students</b>			
1	East Tremont (12)	1,783	7.2%
2	Highbridge/Concourse (9)	2,409	6.6%
3	Mott Haven/Melrose (7)	1,347	6.6%
4	East Harlem (4)	887	6.5%
5	Bedford-Stuyvesant (16)	459	6.3%
<b>Districts with Lowest Concentrations of Formerly Homeless Students</b>			
28	Sunnyside/Ridgewood/Elmhurst (24)	1,482	2.5%
29	Rego Park/Forest Hills/Briarwood (28)	1,010	2.4%
30	Flatbush/Flatlands/Sheepshead Bay (22)	838	2.4%
31	Flushing/Whitestone (25)	741	2.0%
32	Bayside/Little Neck/Fresh Meadows (26)	503	1.6%

In addition to the nine percent of students homeless in SY 2015–16, another four percent were currently housed but had experienced homelessness at some point since SY 2010–11 (formerly homeless).

In half of the City’s school districts, more than 1,000 students were formerly homeless. The districts with the most formerly homeless students—over 1,650—were located across boroughs, including Manhattan’s **Financial District/Upper East Side**; **Highbridge, Riverdale, Williamsbridge**, and **East Tremont** in the Bronx; **Woodhaven** in Queens; and **Staten Island**. (Districts 2, 9–12, 27, and 31)

Students living doubled up attended school in every district, including many areas with no family shelters.

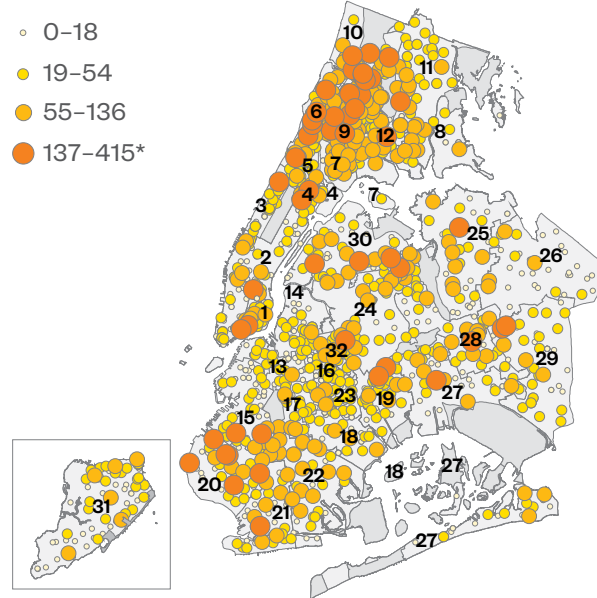
**P.S. 503 The School of Discovery**, an elementary school in **Bay Ridge**, had the largest number (over 415) of doubled-up students enrolled out of all NYC public schools. (District 20)

More than 250 students living doubled up attended each of the top ten schools for the largest number of doubled-up students in SY 2015–16. These ten schools saw an average 14% growth in the number of students living doubled up from the prior year.

See schools at [bit.ly/mapNYCHomelessStudents](http://bit.ly/mapNYCHomelessStudents)

## Where Students Living Doubled Up Go to School

Number of Doubled-up Students by School  
SY 2015–16



## Top 10 Schools for Students Living Doubled Up

Rank	School Name	School Level	Select Neighborhoods (SD #)	Borough	Homeless, Doubled Up*	All Homeless	Percent Doubled Up of All Homeless*
1	P.S. 503 The School of Discovery	Elementary	Bay Ridge/Dyker Heights (20)	Brooklyn	415	426	97.4%
2	P.S. 086 Kingsbridge Heights	Elementary	Riverdale/Bedford/Fordham (10)	Bronx	375	411	91.2%
3	Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School	High	Bay Ridge/Dyker Heights (20)	Brooklyn	370	415	89.2%
4	P.S. 019 Marino Jeantet	Elementary	Sunnyside/Ridgewood/Elmhurst (24)	Queens	310	320	96.9%
5	New Utrecht High School	High	Bay Ridge/Dyker Heights (20)	Brooklyn	295	309	95.5%
6	P.S. 152 Gwendoline N. Alleyne School	Elementary	Astoria/Long Island City (30)	Queens	270	281	96.1%
7	P.S. 279 Captain Manuel Rivera, Jr.	Elem./Middle	Riverdale/Bedford/Fordham (10)	Bronx	275	362	76.0%
8	P.S. 046 Edgar Allan Poe	Elementary	Riverdale/Bedford/Fordham (10)	Bronx	265	320	82.8%
9	P.S. 094 Kings College School	Elementary	Riverdale/Bedford/Fordham (10)	Bronx	260	337	77.2%
10	P.S. 149 Christa McAuliffe	Elementary	Astoria/Long Island City (30)	Queens	255	266	95.9%


\*Numbers of doubled-up students are rounded down in order to protect student privacy and adhere to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.

Note: Data include schools in both geographic and non-geographic districts. Data groupings for the map of doubled-up students by school and the map of sheltered students by school are matched for the purpose of comparison. For comparison and readability, number breaks are manually classified to match the 2016 *Atlas of Student Homelessness*.



Homeless students living in shelter attended schools in every district, but were clustered in **northern Manhattan**, the **south** and **west Bronx**, and **central Brooklyn**. This pattern mirrors the locations of City shelters, suggesting that homeless students in shelter often transfer to schools closer to their shelter placement.

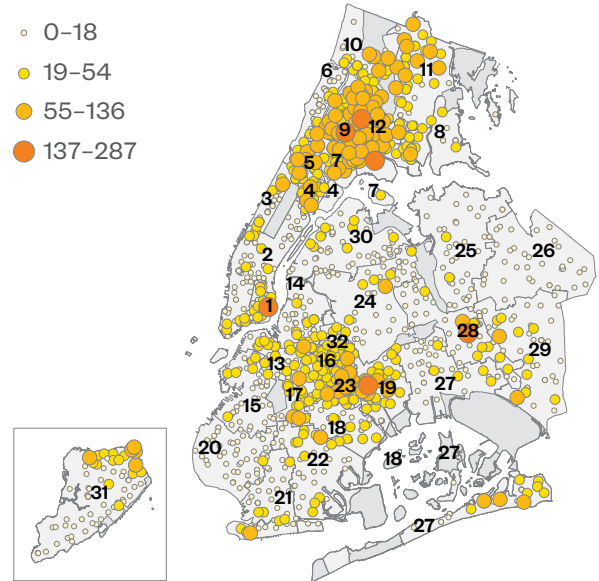
The top three schools for the largest number of students in shelter are the same as last year. **P.S. 053 Basheer Quisim Elementary School in Highbridge/Concourse** had the largest number of students living in shelter for the third consecutive year. (District 9)

 See schools at [bit.ly/mapNYCHomelessStudents](http://bit.ly/mapNYCHomelessStudents)

## Where Students Living in Shelter Go to School

Number of Students in Shelter by School  
SY 2015–16

- 0–18
- 19–54
- 55–136
- 137–287



### Top 10 Schools for Students Living in Shelter

Rank	School Name	School Level	Select Neighborhoods (SD#)	Borough	Homeless, in Shelter	All Homeless	Percent of All Homeless in Shelter
1	P.S. 053 Basheer Quisim	Elementary	Highbridge/Concourse (9)	Bronx	257	412	62.4%
2	P.S./M.S. 004 Crotona Park West	Elem./Middle	Highbridge/Concourse (9)	Bronx	250	298	83.9%
3	P.S. 188 The Island School	Elem./Middle	Lower East Side (1)	Manhattan	156	222	70.3%
4	P.S. 048 Joseph R. Drake	Elementary	Hunts Point/Longwood (8)	Bronx	149	284	52.5%
5	P.S. 149 Danny Kaye	Elementary	East New York/Starrett City (19)	Brooklyn	139	201	69.2%
6	P.S. 085 Great Expectations	Elementary	Riverdale/Bedford/Fordham (10)	Bronx	128	257	49.8%
7	P.S. 006 West Farms	Elementary	East Tremont (12)	Bronx	128	213	60.1%
8	P.S. 070 Max Schoenfeld	Elementary	Highbridge/Concourse (9)	Bronx	126	367	34.3%
9	P.S. 065 Mother Hale Academy	Elementary	Mott Haven/Melrose (7)	Bronx	124	196	63.3%
10	P.S. 156 Waverly	Elementary	Brownsville (23)	Brooklyn	123	173	71.1%

Note: Data include schools in both geographic and non-geographic districts. Data groupings for the map of doubled-up students by school and the map of sheltered students by school are matched for the purpose of comparison. For comparison and readability, number breaks are manually classified to match the 2016 Atlas of Student Homelessness.



# Most Children Are Homeless for More Than One School Year

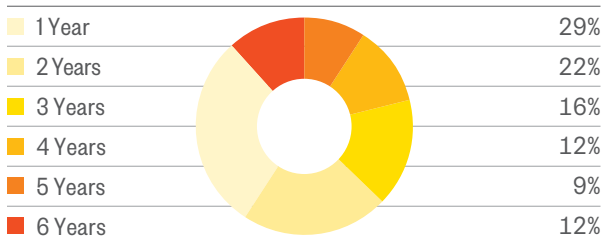
Housing instability is a recurring experience for homeless students in New York City. Two-thirds of homeless children in NYC were identified as homeless in more than one school year.

One-third of homeless students were identified as homeless in at least four of the last six years. Of these students who were repeatedly or continuously homeless, roughly half transitioned housing statuses, living in multiple homeless settings or transitioning into or out of permanent housing at some point.

**Housing transitions and repeated experiences of homelessness place students at risk for instability at school.**

## Number of Years in which Students Have Been Homeless

SY 2015–16



# Hispanics and Blacks Are Over-Represented

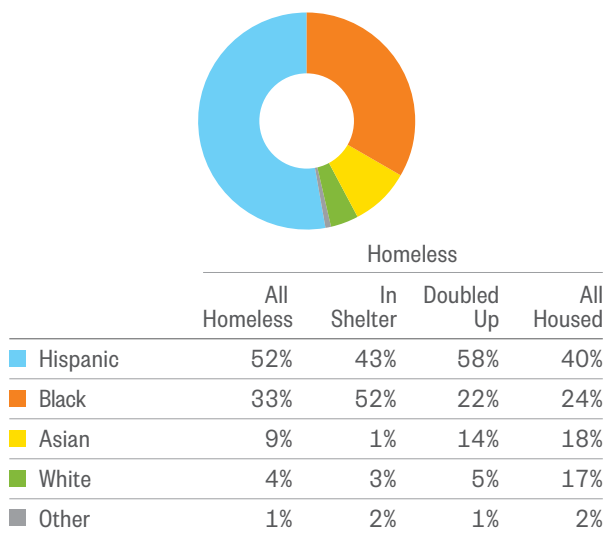
One-half of all homeless students in NYC are Hispanic, 25 percent higher than housed students (52% to 40%). Among all Hispanic students enrolled in public schools, 12% were homeless in SY 2015–16.

One-third of homeless students in NYC were black in SY 2015–16, almost 50 percent higher than housed students (33% to 24%). Among all black students enrolled in public schools, 12% were homeless.

Students' race and ethnicity varied by type of homelessness. The majority (52%) of students in shelter were black, while 58% of students living doubled up were Hispanic.

## Race and Ethnicity of Homeless Students

SY 2015–16



# Young Students Are Most At Risk for Homelessness

More than 9,000 homeless children were enrolled in each grade from Kindergarten through second, making these the most common grades by far for homeless students to attend. Housed students follow a different pattern, however, with ninth and tenth grades representing the most common age. The different patterns of enrollment may point to under-identification of homeless students in high school, but also the increased vulnerability and housing instability faced by young families and children.

Amidst the expansion of Universal Pre-K programs in New York City, pre-K enrollment among homeless students in SY 2015-16 increased by 17% over the prior year. However, the enrollment gap between pre-K and Kindergarten students suggests that over 2,500 homeless children eligible for pre-K were not reached by New York City's public pre-K programs in SY 2015-16.

**As the City prepares to introduce pre-K for all three-year-olds, how can the enrollment gap between housed and homeless students be eliminated in early childhood classrooms?**

## Homeless Students by Grade Level

SY 2015-16

- Pre-K-2nd Grade
- 3rd-8th Grade
- 9th-12th Grade

### Homeless

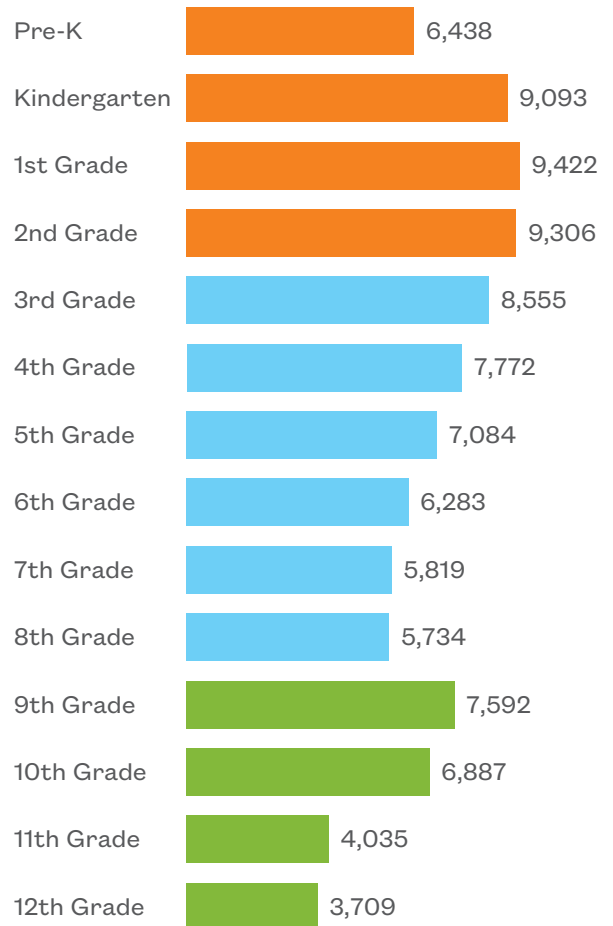


### Housed



## Number of Homeless Students by Grade Level

SY 2015-16



# Where Do Students Who Are Homeless Enroll in Pre-K?

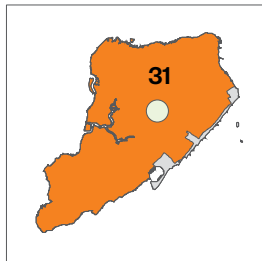
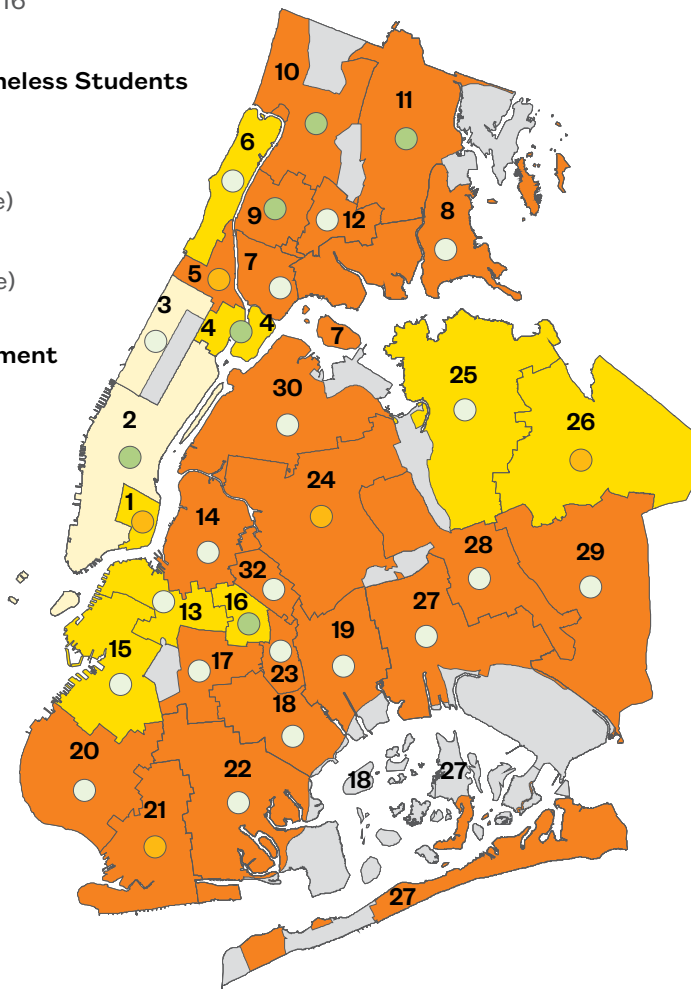
Percent of Pre-K Students Who Are Homeless, by School District  
 SY 2014-15 to SY 2015-16

## Percent Change in Homeless Students

- Decrease
- Moderate Increase  
(0.1%–2.6% increase)
- Largest Increase  
(2.7%–5.4% increase)

## Expected Pre-K Enrollment

- Less Than Expected
- Roughly the Same
- More Than Expected



## Pre-K Student Homelessness, SY 2015-16

Rank	Select Neighborhoods (School District #)	Percent of Pre-K Students Homeless	Expected Homeless Pre-K Enrollment
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### Top Districts for Expected Pre-K Enrollment

1	Upper West Side/ Morningside Heights (3)	14.3%	More Than Expected
2	Financial District/ Midtown/Upper East Side (2)	6.7%	More Than Expected

### Bottom Districts for Expected Pre-K Enrollment

31	East New York/Starrett City (19)	11.3%	Less Than Expected
32	East Tremont (12)	13.5%	Less Than Expected

Note: Data are by school district for SY 2015-16 and do not include schools in non-geographic districts. Percentage groupings for the map of homeless students by district and the map of homeless pre-K students by district are matched for the purpose of comparison. Expected pre-K enrollment refers to the comparison between the percentage of pre-K students homeless and the percentage of Kindergarteners and first graders who were homeless. Districts that enrolled roughly the same had enrollment of the two groups within two percentage points of each other; those that enrolled more or less than expected saw at least a two percentage-point enrollment difference.

The City has succeeded in increasing pre-K enrollment among children who have been homeless, with a 17% increase from SY 2014-15 to SY 2015-16.

**Central Harlem** in Manhattan, **Coney Island** in Brooklyn and **Sunnyside** in Queens saw a decrease in pre-K enrollment of homeless students, yet enrolled a lower rate of pre-Kindergarteners than would be expected based on the percentage of other young homeless students. (Districts 5, 21, and 24)

# Homeless Students in Charter Schools

On average, 6.6% of students in New York City charter schools were homeless in SY 2015–16—three points lower than the rate among students in public schools (9.3%).

This ranged from fewer than five homeless students in 10 charter schools citywide to a high of 19% of students in **Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem**.

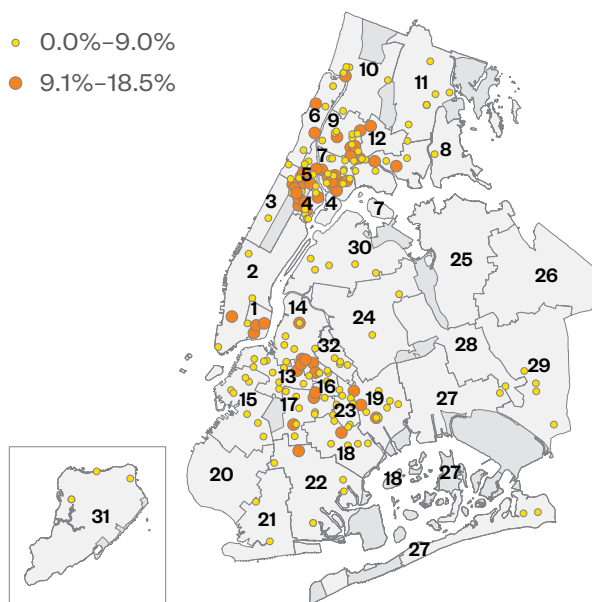
Charter schools with the highest rates of student homelessness (9%–18.5%) were clustered in the districts where the most homeless students attend public schools. By contrast, in public schools in those districts, up to 48% of students were homeless.

**The lower enrollment rate of homeless students in charter schools raises questions about enrollment opportunities for students who are experiencing housing instability.**

## What Charter Schools Do Homeless Students Attend?

Percent of Homeless Students by Charter School SY 2015–16

- 0.0%–9.0%
- 9.1%–18.5%



See more schools at [bit.ly/mapNYCHomelessStudents](http://bit.ly/mapNYCHomelessStudents)

### Top 10 Charter Schools for Homeless Students

Rank	School Name	Select Neighborhoods (School District #)	Borough	Total Number of Students	Percent Homeless
1	Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem	Upper West Side/Morningside Heights (3)	Manhattan	232	18.5%
2	Mott Haven Academy Charter School	Mott Haven/Melrose (7)	Bronx	335	17.6%
3	Family Life Academy Charter School III	Mott Haven/Melrose (7)	Bronx	150	16.0%
4	Future Leaders Institute Charter School	Upper West Side/Morningside Heights (3)	Manhattan	384	15.9%
5	South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts	Mott Haven/Melrose (7)	Bronx	426	15.7%
6	Manhattan Charter School II	Lower East Side (1)	Manhattan	205	15.6%
7	Manhattan Charter School	Lower East Side (1)	Manhattan	308	14.9%
8	ROADS Charter School II	East Tremont (12)	Bronx	246	14.6%
9	East Harlem Scholars Academy Charter School II	East Harlem (4)	Manhattan	254	14.6%
10	Atmosphere Charter School	Riverdale/Bedford/Fordham/Belmont (10)	Bronx	141	13.5%

Note: While the total number of homeless charter school students is reported to the State annually, more detailed information on the outcomes of homeless students attending charter schools is not publicly available. School districts represent where charter schools are physically located and do not relate to the school's administration.