Students Who Were Homeless During High School Were over 2x as Likely to Drop out of School

Over 24,000 high school students experienced homelessness in SY 2016–17. 60% increase in the past six years.

Nearly two-thirds of students who were homeless during high school were chronically absent during at least one of these years.

These students were over 2X as likely to transfer schools mid-year as housed students.

When homeless high school students are able to avoid the disruption of chronic absenteeism or mid-year transfers, they have a 90% graduation rate, well above the citywide average of 74%.

Nearly 1 in 6 homeless students dropped out of high school prior to graduation.

Homeless high school students were over 1.5X as likely to be suspended as their classmates.

Suspensions among homeless students, who already face high rates of absenteeism, can cause them to become further disengaged in the schooling process and increase their likelihood of dropping out.

Only 56% of students who were ever homeless in high school graduated on time with their classmates, compared to 77% of students who were always housed during those years.

For homeless students, failing to complete their education limits their access to future opportunities and hinders their ability to break the cycle of housing instability.