



Student Homelessness in New York City

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ICPHusa.org



ICPH: Bringing Family Homelessness into Focus

- The Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness (ICPH) is a New York City-based policy research organization focused on family homelessness in New York City and throughout the United States
- All materials we produce are available for free at www.ICPHusa.org

Reports

ICPH researches the causes of family homelessness, the demographics of this growing population, the conditions that make it difficult for homeless families to become self-sufficient, and the programs that are most effective in helping them transition out of poverty. ICPH works with programs and partners across the U.S. to conduct and disseminate this research in order to improve services and influence public policy.



Interactive Data

ICPH produces interactive tools and data for users to further explore the effects of homelessness on children and their families. These tools allow people from different fields to tailor and engage with ICPH data in a way that is meaningful to them and the unique needs of their organization.



We Will Discuss:

Growth in student homelessness

- Geographic patterns
- Duration of homelessness

School instability factors

- Mid-year school transfers
- Absenteeism

Barriers to learning

- Pre-Kindergarten enrollment
- English language learners
- Students with disabilities

Academic outcomes

- State assessment scores
- Graduation and dropout rates



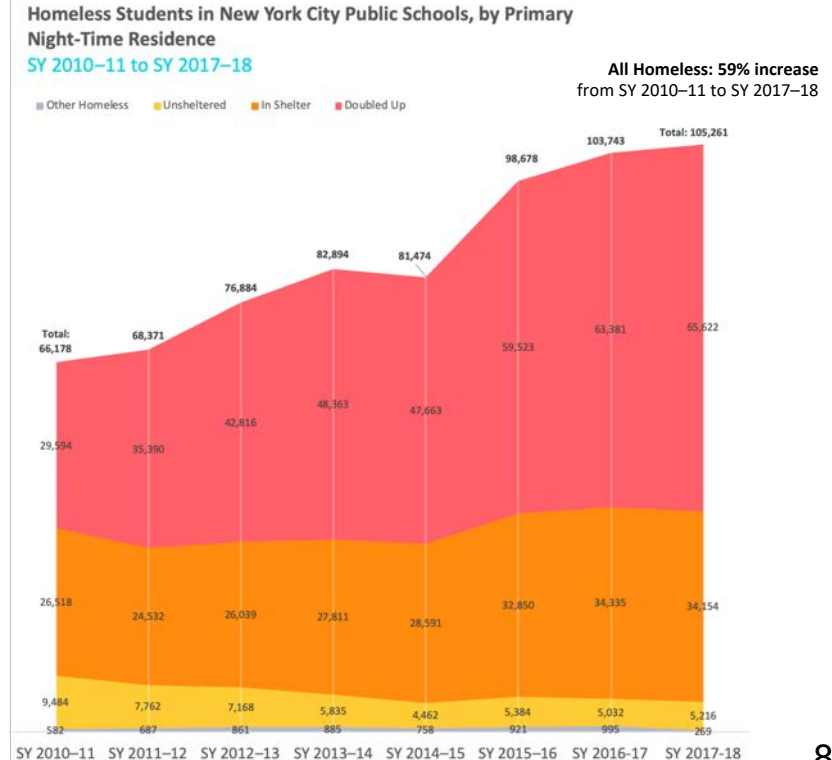
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Overview

- ❖ Growth in student homelessness over time
- ❖ Geographical distribution
- ❖ Duration of homelessness
- ❖ Demographics

How Has Student Homelessness Grown Over Recent Years?

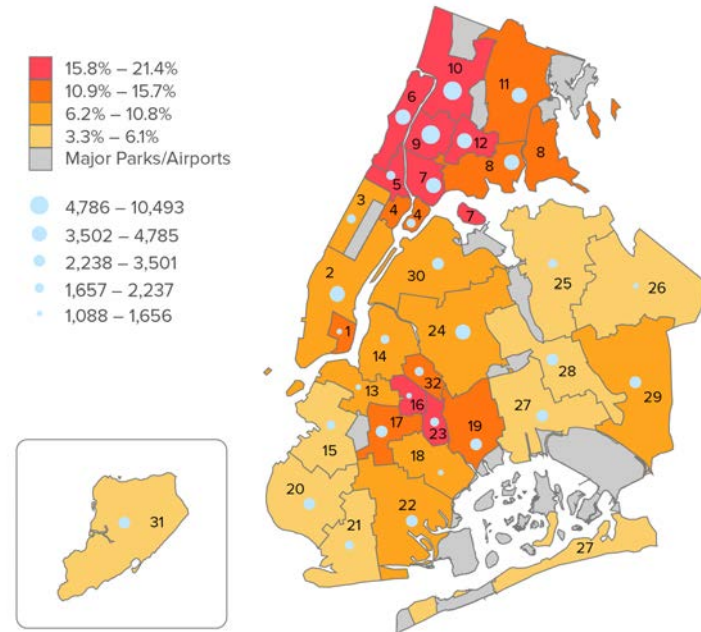
- Data from New York City Department of Education
- More than **105,000** students in NYC public schools experienced homelessness in SY 2017–18, or **10% of all students**
- The number of homeless students increased by 1% over the previous year and by 59% since SY 2010–11
- The number of doubled-up students increased by 122%, while the number of students in shelter increased by 29% since SY 2010–11



Where Do Homeless Students Attend School?

- Highbridge has the highest rate of homeless student enrollment (21%), followed by Brownsville (19%).
- The growth rate of student homelessness since SY 2010–11 has been highest in districts with lower percentages of homeless students—nearly tripling in Flushing, Bayside, and Ridgewood.
- Kingsbridge saw the largest increase in the number of homeless students (+4,800 students)

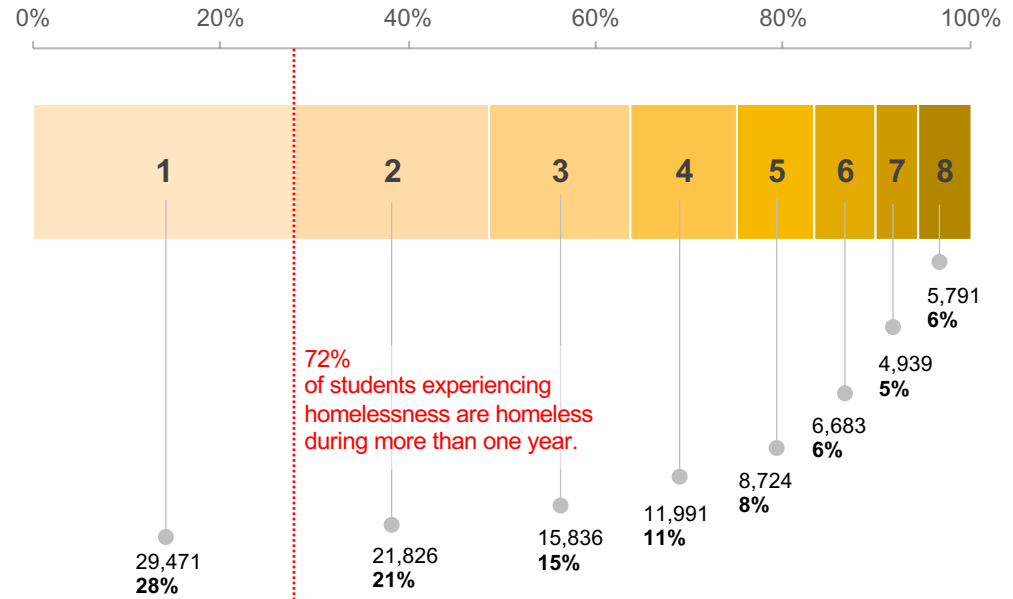
Number and Percent of Homeless Students, by School District
SY 2017–18



For How Long Are Students Homeless?

- Most students (72%) identified as homeless in SY 2017–18 had also experienced housing instability in a previous year
- Nearly 6,000 students were identified as homeless in all 8 years since SY 2010–11

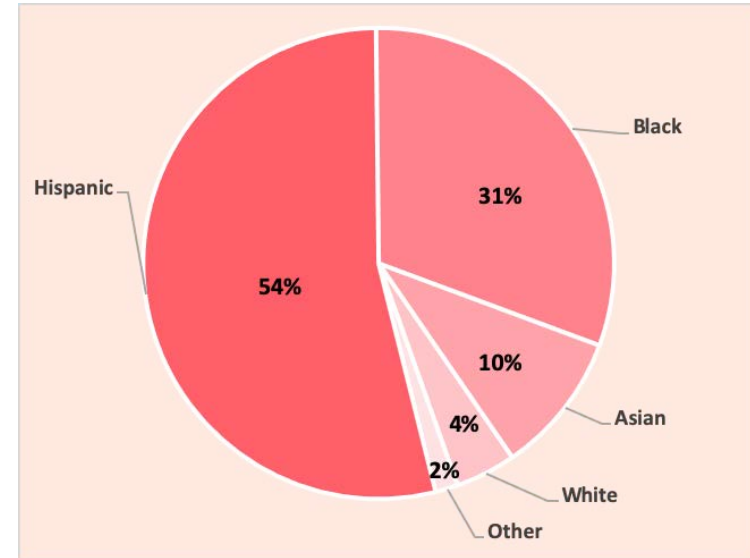
Number of Years Students Have Been Homeless
SY 2017–18



Race and Ethnicity of Homeless Students

- Hispanic and black students are over-represented among homeless students.
- Hispanic students represented 54% of the homeless student population compared to 39% of the stably housed population.
- Black students represented 31% of the homeless student population compared to 22% of the stably housed population.

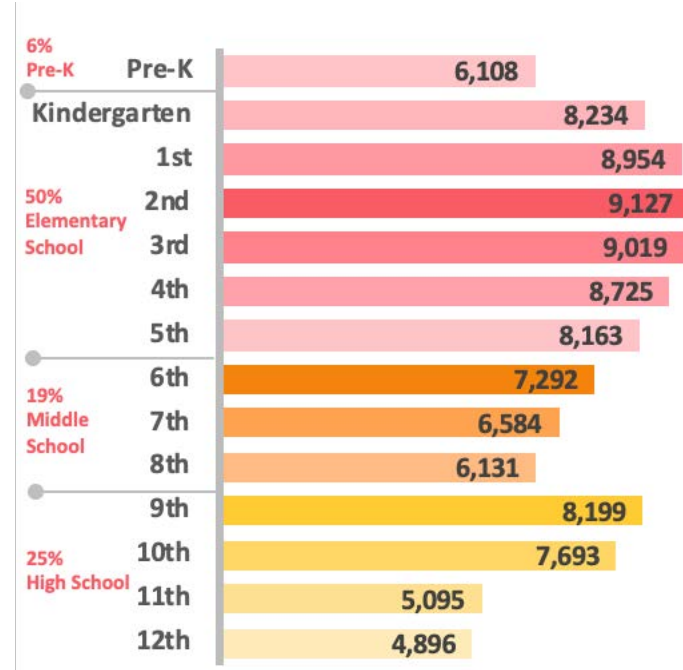
Race and Ethnicity of Homeless Students
SY 2017–18



Homeless Student Enrollment by Grade Level

- The greatest numbers of homeless students are enrolled in elementary school (52,000)
- A significant increase is seen in grades 9 and 10 before dropping sharply in 11th grade

In Which Grade Levels Are Homeless Students Enrolled? SY 2017–18



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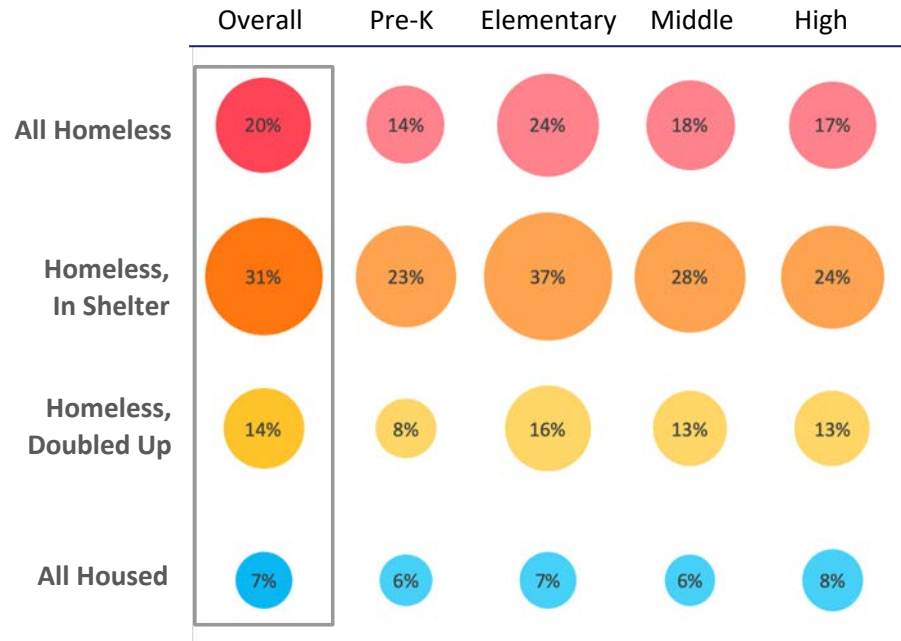
School Instability Factors

- ❖ Mid-year school transfer
Transferring from one school to another at any point during the school year
- ❖ Chronic absenteeism
Missing more than 10%, or more than 18 days, of a 180-day school year

How Often Do Homeless Students Transfer Schools?

- Mid-year transfer: transferring schools during the school year
- **Homeless students were nearly 3x as likely to transfer schools mid-year compared to housed students (20% vs. 7%)**
- Students in shelter had the highest transfer rates (31%)
- Among homeless students, those in elementary school had the highest transfer rates (24%)

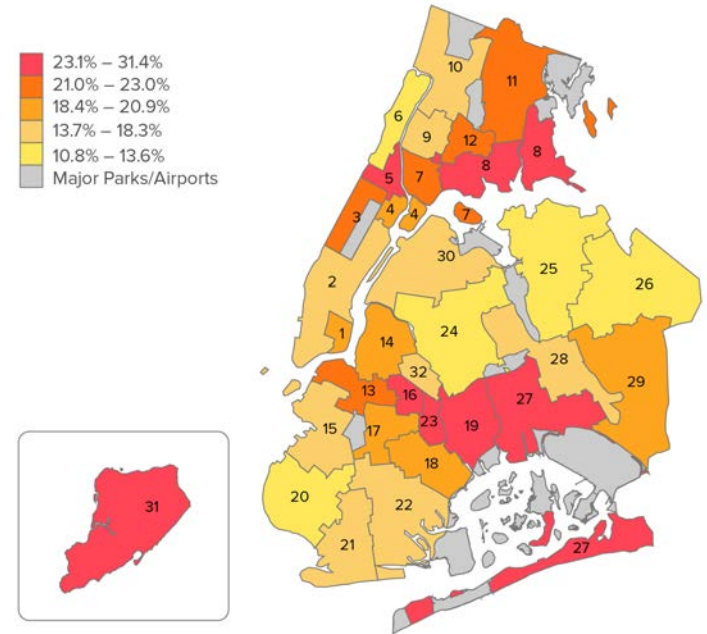
Percent of Students Who Transferred Mid-Year, by Primary Night-Time Residence and Grade Level
SY 2017–18



In Which Districts Are Transfer Rates Highest?

- In every district, more than 1 in 10 homeless students transferred schools in SY 2017–18
- Bay Ridge (District 20) had the lowest transfer rate (11%)
- In 7 districts, transfer rates exceeded 23%, with 3 of these being in Brooklyn (Districts 16, 23, and 19)

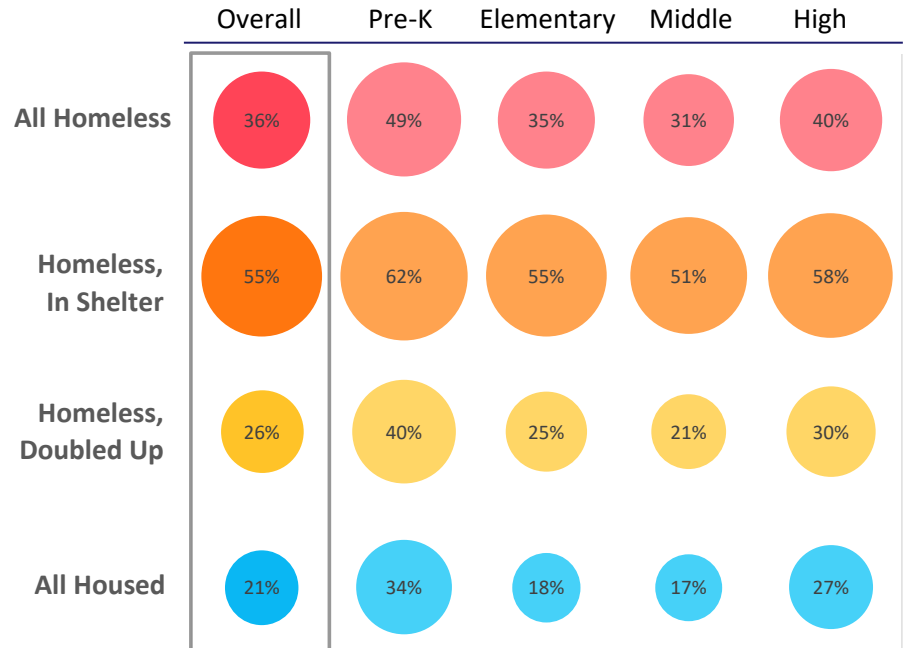
Percent of Homeless Students Who Transferred Mid-Year Into or Within the School District
SY 2017–18



How Often Do Homeless Students Miss School?

- Chronic absenteeism: missing more than 10% of the school year (19+ days)
- **Homeless students were 1.7x as likely to be chronically absent as housed students (36% vs. 21%)**
- Students in shelter had the highest absenteeism rates (55%)
- Pre-K students had the highest absenteeism rates, followed by high school students
- Absenteeism rates for high school students dropped for every group since the previous year

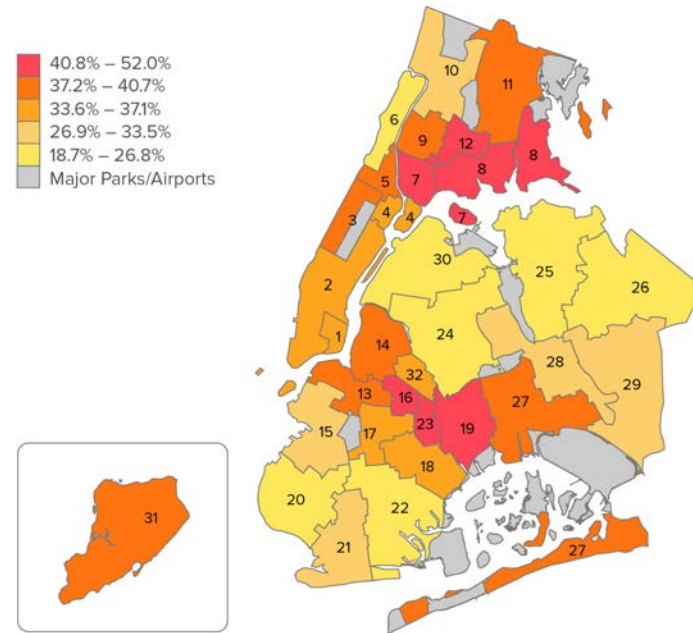
Percent of Students Who Were Chronically Absent, by Primary Night-Time Residence and Grade Level SY 2017–18



In Which Districts Are Absenteeism Rates Highest?

- Chronic absenteeism rates for homeless students ranged from 19% in Bay Ridge (District 20) to 52% in Brownsville (District 23)
- In 21 of the 32 districts, at least 1 in 3 homeless students were chronically absent

Percent of Homeless Students Who Were Chronically Absent, by School District SY 2017–18



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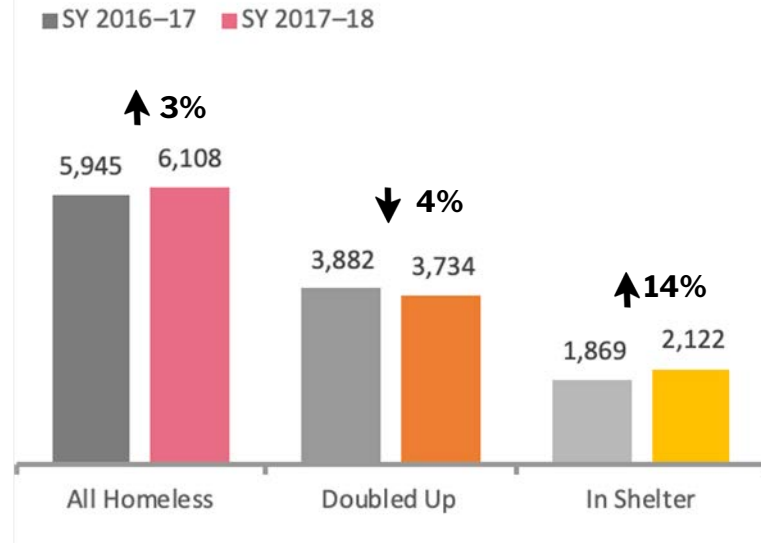
Barriers to Learning

- ❖ Pre-K enrollment
- ❖ English language needs
- ❖ Students with disabilities
- ❖ Late IEP identification

How Has Pre-K Enrollment Changed for Homeless Students?

- Approximately 6,100 pre-K students in NYC Public Schools experienced homelessness in SY 2017–18
- This was a 3% increase from the previous year.
- The number of doubled-up students decreased by 4%, while the number of students in shelter increased by 14%
- **One in three (32%) homeless Kindergarteners had not attended pre-K** the previous year compared to 1 in 4 housed students (25%)

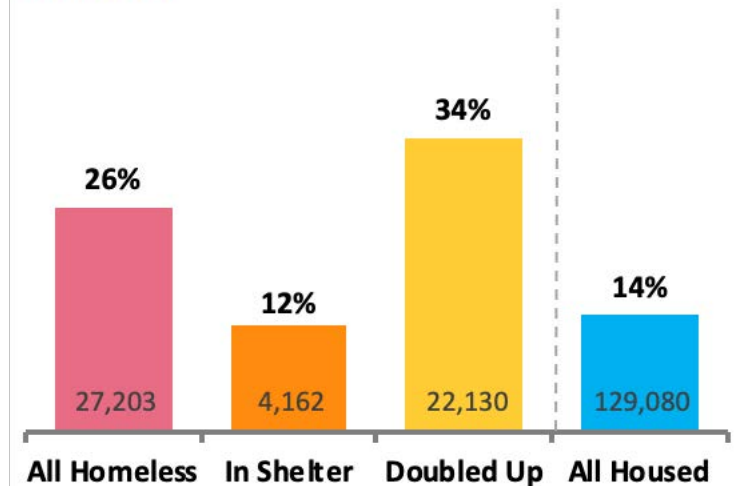
Change in Homeless Student Pre-K Enrollment, by Primary Night-Time Residence
SY 2016–17 to SY 2017–18



How Many Homeless Students Are ELLs?

- **One in four homeless students are English Language Learners (ELLs)**
- The number of ELLs experiencing homelessness nearly doubled in the past 8 years, from approximately 14,600 to 27,200
- Doubled-up students are nearly 3x as likely to need ELL services (34%) compared to students in shelter (12%)

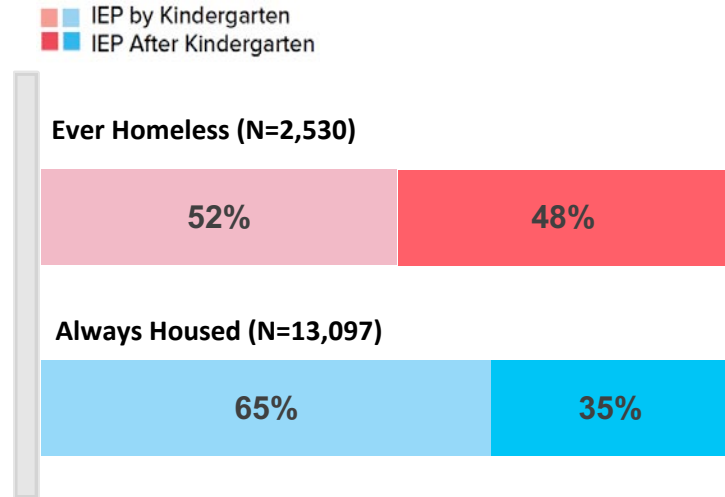
Percent of Students Who Are ELLs, by Housing Status
SY 2017–18



How Many Homeless Students Received Their IEP Late?

- Homeless students are about as likely to have an IEP as housed students (22% and 20%, respectively)
- Students in shelter were nearly twice as likely to be identified for an IEP as doubled-up students (31% vs. 17%)
- **Homeless students were more likely to receive their IEP late** compared to housed students (48% vs. 35%)

Timing of IEP Received, by Housing Status
Students Who Were in Kindergarten in
SY 2014–15



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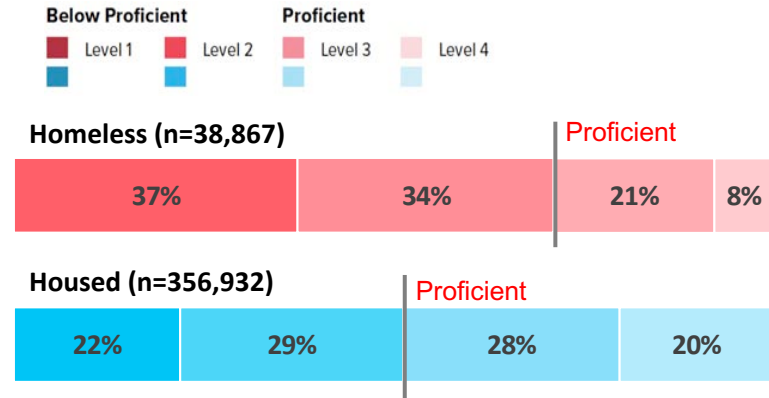
Disparities in Academic Achievement

- ❖ State assessment proficiency
- ❖ Graduation rates
- ❖ Dropout rates

How Do Homeless Students Perform on the Statewide ELA Assessment?

- **Only 29% of homeless students scored proficient** in the 3rd–8th grade state ELA assessment compared to 49% of housed students
- Doubled-up students were more likely to score proficient than students in shelter (32% vs. 23%)
- Homeless students were 1.7x as likely to score at the lowest level (Level 1) compared to housed students (37% vs. 22%)

3rd–8th Grade State ELA Test Performance Levels, by Housing Status
SY 2017–18

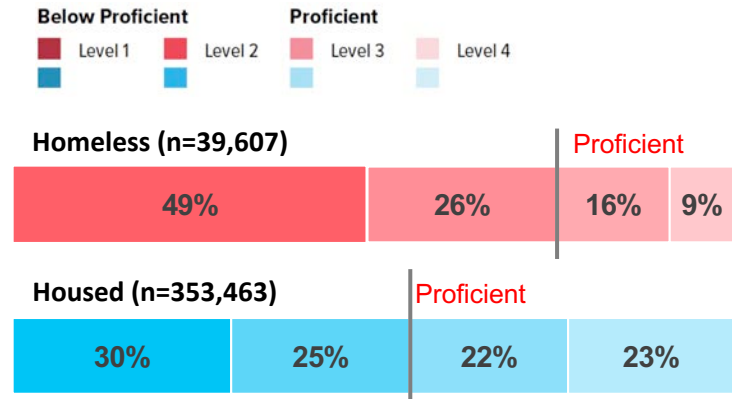


How Do Homeless Students Perform on the Statewide Math Assessment?

- **1 in 4 homeless students (25%) scored proficient** in the 3rd–8th grade state math assessment compared to 45% of housed students
- Doubled-up students were nearly 2x as likely to score proficient as students in shelter (29% vs. 16%)
- About half of homeless students (49%) scored at the lowest level (Level 1) compared to 30% of housed students

3rd–8th Grade State Math Test Performance Levels, by Housing Status

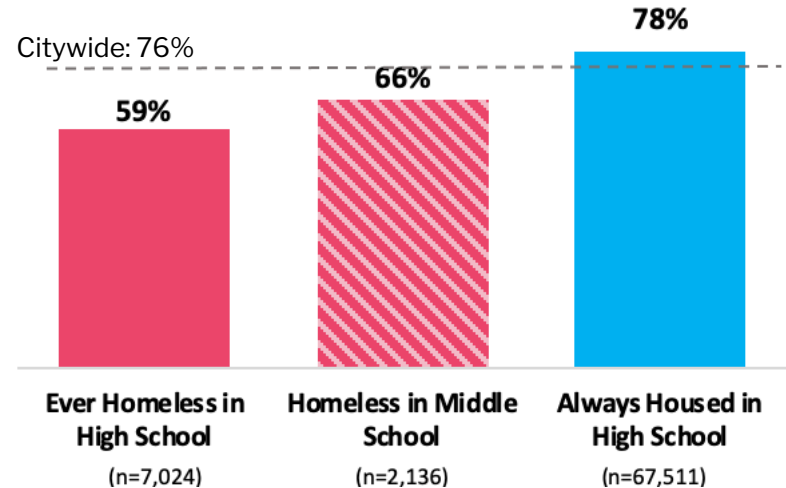
SY 2017–18



How Likely Are Homeless Students to Graduate High School On Time?

- Approximately 7,000 students in the Class of 2018 experienced homelessness in high school. An additional 2,100 had experienced homelessness in middle school.
- **Only 59% of students who were homeless in high school graduated on time** compared to 78% of students who were always housed
- Students who were formerly homeless in middle school graduated at a rate well below the citywide average (66% vs. 76%)

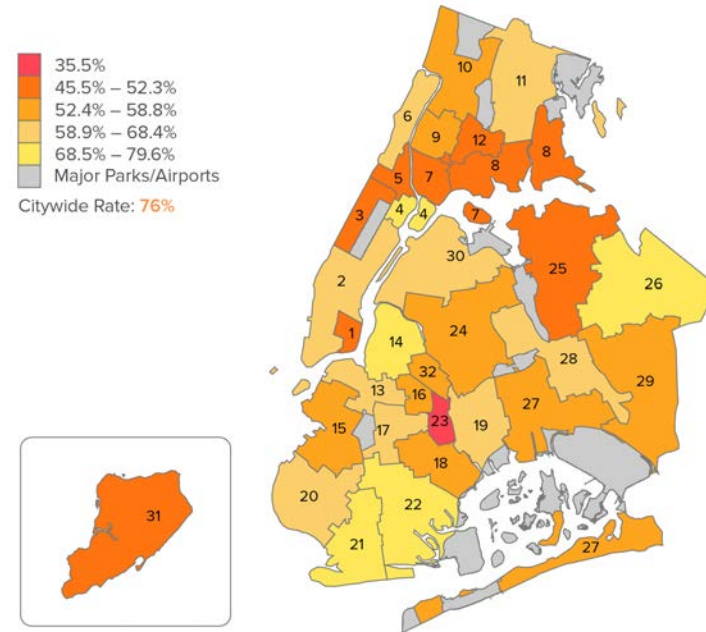
Four-Year Graduation Rates, by Housing Status
Class of 2018



How Do Graduation Rates Vary by School District?

- Bayside was the only district with a graduation rate for homeless students that was above the citywide average for all students (80% vs. 76%)
- Brownsville remains an outlier, with slightly more than 1 in 3 homeless students graduating (36%)

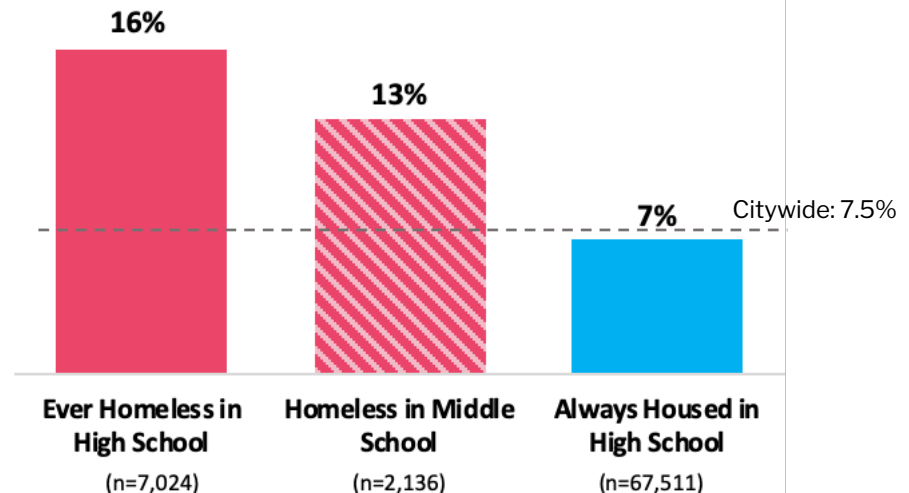
Percent of Homeless Students Who Graduated, by School District
SY 2017–18



How Likely Are Homeless Students to Drop Out?

- **Among students who were homeless during high school, 1 in 6 dropped out (16%)**—more than twice the dropout rate for housed students (7%)
- Students who were formerly homeless in middle school dropped out at only a slightly lower rate than students who were homeless in high school (13% vs. 16%)

Four-Year Dropout Rates, by Housing Status
Class of 2018



Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive. Students who were always housed in high school but homeless in middle school are included in the "Always Housed in High School" group. Data on elementary school housing status for the Class of 2018 is not available.

Key Takeaways

- Students experiencing homelessness also experience school instability, including mid-year transfers and chronic absenteeism.
- Identifying the causes of frequent absenteeism can help **remove barriers to attendance**
- Connecting students to McKinney-Vento, special education, and ELL services promptly following a transfer can **minimize service disruption**
- Students living doubled-up may have different needs than students in shelter.
- Students and their families frequently move in and out of permanent housing.
 - **Tracking students who were formerly homeless** can help to connect them with services to prevent another episode of homelessness
 - Formerly homeless students have high rates of chronic absenteeism and low test scores, even several years after becoming permanently housed

Resources

- Student Homelessness in New York City report series
<https://www.icphusa.org/student-homelessness-nyc/>
- Interactive New York City map
https://www.icphusa.org/interactive_data/map-new-york-city-interactive-map-student-homelessness/
- United States of Homelessness: compare trends in student homelessness by state
https://www.icphusa.org/interactive_data/the-united-states-of-homelessness/



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