

# A Closer Look at Homelessness in K-12 Education



Homelessness among students presents unique challenges that impact their education and well-being. This infographic offers key insights into student homelessness, its prevalence, effects on academic performance and mental health, and how school leaders can ensure compliance with McKinney-Vento to support affected students.

## Definition of Student Homelessness

A student is considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence:

### FIXED

Permanent and attached to the ground. A student living in a tent or car would not meet this requirement.

### REGULAR

The student must be able to return to the same place every night. Students who are “couch-surfing” from one location to another would not have a regular residence.

### ADEQUATE

The residence must be safe for the student’s mental and physical well-being. Conditions such as no heat, overcrowding, or infestations would disqualify a home from being adequate.

If any of these criteria are not met, the student qualifies for services under the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Act (EHCY).

## PREVALENCE OF STUDENT HOMELESSNESS

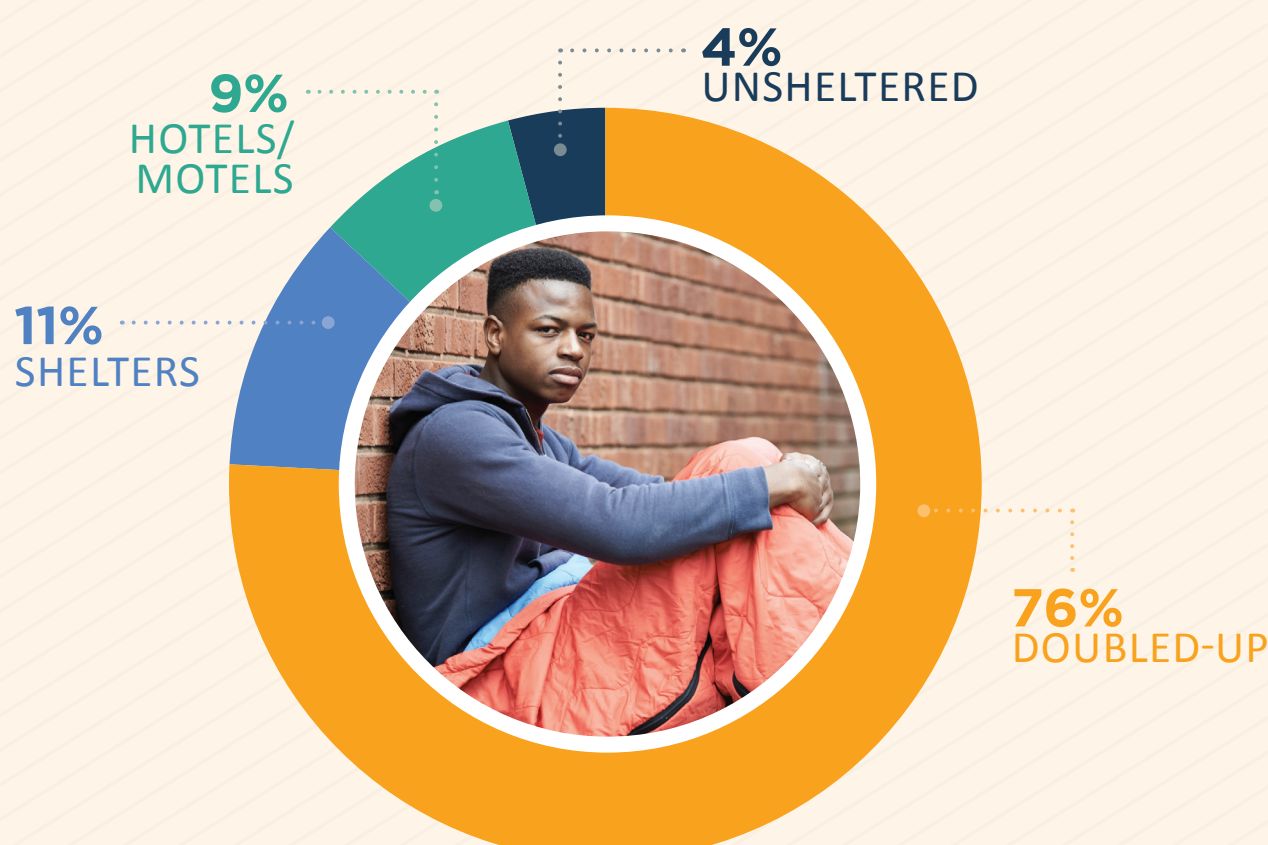
**2.5% OF STUDENTS** experience homelessness every year.



Homelessness affects students in **BOTH URBAN & RURAL AREAS.**

Administrators can use this 2.5% benchmark to determine whether their schools may be under-identifying students experiencing homelessness.

## Homelessness Student Enrollment by Nighttime Residence, SY21-22\*



Source: [https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ehcy\\_profile.pdf](https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ehcy_profile.pdf)

## Affects of Homelessness on Students



### LOWER GRADUATION RATES

During the 2020-2021 school year, only **68% of students** experiencing homelessness graduated.



### POORER MENTAL HEALTH

**69%** of youth experiencing homelessness report mental health challenges.



### HIGHER ABSENTEEISM

**52%** of students experiencing homelessness in the 2021-2022 school year were chronically absent.



### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Between **19-40%** of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness are victims of sex or labor trafficking.



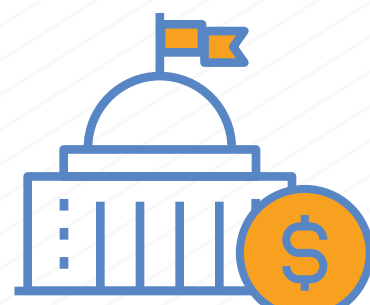
## McKinney-Vento Compliance to Support Students Facing Homelessness

**THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT WAS CREATED TO HELP ENSURE EVERY STUDENT HAS EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION.**

- Identification and Enrollment
- Providing Education Stability
- Facilitating Access to Services
- Designated Liaisons
- Public Posting of Education Rights
- Staff Training
- Annual Reviews and Revisions

## McKinney-Vento Subgrants

McKinney-Vento subgrants provide school districts with competitive federal funding to enhance services and support for homeless children and youth, ensuring these students have equal access to educational opportunities. [Click here to learn more.](#)



## Equip Your Staff with Essential McKinney-Vento Training

Ensure your staff is equipped to support students facing homelessness by utilizing PublicSchoolWORKS' McKinney-Vento training. Give your team the tools they need to identify, enroll, and provide the essential services to students experiencing homelessness.