



# **Los Angeles Unified School District Pupil Services**

## **Homeless Education Program**

Nancy Gutierrez



# Overview

- Background
- Purpose
- Objectives
- LAUSD Data
- What is homeless?
- Student Rights
- School Responsibilities
- Program Services
- Expansion
- Outcomes
- Highlights

Background



## What We Know About Youth Homelessness



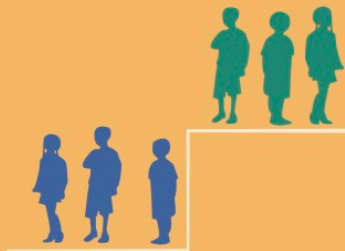
**1 in 5**  
shelter users  
are youth



**1 in 3**  
youth experiencing homelessness  
graduate high-school  
vs. **9 in 10** housed youth



# HOW THE STRESS OF HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY IMPACTS CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



Half of children who are homeless are held back for one grade, and 22% are held back for multiple grades.<sup>1</sup>



In 2008, the dropout rate for students living in low-income families was about four and a half times greater than the rate of their peers from high-income families.<sup>2</sup>



Studies indicate that children who are homeless are 2x as likely to have learning disabilities and 3x as likely to have an emotional disturbance as children who are not homeless.<sup>3</sup>



48% of students who are homeless met statewide standards in math in grades 3-8 in the 2011-2012 school year.<sup>4</sup>



51% of students who are homeless met statewide standards in reading in grades 3-8 in the 2011-2012 school year.<sup>4</sup>

**Created by Seattle University's Project on Family Homelessness with data from:**

1. Grothaus, Lorelle, Anderson, & Knight, 2011

<http://bit.ly/1rN5ZZH>

2. National Center for Education Statistics: Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States

<http://1.usa.gov/1ttWKO2>

3. Better Homes Fund, 1999

<http://bit.ly/1BbHzKs>

4. Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program, U.S. Department of Education

<http://bit.ly/1rMR6GN>





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# Purpose

- Designed to **provide assistance to homeless students and families**
- Assure district schools and staff are **incompliance with state, federal and district mandates**
  - ensure the proper identification of homeless youth and to connect students with support services to enhance educational outcomes.
- Collaboration with school personnel & community to maximize access to programs, which **promote academic success and student achievement.**



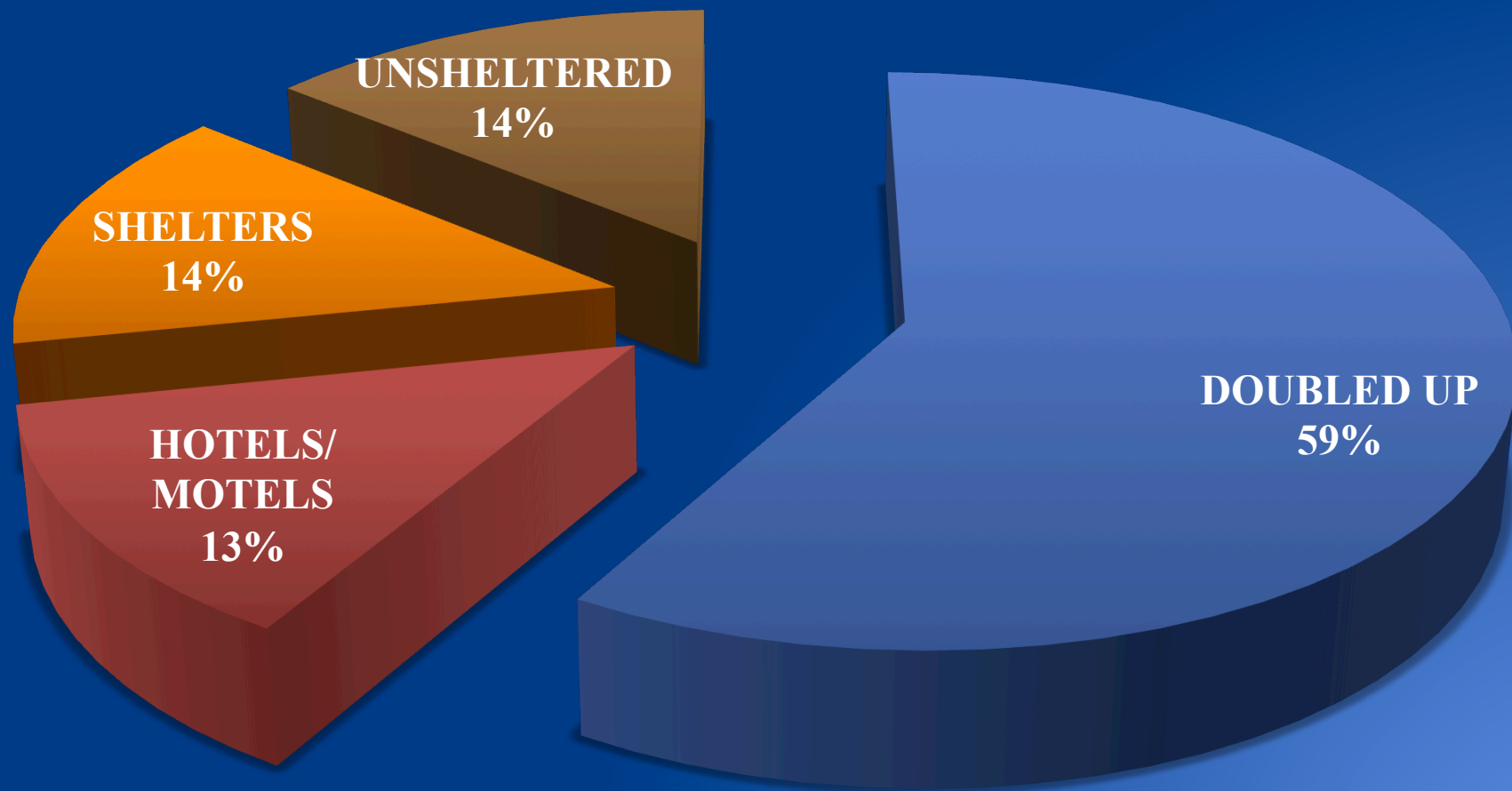
# Objectives

- **Provide ongoing training, technical assistance and advocacy** for homeless students and families
  - to ensure federal statutes and district policy is being followed in regards to homeless students in the LAUSD.
- **Remove barriers to academic success** for McKinney Vento eligible students by providing needed supplies such as backpacks, school supplies, clothing, transportation, etc.
- **Educate** students and parents on their educational rights.
- **Promote parent participation** in school related activities.





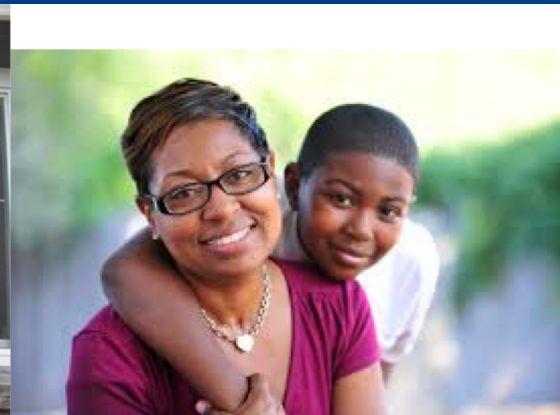
# HOMELESS STUDENTS IN LAUSD DISTRIBUTION BY NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE







# Who is homeless?





# Definition of Homeless

The McKinney-Vento Act defines a "homeless" student as one between 0 to 22 years of age , who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and may include:

- Temporary-such as motels/hotels, shelters, or transitional housing.
- Not Regular or inadequate living accommodations-lives in a car, park, garage, abandoned building, trailer, or other.
- “Doubled-up” with another family, due to loss of housing, stemming from financial problems.
- Abandoned, runaway or throwaway youth or migratory child living in any of the circumstances described above (could be a teen parent living with family, friend, etc.).



# Homeless Student Rights: School of Enrollment

Under the law, a homeless student is eligible to:

1. Continue at their **School of Origin** :
  - The school attended when permanently housed or
  - The school in which they were last enrolled or
  - A school that the homeless student attended within the immediately preceding 15 months and feels most connected

**\*\*NEW LAW SB 445 (ED Code: 48852.7)**
- OR
2. Enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.





# Student Rights

- Immediate Enrollment regardless of the lack of Academic records, Proof of residency, Medical records, Immunization records (A 30 day conditional enrollment is granted if immunization records are not provided).
  - The enrolling school shall immediately contact the last school of attendance to obtain missing records.
- If a family gains permanent housing during the academic year, the students have a right to complete the school year at their current school.
- Equal access to all programs



# AB 1806

On September 29, 2014 Assembly Bill 1806 was signed into to law to extend the following protections to Homeless Youth:

- Partial Credit Issuance
- Exemption from Graduation requirements
- Expulsion Recommendations



# School Responsibilities



# School Compliance

- Identification of a School Site Homeless Liaison
- Inform all stakeholders
- Identify homeless students
- Remove barriers for homeless students
  - School Services
  - HEP Services
  - Referrals
- Dispute resolution

**You can ENROLL in school!**

**Even if you have:**

- Uncertain housing
- A temporary address
- No permanent physical address

**You are guaranteed enrollment in school by the federal McKinney-Vento Act and California state law if you live:**

- In a shelter (family, domestic violence, or youth shelter or transitional living program)
- In a motel, hotel, or weekly rate housing
- In a house or apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship or loss
- In an abandoned building, in a car, at a campground, or on the street
- In temporary foster care or with an adult who is not your parent or guardian
- In substandard housing (without electricity, water, or heat)
- With friends or family because you are a runaway or an unaccompanied youth

**To enroll in or attend school if you live under any of these conditions, you do NOT need to provide:**

- Proof of residency
- Immunization records or tuberculosis skin-test results
- School records
- Legal guardianship papers

**You may:**

- Participate fully in all school activities and programs for which you are eligible.
- Continue to attend the school in which you were last enrolled even if you have moved away from that school's attendance zone or district.
- Receive transportation from your current residence back to your school of origin.
- Qualify automatically for child nutrition programs (free and reduced-price lunches and other district food programs).
- Contact the district liaison to resolve any disputes that arise during the enrollment process.

**Parents' responsibilities are to:**

- Make sure your child attends school regularly and completes homework and projects on time.
- Attend parent/teacher conferences, Back-to-School Nights, and other school-related activities.
- Stay informed of school rules, regulations, and activities.
- Participate in school advisory/decision-making activities.

**For questions about enrolling in school or for assistance with school enrollment, contact:**

<b>Your local school district liaison:</b>	<b>Your county liaison for the homeless:</b>	<b>Your state coordinator for the homeless:</b> <b>Leanne Wheeler</b> State Coordinator California Department of Education 1430 N Street, Suite 6308 Sacramento, California 95814 Phone: 1-866-856-8214
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California Department of Education



# Program Services



# Program Expansion



# Program Expansion

- The rising homeless population in Los Angeles County and research showing the significant educational challenges faced by homeless students demonstrates the need to expand
- Expanded funding for the Homeless Education Program has allowed the program to expand to include:
  - At least one PSA Counselors to serve each district as liaisons to comprehensive school sites
  - 1 PSA Counselor to serve district wide alternative school sites.
  - 7 PSA Counselors to serve as targeted school and shelter counselors
  - 10 PSA Aides to more effectively meet the needs of homeless students district wide





# Partnerships

The Homeless Education Program hosts a **quarterly collaborative** and a **quarterly faith based collaborative** to:

- Strengthen communication with all stakeholders
- Establish guidelines to ensure early identification
- Maximize resources to support student success





# Services provided this school year

INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENTS	CONSULTS RE: STUDENT/ FAMILY	STUDENT COUNSELING OR TARGETD GROUP MTGS	TRAININGS
915	3393	1967	681

FACILITATED ENROLLMENT FOR PARENT/ STUDENTS	STUDENTS SERVED THROUGH HEP SPECIAL EVENTS: (SPONSORSHIPS, CLOTHING, SCHOLARSHIPS, ETC.)
295	4000



# Program Highlights

- Liaison Trainings offered annually online & in person
- Sponsor a Family program
- Sponsor a graduate
- HOPE Scholarships
- Annual Graduate Luncheon hosts graduating seniors
- Summer Camp Sponsorships
- Plans for next year include tutoring pilot & middle school transition support activities



***Los Angeles Unified School District***  
**Student Health & Human Services**  
**Pupil Services**

**The Homeless Education Program**

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel (213)202-7581

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