

Pupil Services HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM Executive Summary



Mission

To ensure that all LAUSD students are enrolled, attending, engaged, and on-track to graduate.


BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is the second largest public school district in the country. Every year, thousands of students experience homelessness. Research has shown that homeless students are more likely to score lower on test scores, more likely to repeat a grade and more likely to drop out of school than their housed peers. Homeless students face higher rates of exposure to violence, trauma, family mental health or substance abuse issues, and higher transiency rates. These issues have proven to generate significant educational challenges for homeless students and has led to a significantly lower graduation rate than their housed peers. These students often present with social, behavioral, and academic issues, related to their circumstances.




Since 2006, Pupil Services and Attendance (PSA) Counselors have advocated for LAUSD homeless students district wide. The Access for All resolution passed in 2006 by the LAUSD Board of education established the current Homeless Education Program to identify homeless youth, provide training and technical assistance to school and community personnel and to facilitate enrollment and equal access to all school programs for homeless students district wide. The resolution was to ensure compliance with the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act in the federal No Child Left Behind

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

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- Ensure that schools are following district policy and federal mandates for the education of homeless students
 - Remove barriers to academic success for Homeless Students, providing equal access to education as their housed peers
 - Effectively serve students and families in transition, providing advocacy and referral services that foster a sense of empowerment and stability
 - Leverage program resources by collaborating with community partners and coordinating fundraising efforts

PROGRAM SERVICES

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- Facilitate school enrollment as needed to ensure compliance with district policy and to equal access to educational and meal programs, as well as tutoring and other services available at the school site.
 - Conduct professional development trainings for school personnel and community agencies regarding the rights and responsibilities of homeless students.
 - Provide technical assistance regarding the proper identification, enrollment, and service needs of homeless students and their families.
 - Provide assistance with transportation, backpacks, school supplies, and clothing vouchers.
 - Provide medical, dental, and mental health referrals, in addition to other school/community services.
 - Educate students and parents on their educational rights, and promote parent participation in school related activities.
 - Assist unaccompanied youth with enrollment procedures, school placement options, and retrieval of immunization records.
 - Provide advocacy services for parents and students during school related educational meetings, such as Student Study Team (SST), Individualized Educational Program (IEP), and Student Attendance Review Team (SART) or School Attendance Review Board (SARB).
 - Participate in the mediation of school enrollment disputes.
 - Provide assistance to specialized populations of homeless students, including preschoolers, homeless teen parents, children with special needs, and unaccompanied youth.

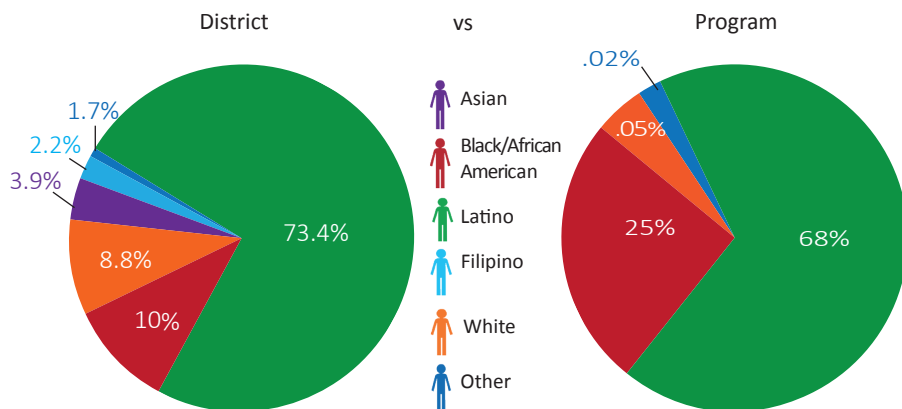


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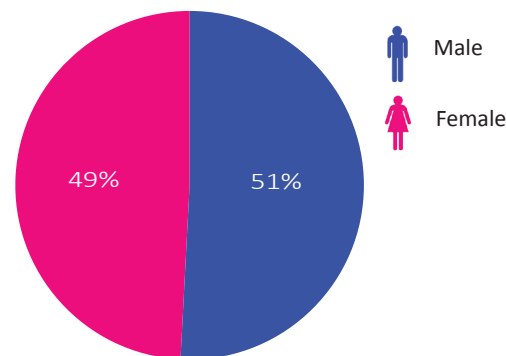


STUDENTS SERVED BY PROGRAM STAFF August 2014 - November 2015

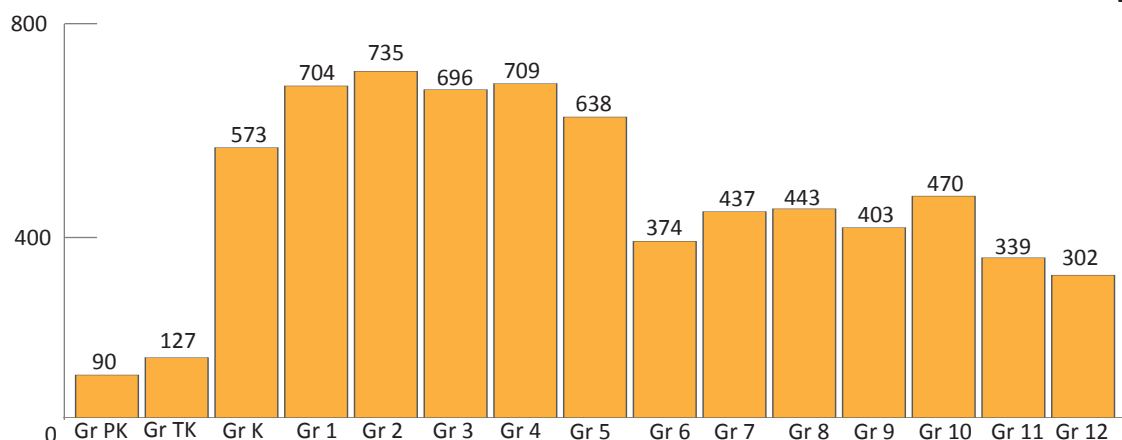
Ethnicity Breakdown



Gender



Homeless Students Count by Grade August 2014 - November 2015



Homeless Students Count by Local District through November 2015

Grade	#Students
South	1,496
Central	1,226
East	1,220
Northeast	1,171
West	985
Northwest	919
XR-Charter	48
SPED	3
Total	7,068

Program Highlights

- Provide annual School Site Homeless Liaison Trainings (Online & Regional in person)
- Operation School Bell (OSB) Events & Appointments: Annually close to 1,000 Homeless students participate in events or appointments at the OSB sites to receive free backpacks, school supplies, clothing and books coordinated by Homeless Education Program staff in collaboration with OSB and the Assistance League of LA.
- Annual Holiday Sponsor-a-Family: Each Holiday season over 100 families (approximately 500 individuals) are sponsored by individual or group sponsors from within or outside LAUSD. Families receive gifts for each family member, household gifts and gift card(s) for holiday meals or necessities.
- Operation School Bell Prom Day: 79 students annually in collaboration with OSB and the Assistance League of LA, receive free prom day attire including dresses, shoes, accessories, makeup and hairstyling.
- School Police Partnership Events: 1,300 students annually
- Sponsor-a-Graduate: 40 Homeless students annually are sponsored by donors who pay for senior activities and expenses.
- Suits for Prom: 16 Homeless students are annually sponsored by donors who pay for homeless students to receive Prom tuxes.
- Homeless Education Symposium is hosted biannually by the Homeless Education Program
- Homeless Education Collaborative is held Quarterly for service providers for homeless students and families in and outside of LAUSD
- H.O.P.E. Scholarship: 12 \$500 scholarships are awarded annually to homeless graduating students who are planning to attend post secondary institutions or are joining the military
- Graduate Luncheon: The Homeless Education Program hosts a congratulatory luncheon in honor of all homeless graduating seniors. (over 100 homeless graduating students are invited annually to attend)
- Summer camp: In collaboration with Camp Max Strauss, the Homeless Education Program facilitates 25 students attending summer camp.