

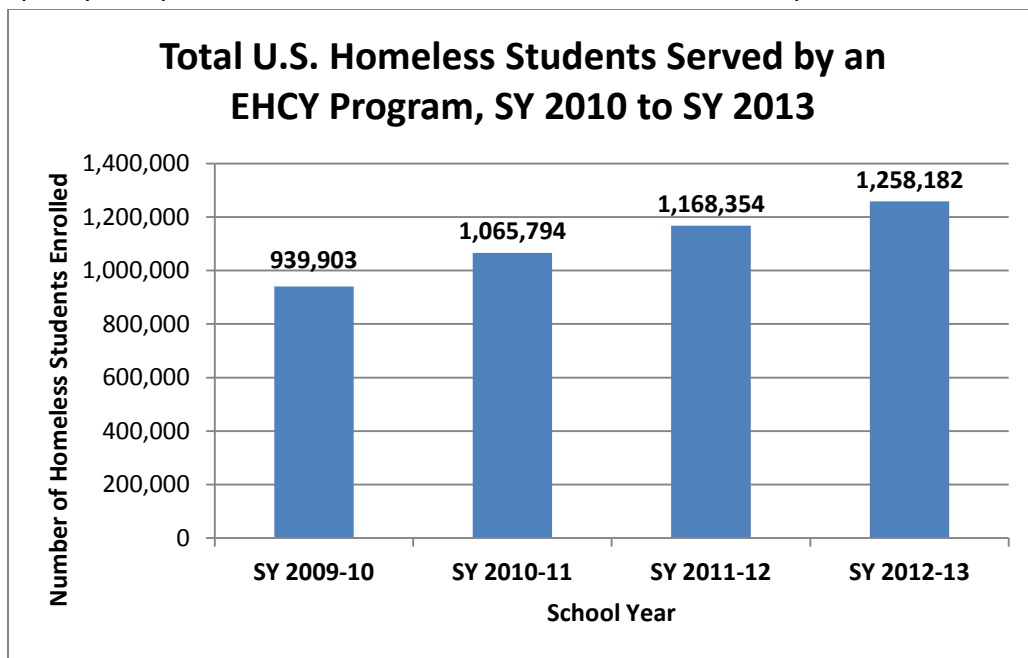


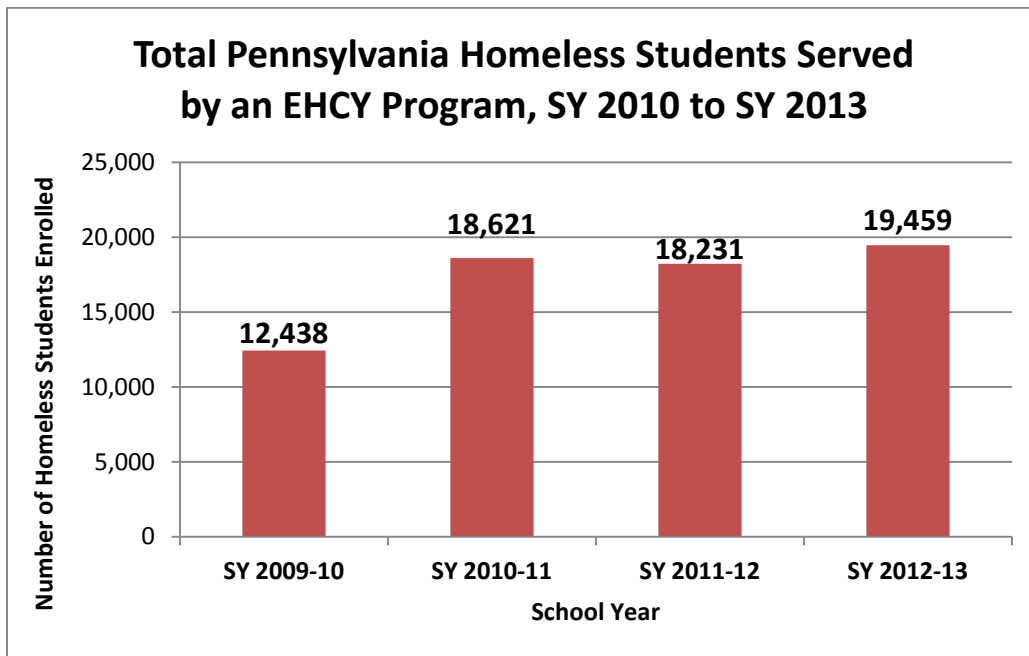
## Number of children and youth experiencing homelessness increasing in United States and Pennsylvania

***19,459 in Pennsylvania and 1,258,182 Children and Youth in the United States Experienced Homelessness in 2013***

The number of children and youth who experienced homelessness in Pennsylvania and in the United States as reported by the education system has increased over the past three years. For the first time in American history, the number of homeless children and youth exceeded 1.2 million.

The following summary of information on homeless education issues is a part of a series of briefs by the PEC Policy Research Institute analyzing data reports in order to close the gap between policy and practice focused on families and children who experience homelessness.





**Who should read this policy brief?** Social Service providers working with children and youth who experience homelessness, advocates, educators and policy makers in Pennsylvania.

**Source of reports:** This summary uses three sources:

1. The National Center for Homeless Education's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Consolidated State Performance Report Data: School Years 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13, released in September 2014.
2. The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2012-13 State Evaluation Report, which report provides state-specific data that matched the categories in the national report.
3. Data from [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov), the site managed by the United States Department of Education.

Using these three sources allows this PEC Policy Brief to compare Pennsylvania's homeless students with students nationally.

**What does this summary contain?** This summary contains the key indicators found in the reports cited above, which are: the total number of homeless children and youth

served/enrolled and identified by the education system, their nighttime residency, and their academic achievement as defined by standardized testing.

## Highlights:

- There was an 8 percent national increase in the number of homeless students **enrolled** between the School Year (SY) 2011-12 and SY 2012-13, and an 18 percent increase in the three-year period SY 2010-11 to SY 2012-13.
- Pennsylvania reported 19,459 children and youth identified as homeless **enrolled** in school in SY 2012-13, a 7 percent increase from the previous year total of 18,231. In addition, Pennsylvania reported 22,618 children and youth identified as homeless **served** in SY 2012-13, a 10 percent increase from SY 2010-2011.
- Most homeless students are living doubled up and not in shelters or outdoors. Nationally, the number of students reported under this category has increased since SY 2010-11. In Pennsylvania, 60 percent of homeless students lived doubled up in SY 2012-13.
- The national report provides evidence that students experiencing homelessness scored lower in standardized reading and mathematics assessment tests than in the previous year.

## Numbers of students who experience homelessness:

The education system reports two different numbers of homeless children and youth: those **served** by the schools and those **enrolled** in school. The term **served** includes all children and youth who are identified as meeting the McKinney-Vento Act definition of homeless and can include those who are not participating in school. Students from Pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade make up the **enrolled** category.

Caution should be used in comparing counts of students. Changes from year to year could be due to numerous factors, including improved outreach and identification as well as an increase in the homeless population. An explanation of the differences is not provided in the reports under consideration.

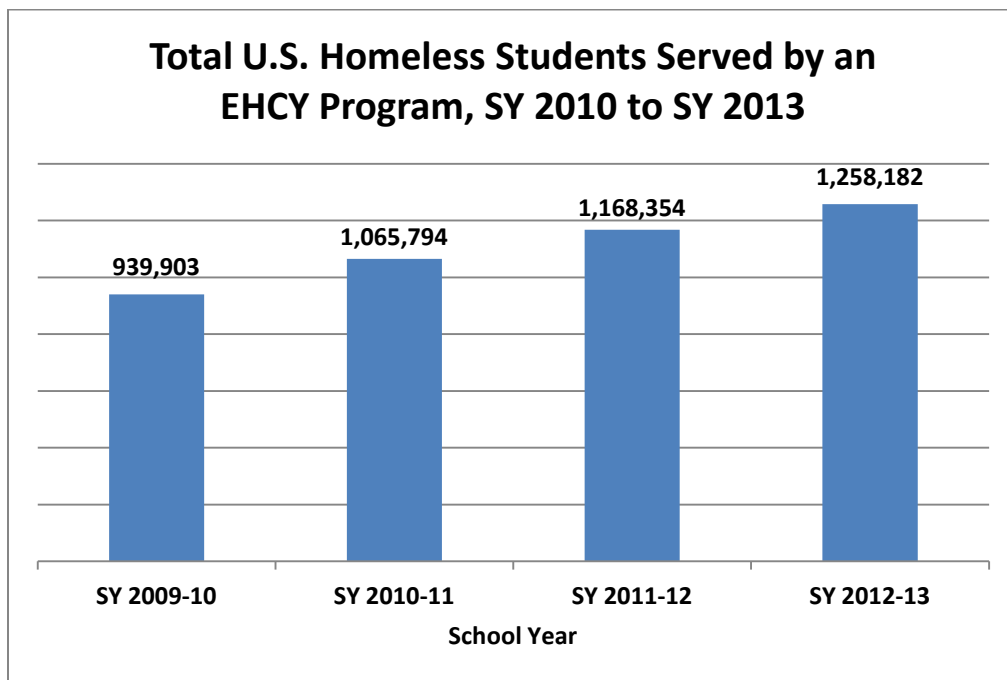
This paper includes the total served nationally, as well as both the total served and total enrolled in Pennsylvania.

- According to the U.S. Department of Education, 1,258,182 homeless children were

enrolled in the 2012-13 school year, an 8 percent increase from the previous year total of 1,168,354 and a 34 percent increase from the 2009-2010 total of 939,903.

- Nationally, 33 states (63 percent) reported increases in the total number of homeless children and youth enrolled in school. Included in the 33 states is the District of Columbia\*.
- Nineteen states (37 percent) reported a decrease in the number of homeless children and youth. Included in the ten is Puerto Rico\*.

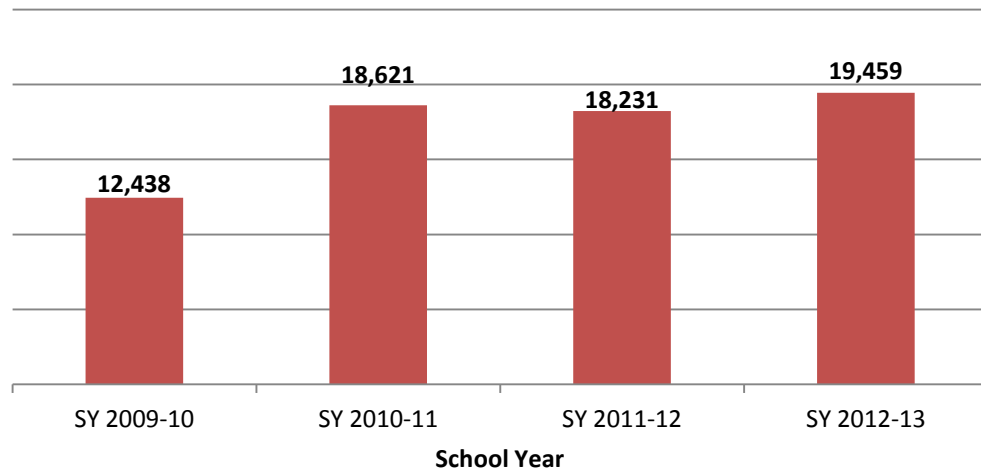
\*Data is from <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-tables-report.cfm>



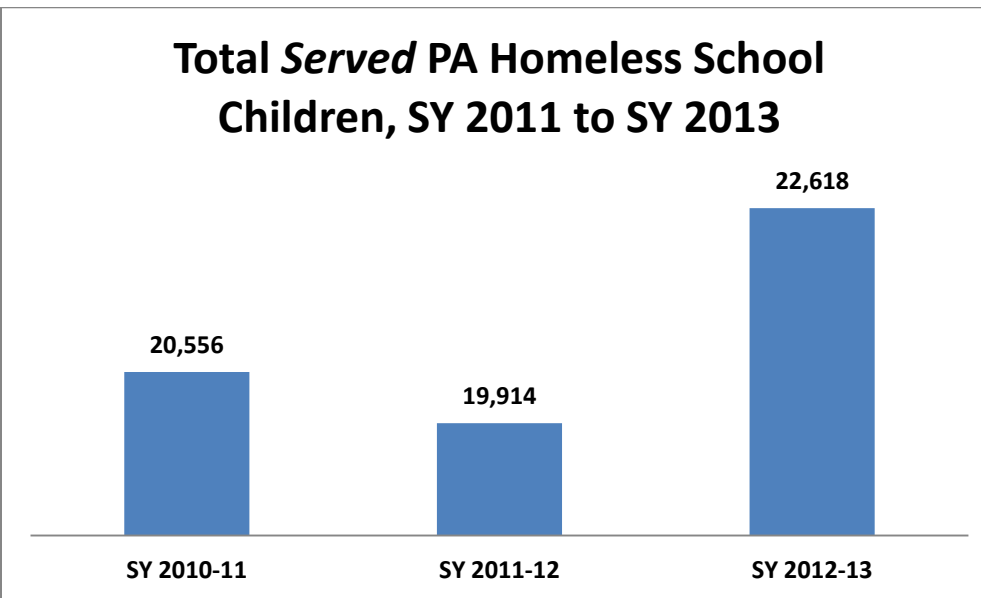
## Number of Children and Youth Who are Homeless in Pennsylvania

- In the 2012-13 school year, 19,459 children and youth in Pennsylvania were counted as homeless and enrolled in school, a 7 percent increase from the previous year's total of 18,231.
- Of all students experiencing homelessness in Pennsylvania, 5,084 (26%) were in high school.

**Total PA Homeless Students *Enrolled* by an EHCY Program, SY 2010 to SY 2013**



**Total Served PA Homeless School Children, SY 2011 to SY 2013**

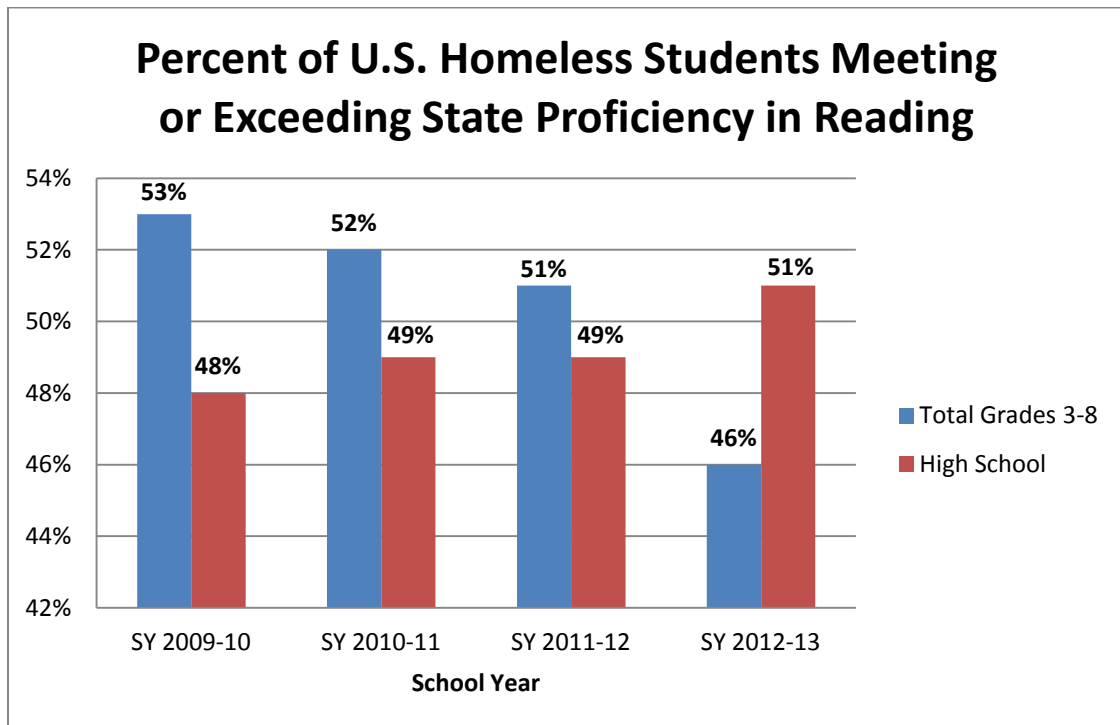


## Academic Achievement of Homeless Students

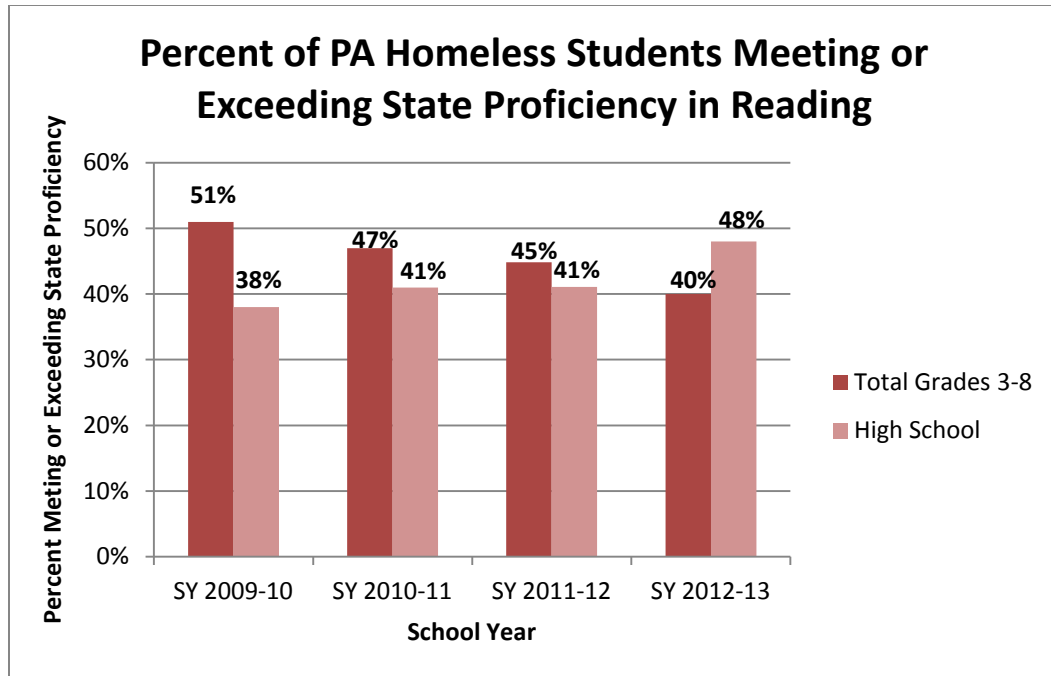
In the United States, standardized tests are designed and administered by state education agencies in order to measure the academic achievement of each state's students. On these tests, students can score below basic, basic, proficient, or advanced. Those scoring proficient or advanced meet or exceed state proficiency standards. In Pennsylvania, academic achievement is measured using the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

### READING:

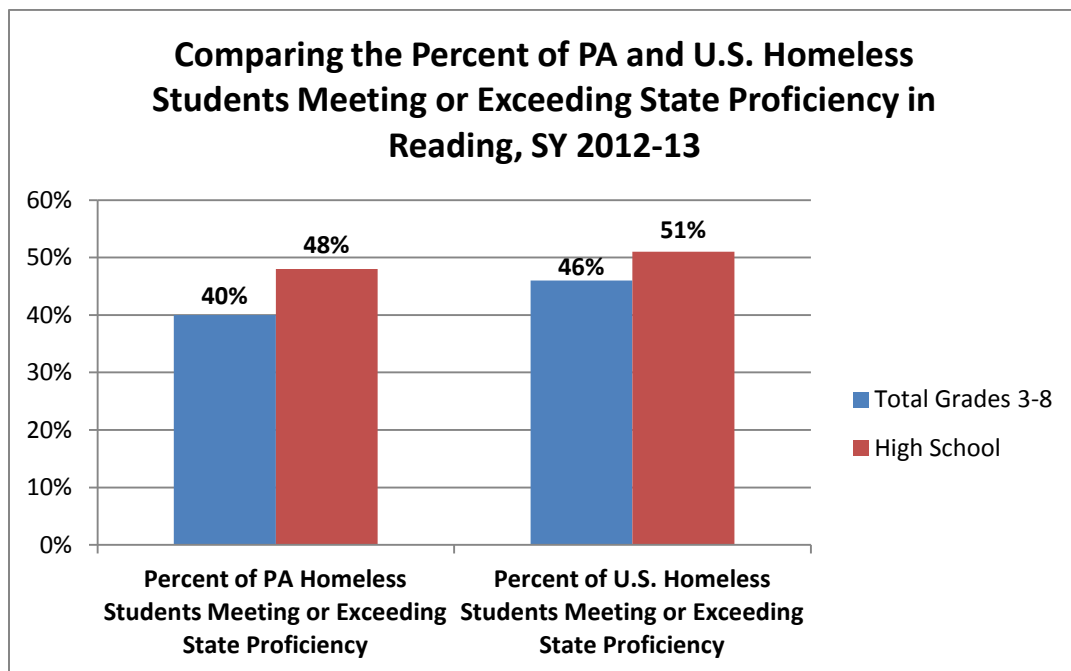
- Nationally, academic achievement of homeless high school students in reading has increased since the 2009-2010 school year; however, the percentage of students in grades three to eight meeting or exceeding state proficiency in reading has decreased since SY 2009-10.



- In Pennsylvania, the percent of students in grades three to eight meeting or exceeding state proficiency in reading declined by 11 percentage points between SY 2009-10 and SY 2012-13. For high school students, reading scores increased 10 percentage points between SY 2009-10 and SY 2012-13.

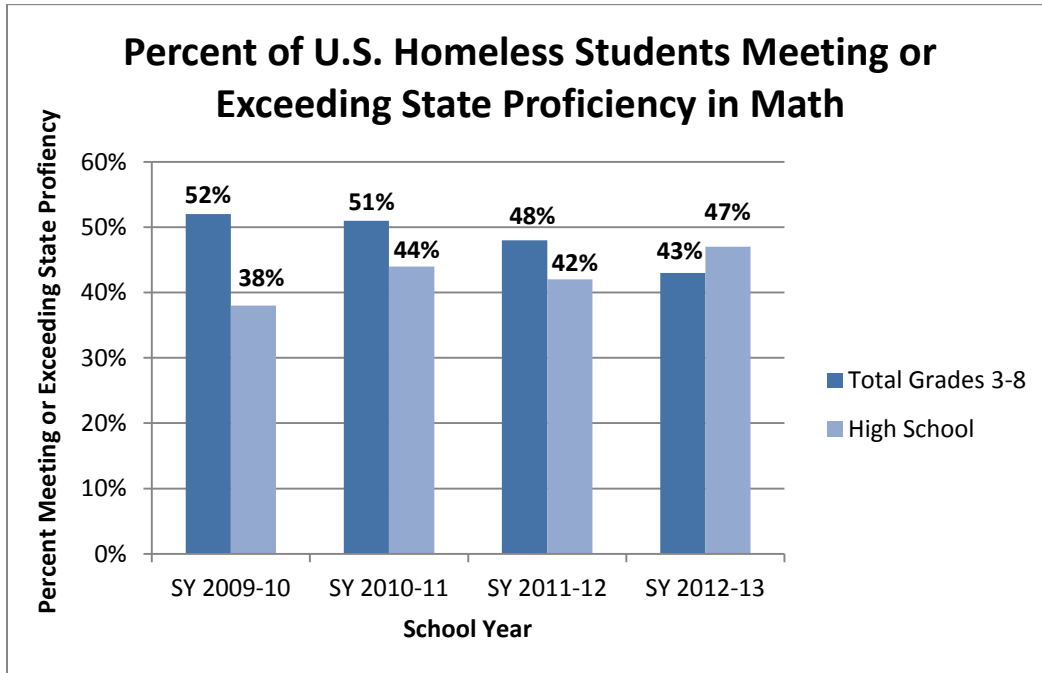


- Students who experience homelessness in Pennsylvania do not do as well as their peers across the country in reading.



## MATH:

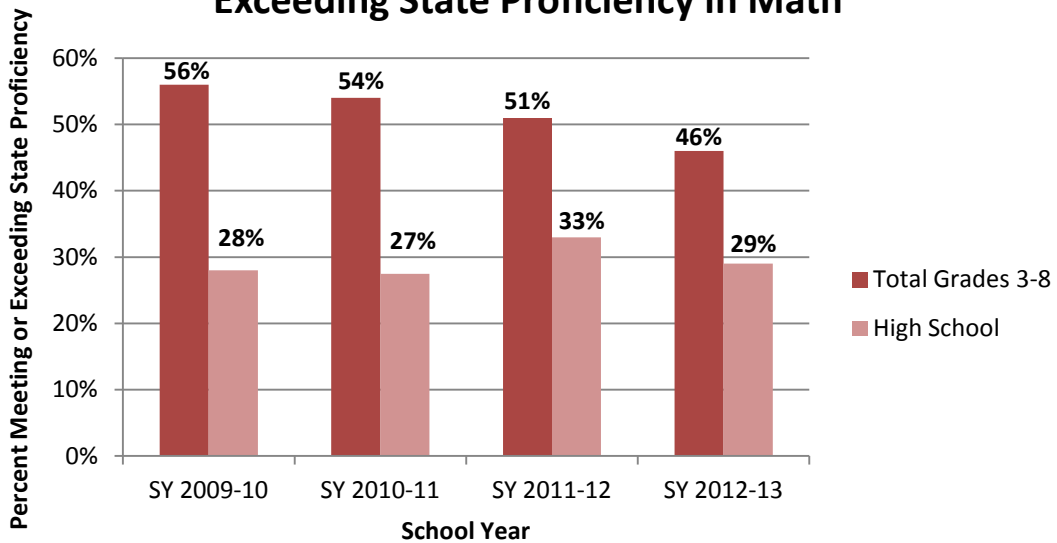
- Nationally, fewer homeless students in grades three to eight met or exceeded state proficiency in math since SY 2009-10. However, more homeless high school students met or exceeded proficiency in the same time frame.



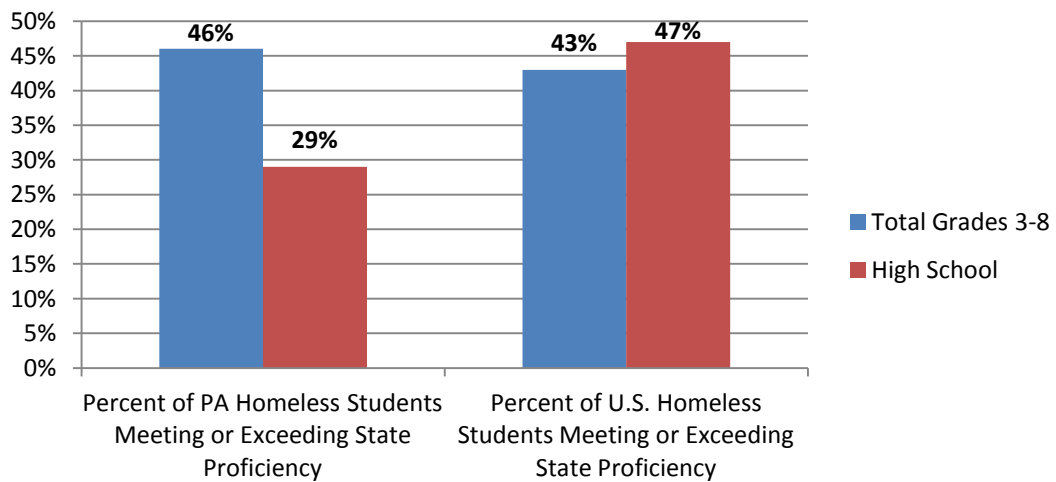
- In Pennsylvania, homeless students in grades three to eight also experienced a similar trend of a decreasing percentage meeting or exceeding state proficiency. Despite an increase in number of homeless students meeting or exceeding proficiency between SY 2010-11 and SY 2011-12, there was a 4 percent decrease between SY 2011-12 and SY 2012-13.
- A higher percentage of Pennsylvania's homeless students in grades three to eight met or exceeded state proficiency in math than their national counterparts but a higher percentage of homeless students in high school across the country fared better than Pennsylvania's high school students.



### Percent of PA Homeless Students Meeting or Exceeding State Proficiency in Math



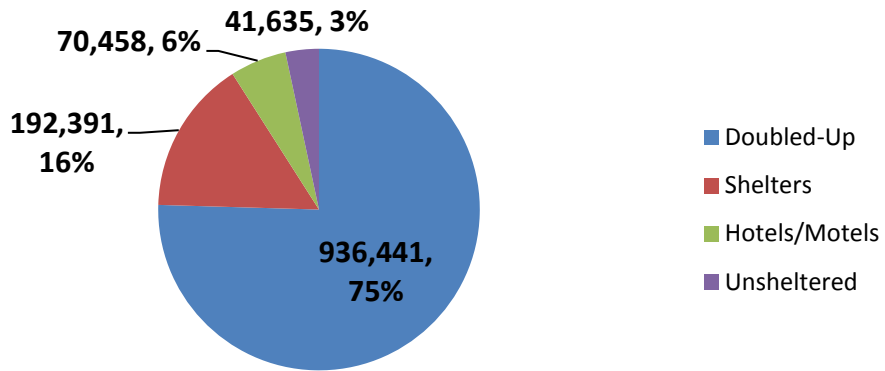
### Comparing the Percent of PA and U.S. Homeless Students Meeting or Exceeding State Proficiency in Math, SY 2011-12



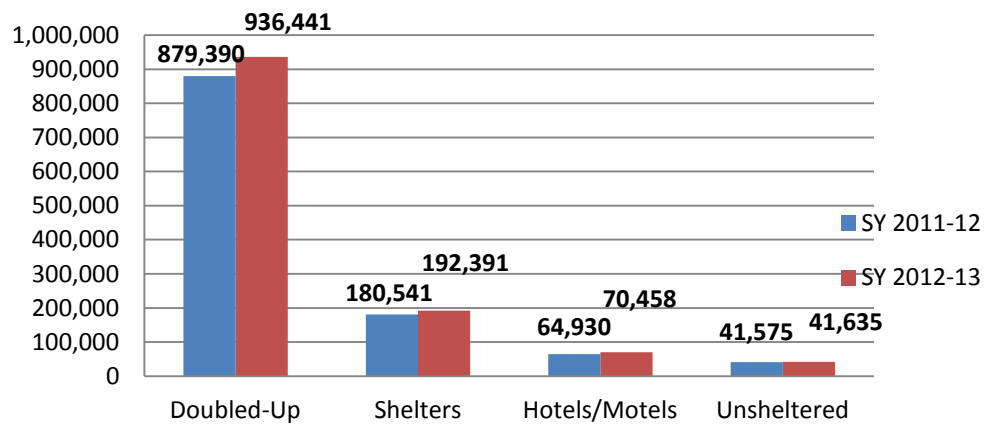
**Nighttime Residence:** Knowing where homeless students reside informs school personnel for their outreach strategies. Primary nighttime residence is defined as *“the type of residence [e.g. shelter, hotel, doubled up in a homes of a friend or relative] where a homeless child or unaccompanied youth was staying at the time of enrollment or the type of residence where a currently enrolled child or youth was staying when he or she was identified as homeless”<sup>i</sup>*. In addition to informing school personnel, this data also informs housing and youth service providers who work with homeless youth.

- Nationally, the number of homeless students living doubled-up continues to increase. The number of homeless students living in shelters has also increased between SY 2011-12 and SY 2012-13.
- Pennsylvania has followed the national trend. When compared to SY 2011-12, there was a 6 percent increase in the number of homeless students living doubled-up and a 5 percent increase in the number living in shelters in SY 2012-13. In SY 12-13, 60 percent of EHCY program participants were living doubled-up, the same percentage as in SY 11-12. In SY 12-13, 31 percent of EHCY program participants were living in shelters, compared to 32 percent in SY 11-12.
- In Pennsylvania, 31 percent of homeless children and youth are living in shelters compared to just 16 percent of all homeless students in the United States.
- In Pennsylvania, 60 percent homeless children and youth in Pennsylvania are living doubled-up, compared to 75 percent nationally.

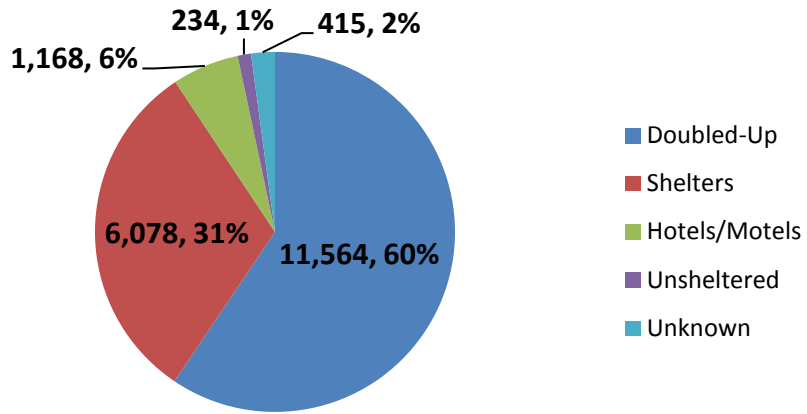
### Nighttime Residence for U.S. Homeless Students, SY 2012-13



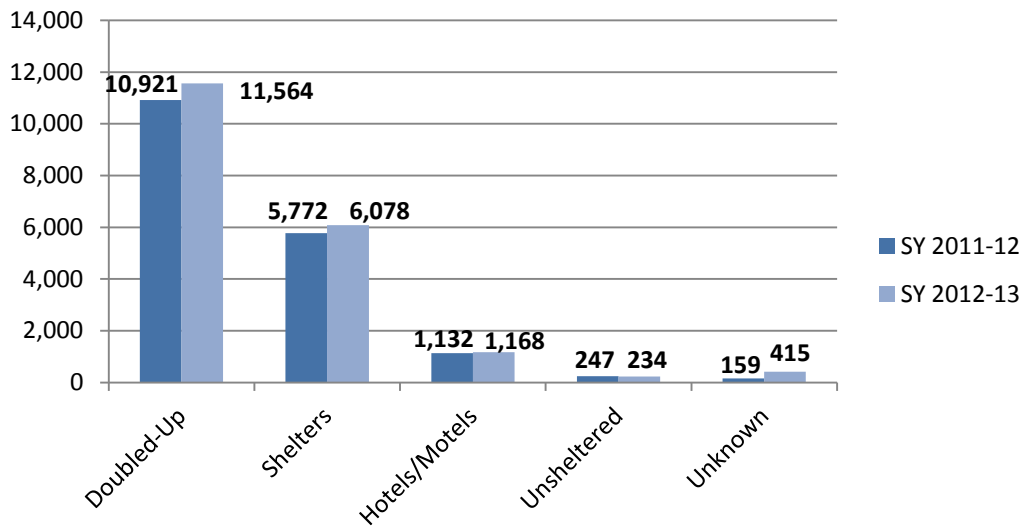
### Primary Nighttime Residence of U.S. Homeless Students, SY 2011-12 and 2012-13



### Primary Nighttime Residence for PA Homeless Students, SY 2012-13



### Primary Nighttime Residence of PA Homeless Students, SY 2011-12 and 2012-13



The **People's Emergency Center**'s mission is to nurture families, strengthen neighborhoods and drive change in West Philadelphia. Through a community of more than 240 housing units and five educational centers offering job training, parenting and early childhood education, financial education and planning, lifeskills and technology coursework, PEC seeks to change the life trajectory for the women and children who seek its services and inspire them to aspire to new heights. This report was written by Julia Levin and Joe Willard. All inquires can be sent to [policy@pec-cares.org](mailto:policy@pec-cares.org).

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<sup>i</sup> SERVE: Education for Homeless Children and Youth Data Collection Summary, March 2014.