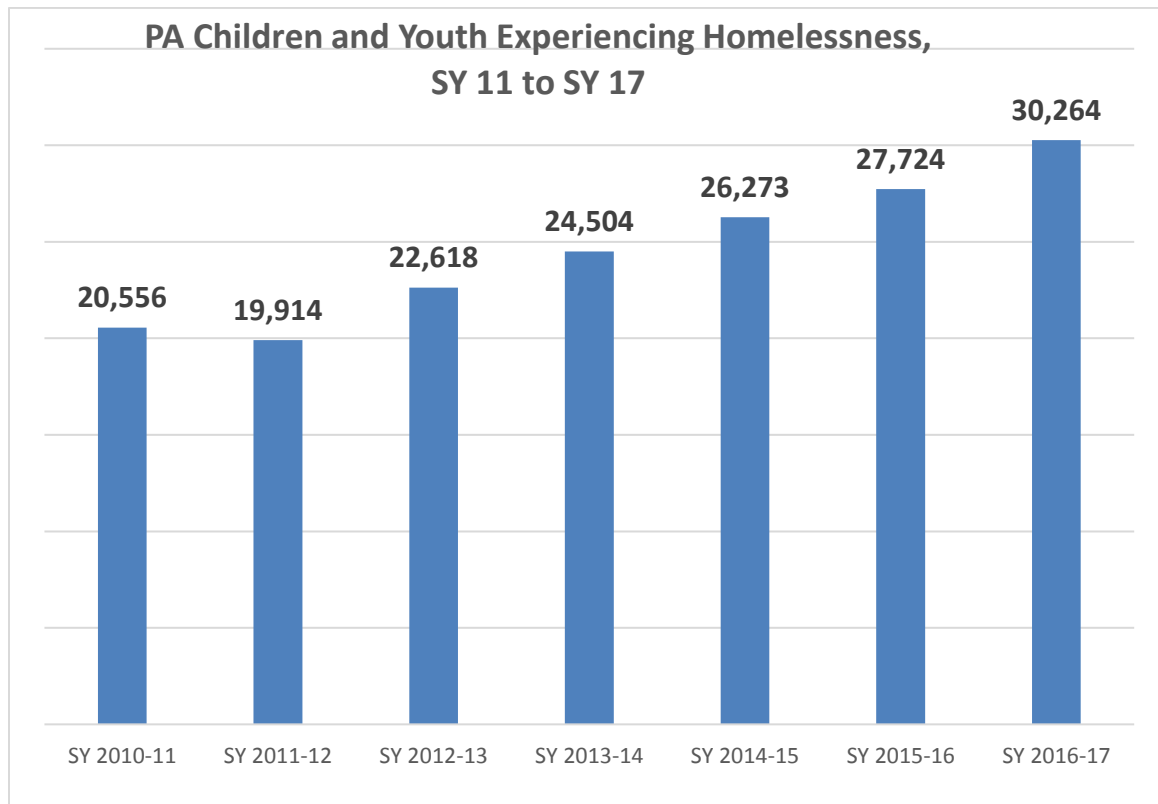




Report indicates a 47 percent increase in Pennsylvania's children and youth who experience homelessness

For the **first time in history**, the number of homeless children and youth exceeds **30,000** according to a Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) report.



Highlights:

- Pennsylvania reported that **30,264** children and youth who experienced homelessness were *serviced* in School Year (SY) 2016-17, a **four percent increase from the previous year**.
- Of this number, **25,113 were enrolled students**.
- There were **7,823 children, ages birth through kindergarten**, were identified as homeless.
- **5,879 high school students** were homeless in FY 2015-2016. **Region 2** experienced the highest number, and two other regions had **higher** numbers than Philadelphia. All regions but one had **more** homeless seniors than Philadelphia.
- **All regions** in Pennsylvania, with the exception of Region 5, experienced **increasing** numbers of homeless students.
- **Most homeless students are living doubled-up** (living in someone else's house temporarily) and **not** in shelters or outdoors. In Pennsylvania, **64 percent** of homeless students lived doubled up. **Only 29 percent** were in shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care placement; six percent were in hotels or motels; and one percent was unsheltered. This metric should be of interest to those who use Point in Time Counts to provide data addressing youth homelessness.
- Sixty-five percent of students **remain** in their schools. Twenty percent had enrolled in two schools. Six percent had more than 2 moves.

Who should read this policy brief? People's Emergency Center (PEC) summarized the PDE report to inform the region's leadership about this population. **Most importantly, policy makers need to understand** that homelessness among children and youth is increasing and that this phenomena is not confined to urban regions. This data should also inform services provided by the thousands of social service providers, advocates and educators working every day to serve children and youth who experience homelessness.

Data sources:

- Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2016-2017 State

Evaluation Report: <http://bit.ly/2rEJGtm>

- Data for school years comes from PEC's previous summary reports, found at <https://www.pec-cares.org/policy-publications.html> which used reports from PDE published in those years.
- 2017 PSSA performance results are found at <http://www.education.pa.gov/Data-and-Statistics/PSSA/Pages/default.aspx>

What does this summary contain? Key indicators found in the reports cited above include:

- **Number** of homeless children and youth enrolled and/or served by the education system.
- **Number** of homeless children and youth by region.
- **Nighttime residency** statistics for students experiencing homelessness.
- **Academic achievement** comparing 3rd and 8th graders who experience homelessness to their peers.

Number of Children and Youth Who Experience Homelessness in Pennsylvania:

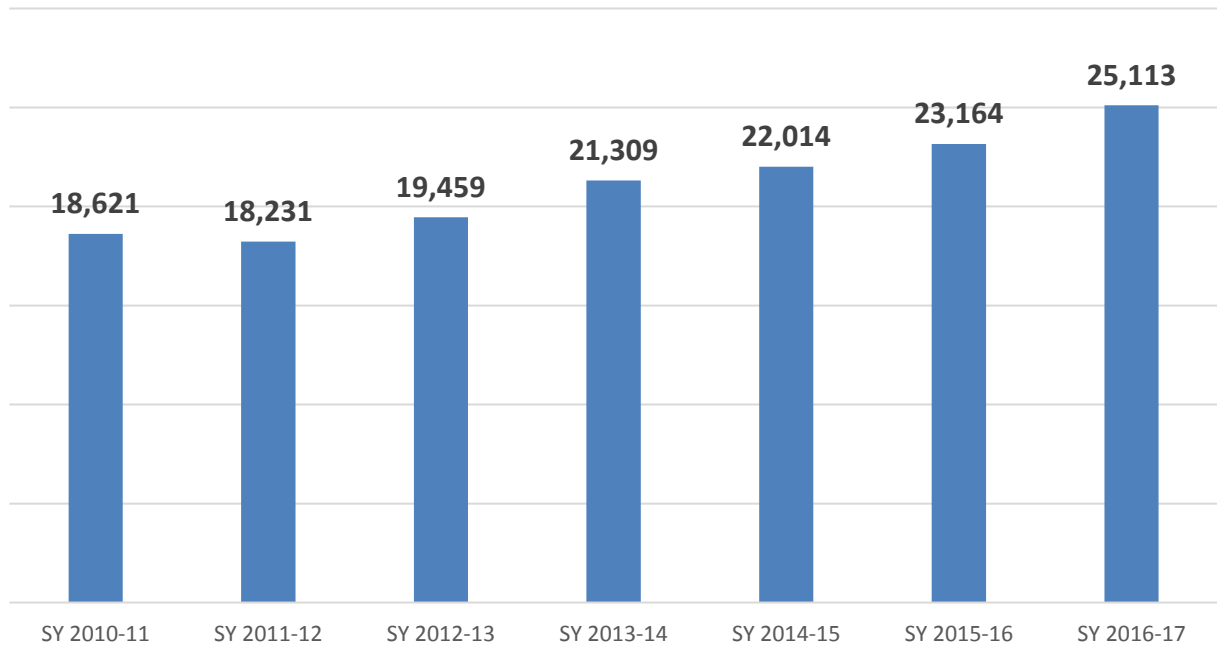
The education system reports two different numbers of homeless children and youth: those **served** by the schools and those **enrolled** in school. The term **served** includes all children and youth who are **identified** as meeting the education system's [McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness](#).

Students from Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade make up the **enrolled** category.

Keep informed on these issues by adding your email to the monthly e-newsletter PEC Perspective by sending your address to poliyc@pec-cares.org, and follow us on Twitter at #PAHomelessYouth.

Caution should be used in comparing counts of students. Changes from year to year could be a result from numerous factors, including improved outreach and identification as well as an actual increase in the homeless population.

**Total # PA Students Experienced Homelessness and *ENROLLED*,
2011 to 2017**



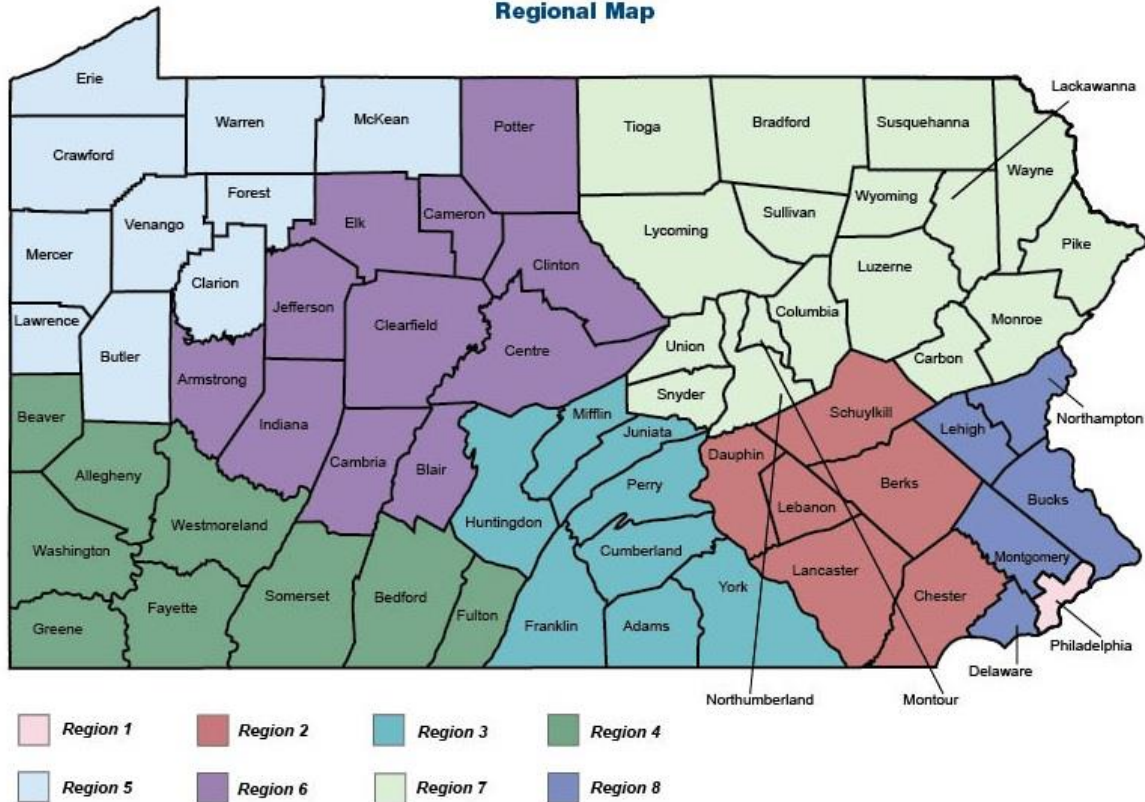
Number of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Served by Region: See [map](#) below to identify regions.

- All regions but Region 5 experienced **increasing** numbers.

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Region 1	5,764	5,518	6,583
Region 2	5,267	6,041	6,500
Region 3	1,703	1,954	2,242
Region 4	4,333	4,716	5,004
Region 5	2,615	2,798	2,790
Region 6	1,249	1,290	1,327
Region 7	1,775	1,802	1,943
Region 8	3,567	3,603	3,875
Total	26,273	27,722	30,264

Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

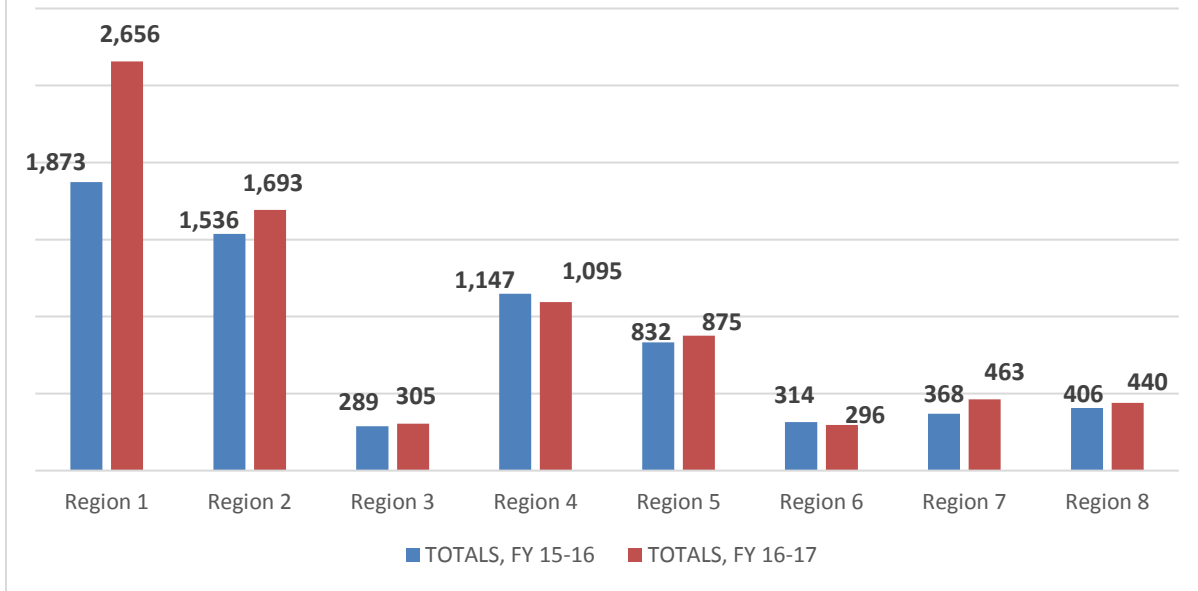
Regional Map



Number of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness by Grade, Birth to Kindergarten

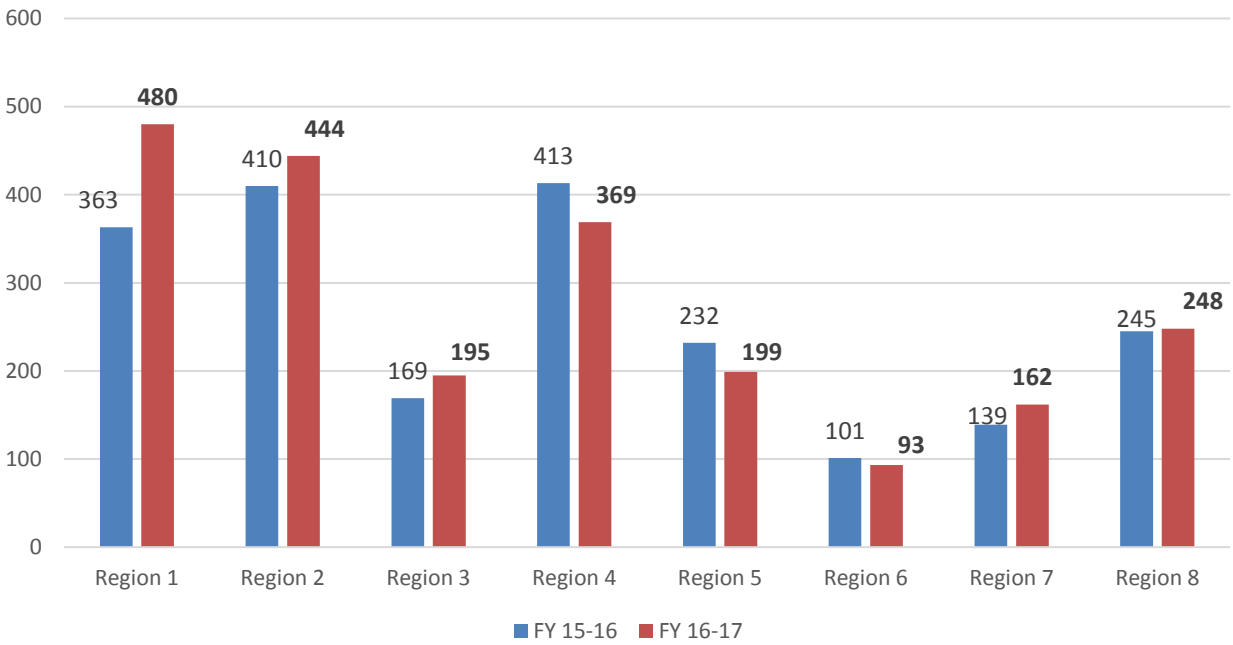
- **7,823 children** from birth to kindergarten were identified as homelessness, an increase from the 6,765 young children identified in the previous year.
- Philadelphia has the highest number of children from birth to Kindergarten, followed by **Region 2**.

Children Birth thru Kindergarten Experiencing Homelessness, comparing SY16 to SY17

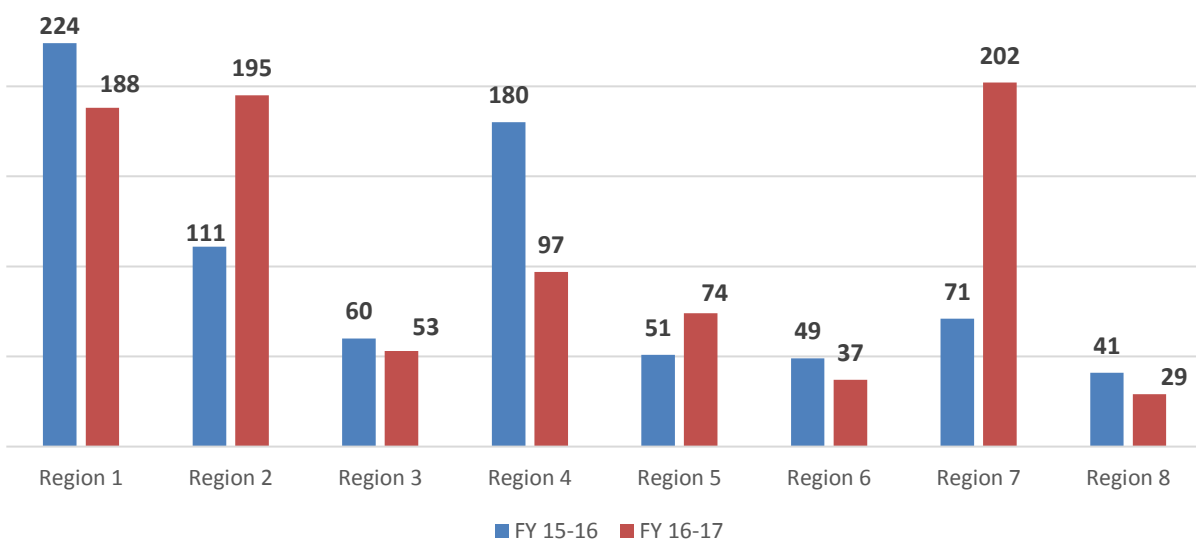


- Five of the eight regions increased identifying kindergarten children who experienced homelessness.
- Only three regions increased identifying pre-kindergarten children who experienced homelessness.

PA Kindergarteners Experiencing Homelessness,
SY 16 to SY17

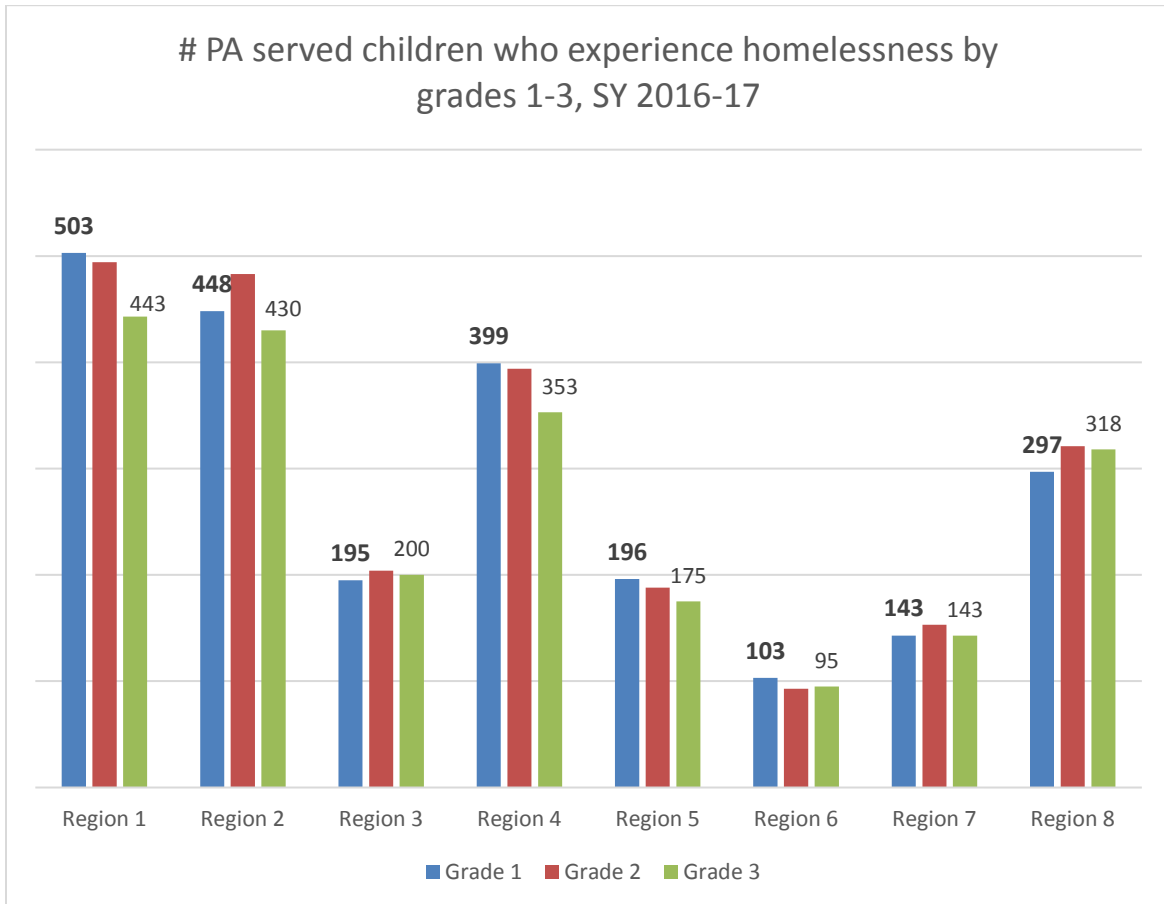


PA Pre-Kindergarteners Experience Homelessness,
Comparing SY16 to SY17



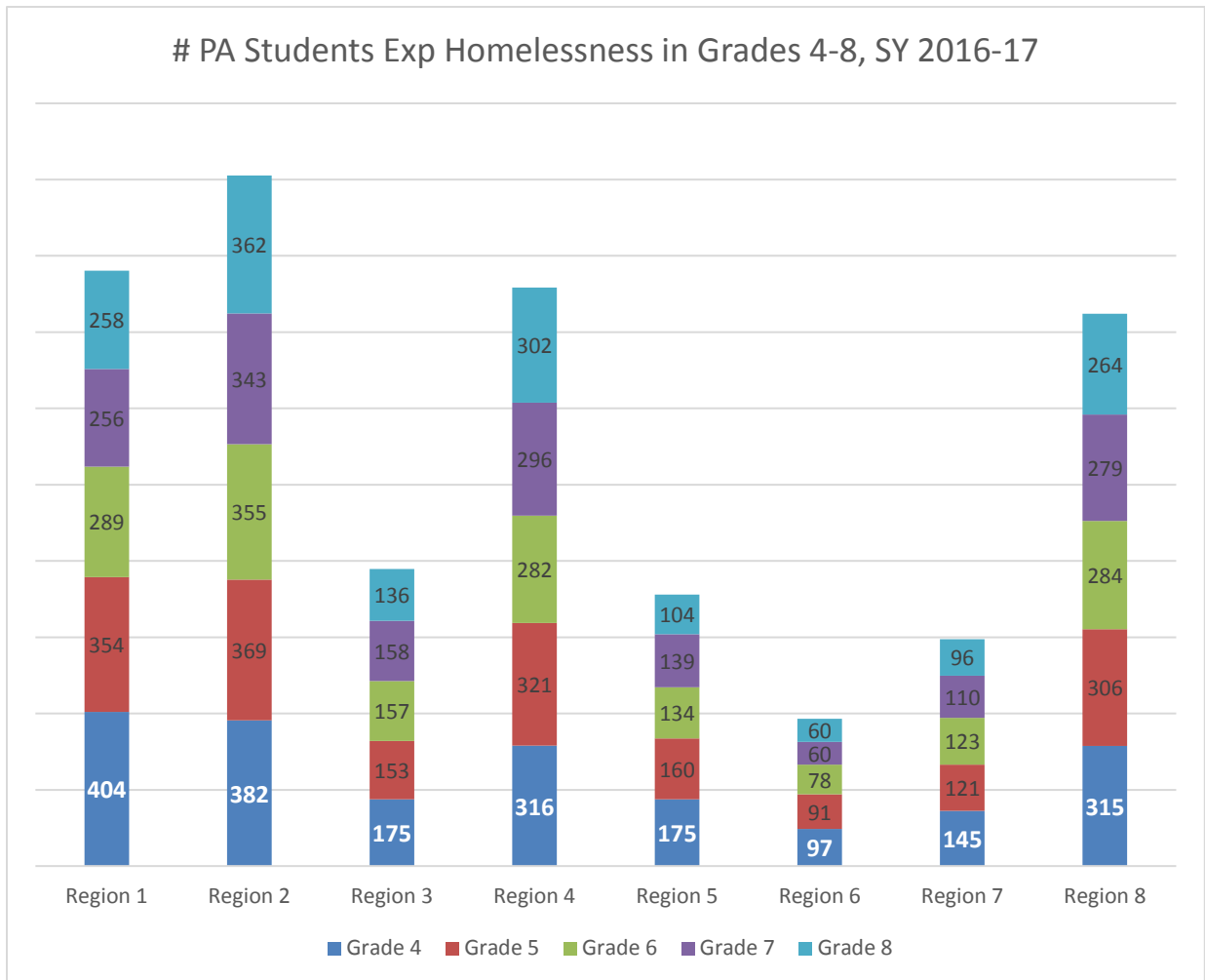
Grades 1, 2, 3

- 6,771 students in grades 1, 2, and 3 experienced homelessness in SY 2016-17



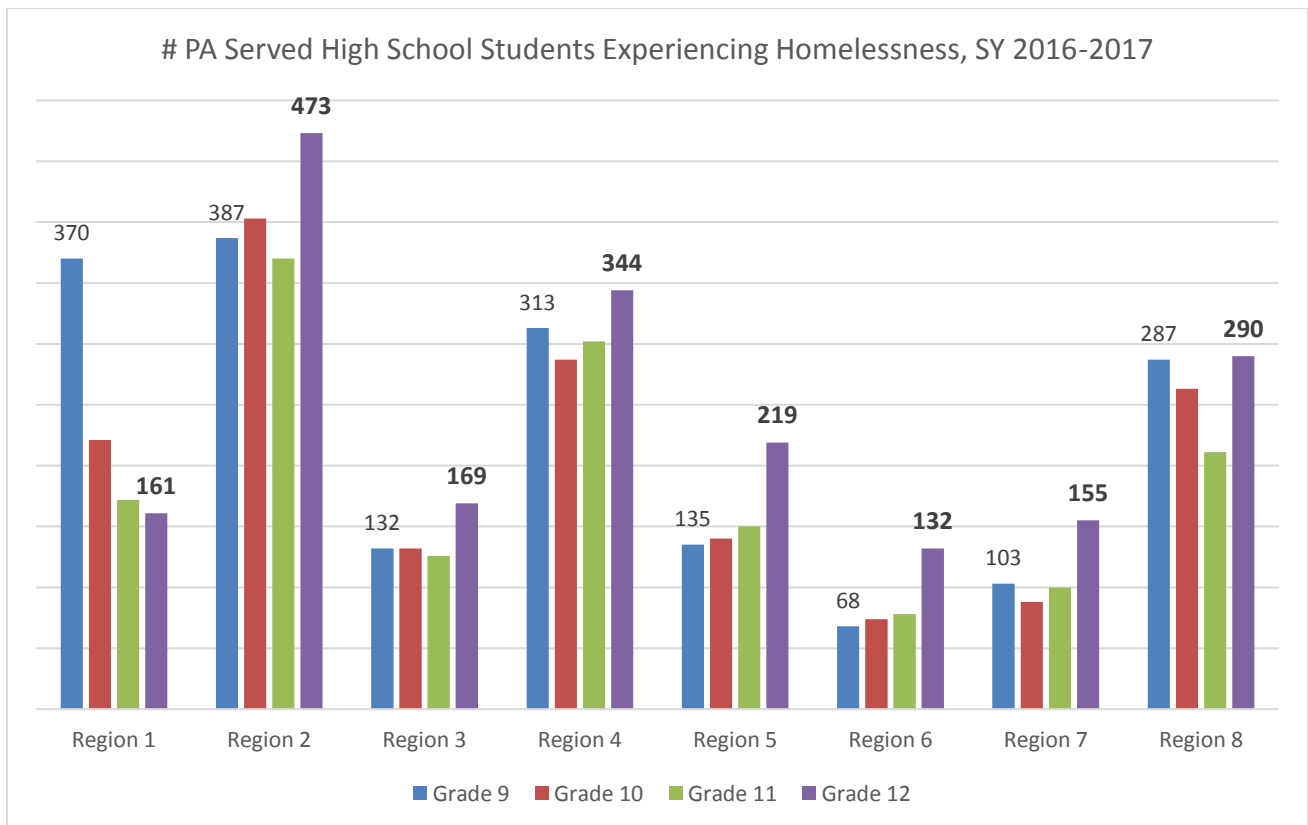
Grades 4-8:

- 8,809 students experienced homelessness in grades 4 through 8.



High School

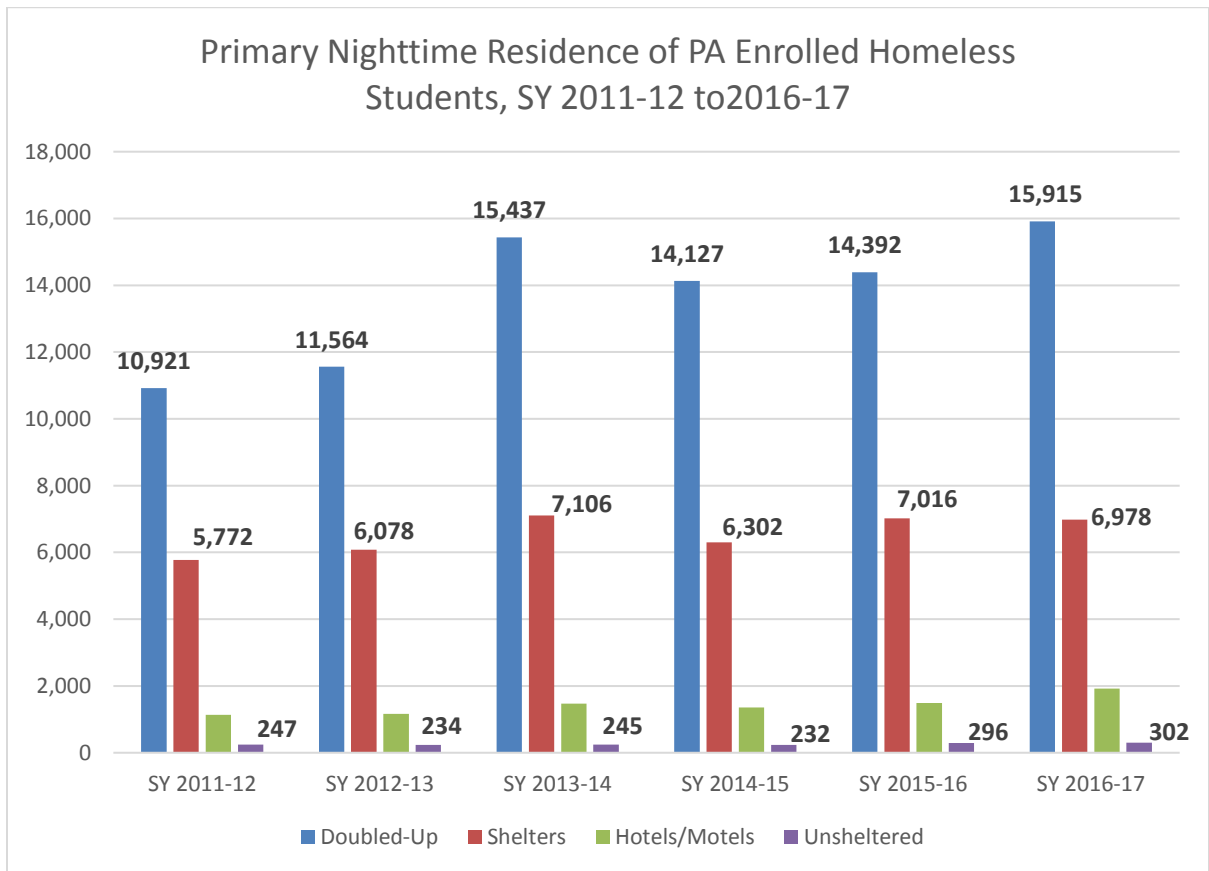
- **6,855** high school students were homeless in FY 2016-2017, an increase from 5,879 served in the previous year.
- **For the second consecutive year Region 2 has the highest number** of homeless high school students.
- **Five other regions** have identified **more** homeless **seniors** than Philadelphia.
- **1,943** homeless high school seniors were identified, an increase from 1,729 in the previous year.
- **Region 1** (Philadelphia) is the **only** region in which the number of seniors is lower than the number of 9th graders experiencing homelessness.



2016-17 Served High School Students									
Grades	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	State
Grade 9	370	387	132	313	135	68	103	287	1,795
Grade 10	221	403	132	287	140	74	88	263	1,608
Grade 11	172	370	126	302	150	78	100	211	1,509
Grade 12	161	473	169	344	219	132	155	290	1,943
Total =	924	1,633	559	1,246	644	352	446	1,051	6,855

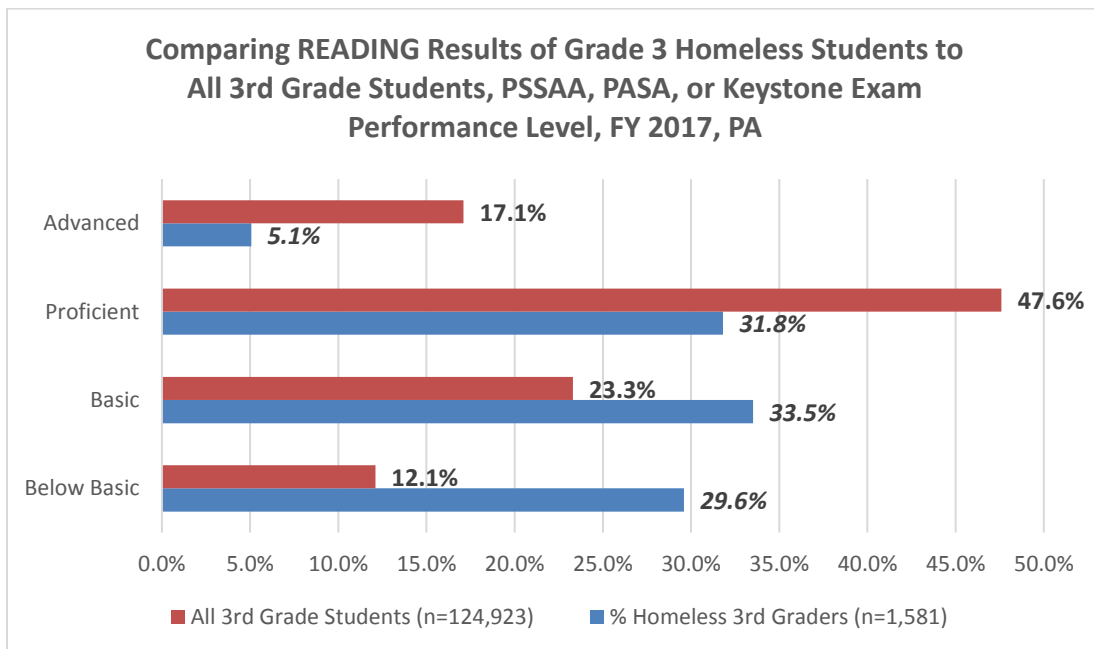
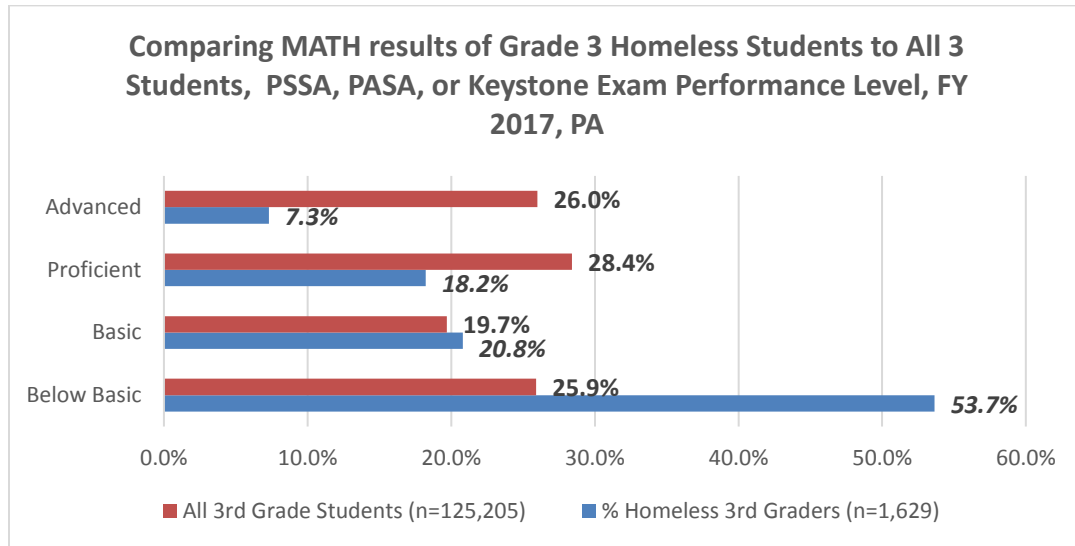
Nighttime Residence:

- Year after year, the **overwhelming majority** of homeless students are living **doubled up** compared to students found in shelters.

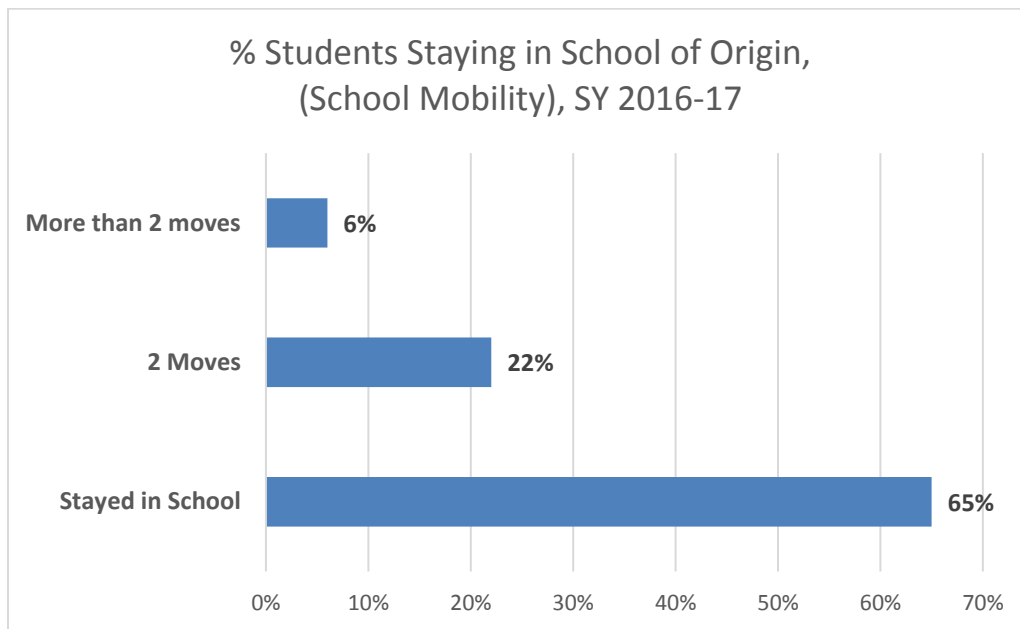


Academic Achievement

- Reviewing a sample of homeless students by 3rd grade, PDE showed how the students scored on standardized tests.
- A number of strategies around the state are focused on **increasing participation of homeless young children** into high quality early learning programs, which could affect the following outcomes:



Student Mobility: Looking at a subset of students (n=25,113), most students stay in their school of origin, i.e., the school in which they were enrolled when becoming homeless.



The PA Department of Education’s evaluators made these statements:

1. Each year, identification of children and youth experiencing homelessness is more complete and accurate.
2. **The increasing numbers of children/youth experiencing homelessness is due to ‘increases in ECYEH staff outreach,’ ‘new information collection methods,’ and, in part, on the ‘increase in reporting,’ in spite of the fact that certain populations of children were removed from McKinney-Vento eligibility (such as ‘awaiting foster care.’)**
3. **Transportation** remains “one of the most common barriers statewide,” similar to last year.
4. **Sixty-five percent of students remain in their schools.** Twenty-two percent had enrolled in two schools (*PEC-an increase from 20 percent last year*), and six percent had more than 2 moves (*PEC-an increase from 4 percent last year*).

About PEC: PEC nurtures families, strengthens neighborhoods, and drives change. We are committed to increasing equity and opportunity throughout our entire community. We provide comprehensive supportive services to homeless women and their children, revitalize our West Philadelphia neighborhood, and advocate for social justice. Contact PEC at policy@pec-cares.org.