

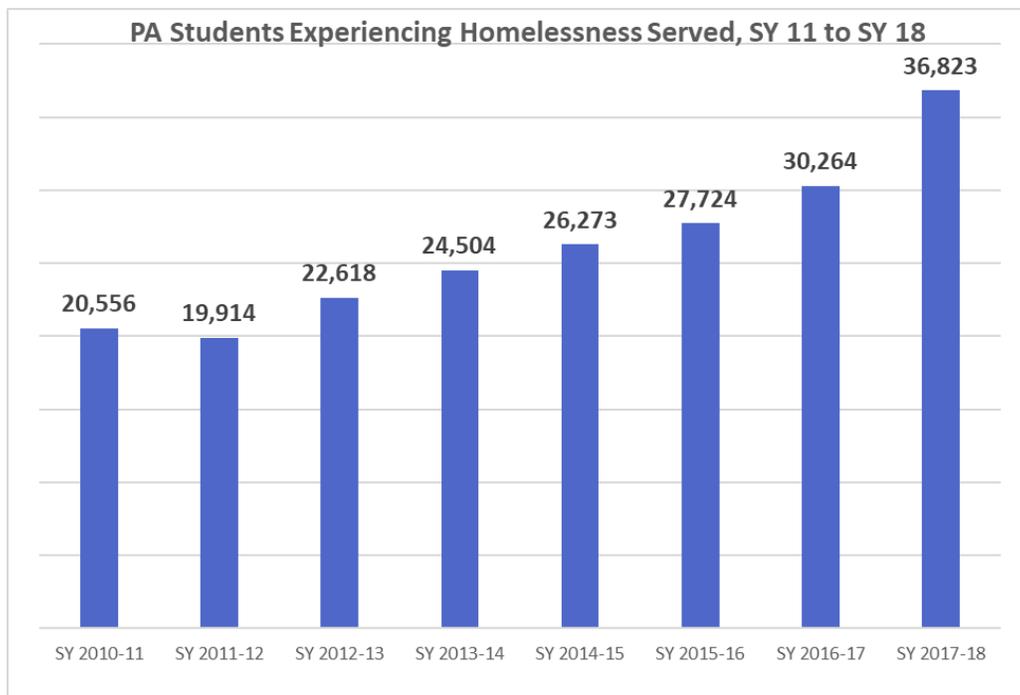


BrainGain@PEC provides brief summaries of research or publications on family homelessness and related issues. Previous issues of BrainGain@PEC can be found at <http://bit.ly/2iaczvQ>.

Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania up by 22% from Last Year

The number of children and youth who experienced homelessness in school year (SY) 2017-2018 was **36,823**, according to a report by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). This is an **increase of 6,559 children compared to SY 2016-2017**. Students experiencing homelessness comprised 2% of Pennsylvania’s **1,766,592** public school students.

People’s Emergency Center summarized this report to inform the state’s leadership about children and youth experiencing homelessness. The Pennsylvania Department of Education’s *Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (EYCEH) 2018-18 State Evaluation Report* can be found at <http://bit.ly/2Y0P3nQ>.



Note: This is Part 2 of a 3-part brief. Part 1 was a summary of the regional report from the School District of Philadelphia. Part 3 (upcoming) will focus on Regions 1 and 8.

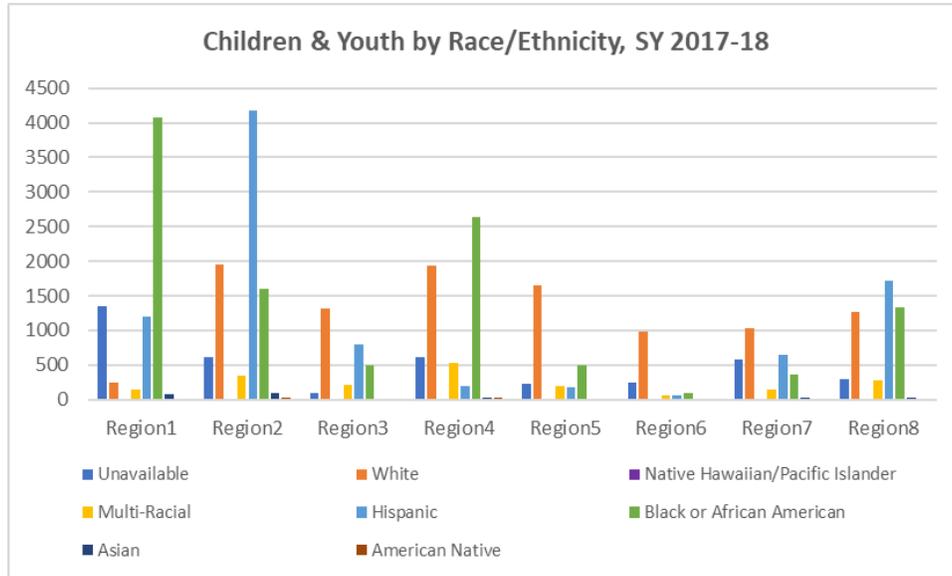
Highlights:

- From SY 17 to 18, a **dramatic increase** was seen in the number of youth experiencing homelessness who were **doubled-up**, and increase that almost exclusively accounts for the overall increase in identified children and youth experiencing homelessness across the state. **5,986** more students were identified as **doubled-up** this year than in SY 2016-17.
- Across Pennsylvania, **more children and youth** experiencing homelessness were in the age range of **two years or younger** than in any other age group.
- There were **fewer** children Age 3-5 and not in PreK in SY 17-18 than previously.
- The influx of 4,161 **disaster-displaced** children and youth contributed to an increase in individuals meeting McKinney-Vento Act criteria.
- More than half of students experiencing homelessness also experience chronic **absenteeism**, likely due to mobility and transportation barriers.
- **Region 2**, which includes rural communities, identified more **Unaccompanied Youth** than the urban regions of **Philadelphia** and **Allegheny** County.
- Region 1 (Philadelphia) identified 2,862 children birth to Kindergarten.
- Students experiencing homelessness performed substantially lower than securely housed students on Pennsylvania state academic assessments.
- 70% attended **city** or **suburban** local educational agencies (LEAs, i.e., school districts, charters, etc.).
- 81% attended LEAs with **≥ 40%** low-income student populations.
- 14% of enrolled students were reported to having experienced one or more **barrier(s)** to enrollment, attendance, and/or academic success. The top two barriers were **determining student eligibility** for homeless services and **transportation**.
- 12,679 students were identified as being enrolled in high school grades 9-12. Of these:
 - 4% dropped out of school.
 - 8% of 12th graders dropped out.
 - 7% of 11th graders dropped out.
 - 6% of 10th graders dropped out.
 - 69% of seniors graduated or obtained the equivalent of a high school diploma.

Readers are encouraged to review the full text of the document at <http://bit.ly/2Y0P3nQ> to gain a more complete understanding of the data.

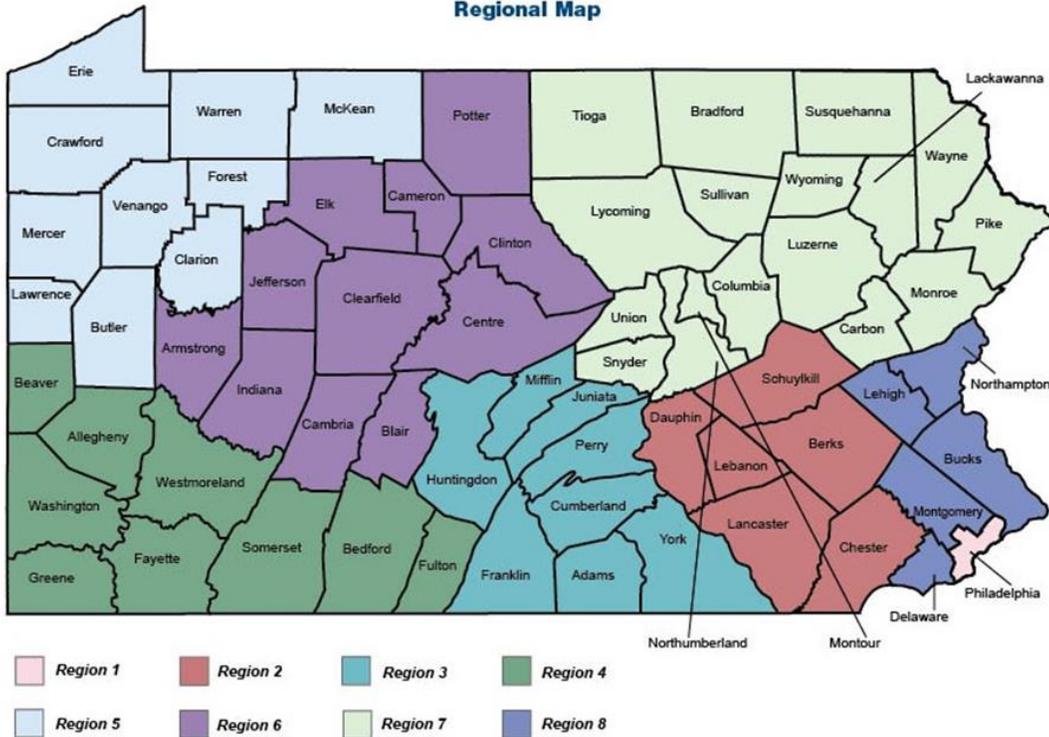
Children & Youth Demographics:

- Many of the charts below show data by the PA Department of Education's 8 regions. To identify where these regions are, see the map below.

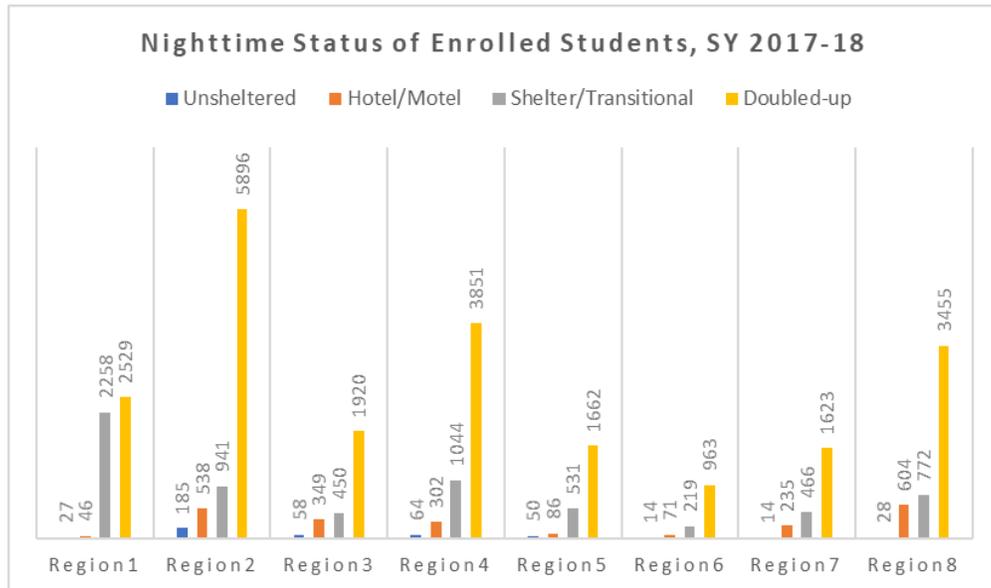


Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

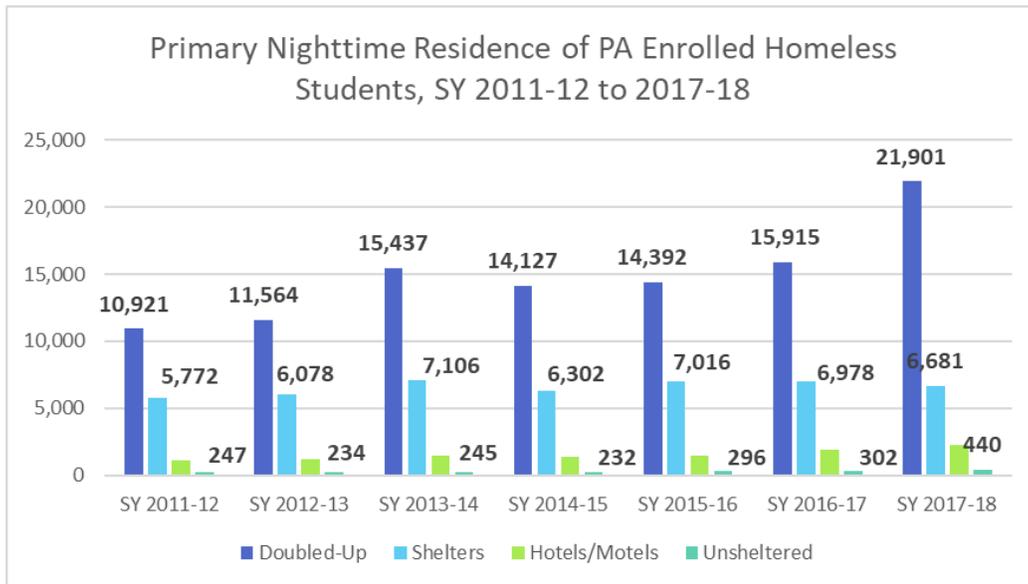
Regional Map



- In Regions 1 and 4, the majority of children and youth experiencing homelessness were identified as **Black or African American**.
- In Regions 2 and 8, the majority were identified as **Hispanic**; in all other Regions, the majority of children and youth experiencing homelessness were identified as **White**.

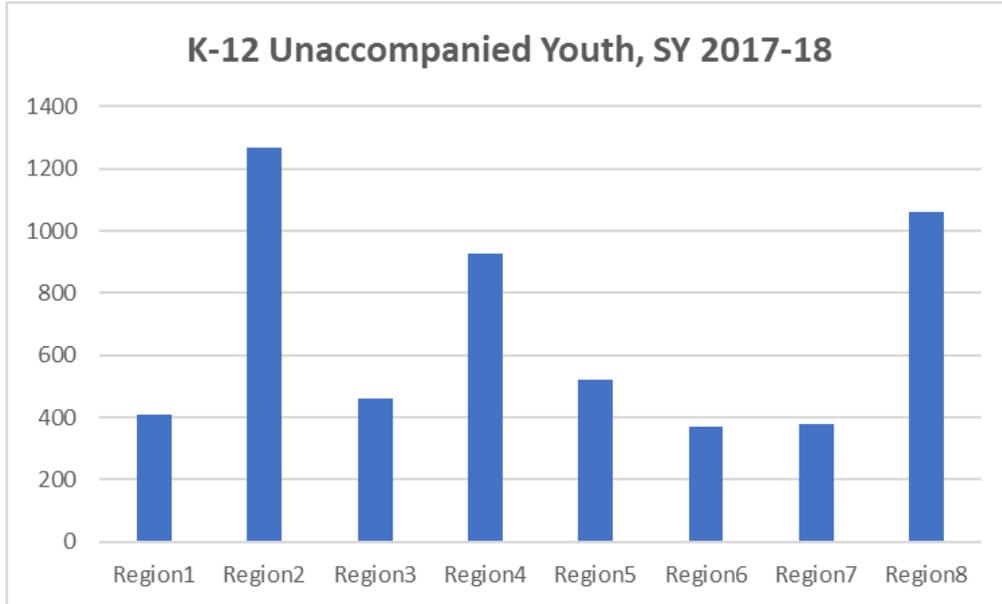


- More children and youth experiencing homelessness were identified as **doubled-up** than any other type of housing situation; this was true in every Region of the state.

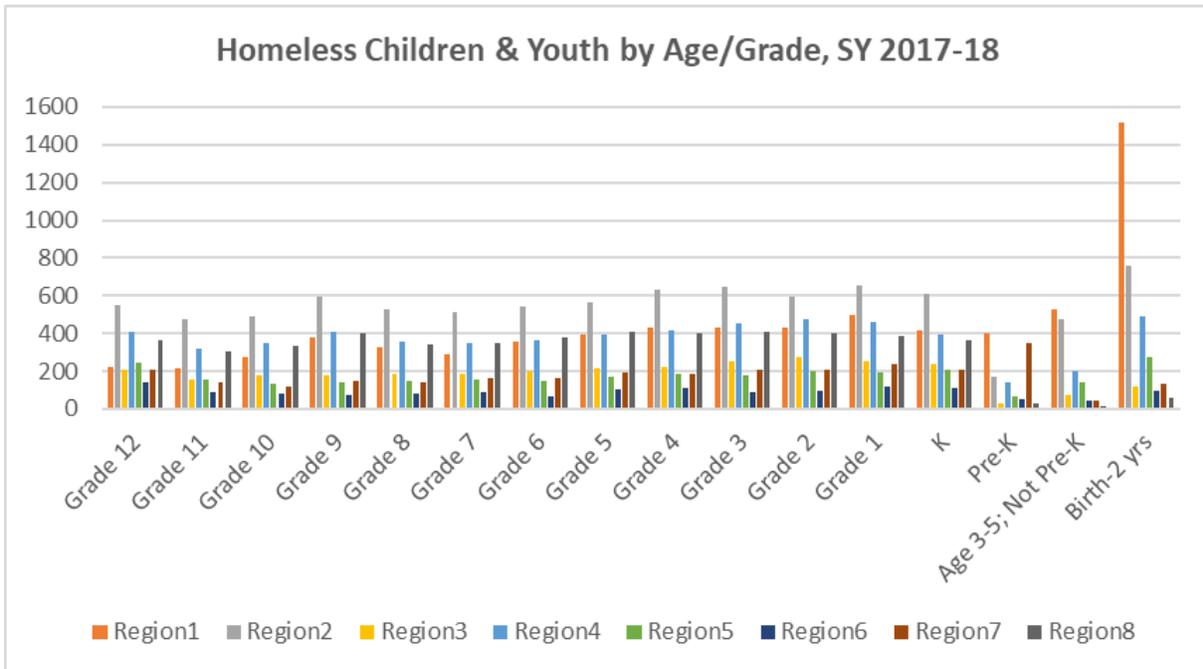


- From SY 17 to SY 18, a **dramatic increase** was seen in the number of youth experiencing homelessness who were **doubled-up**, an increase that almost exclusively accounts for the

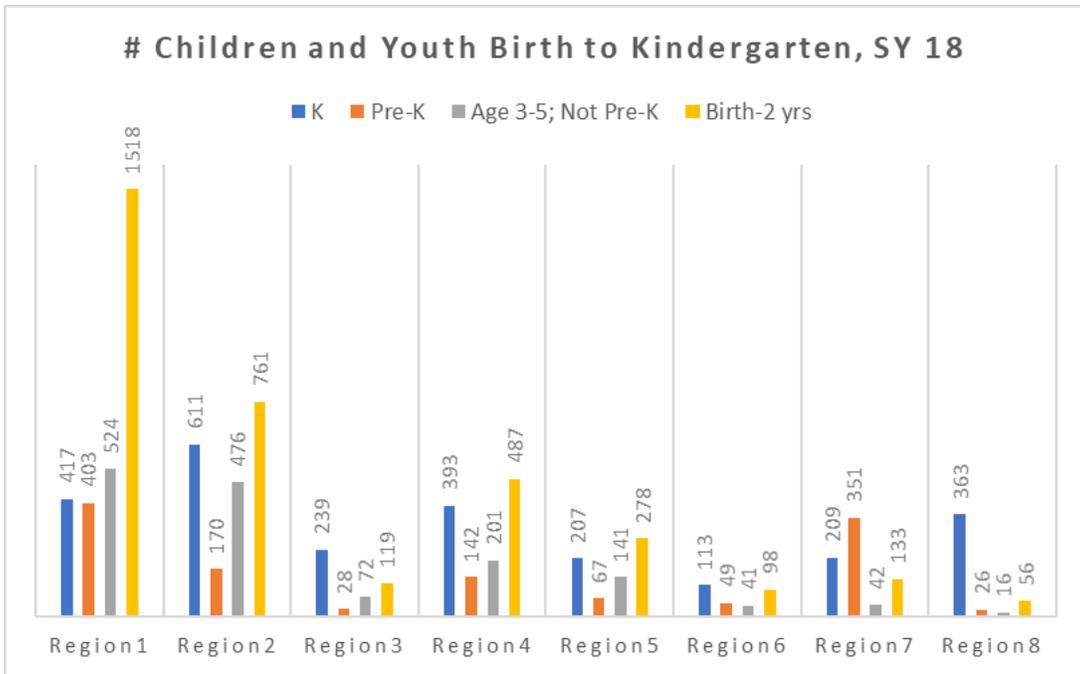
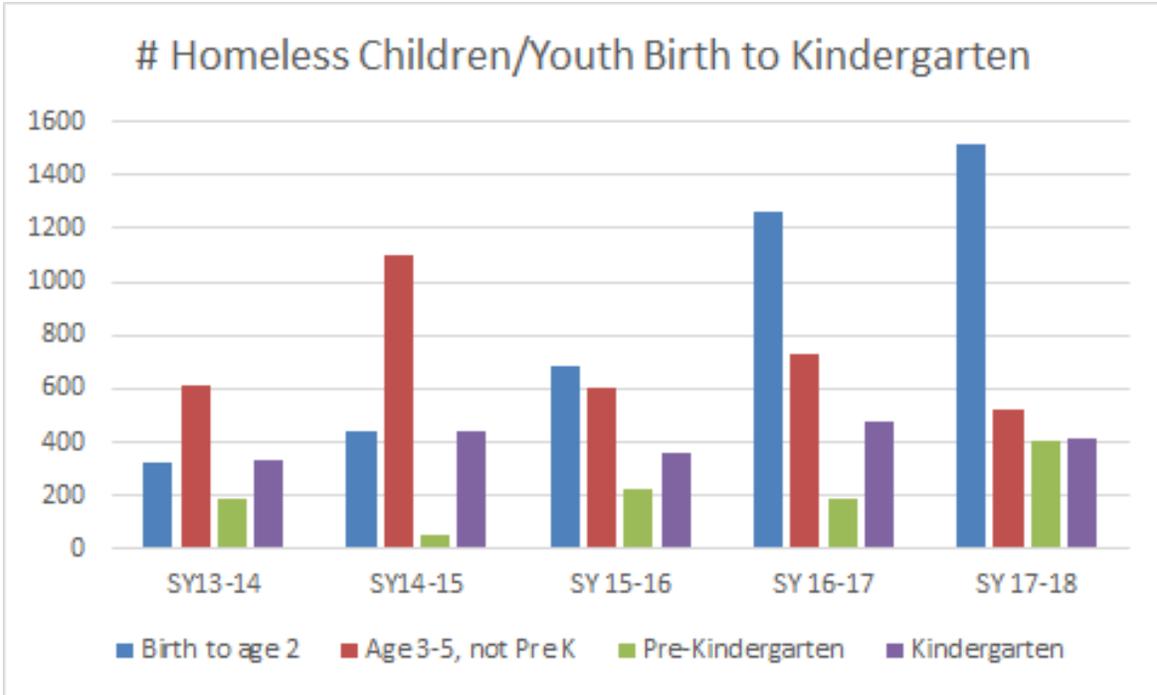
overall increase in identified children and youth experiencing homelessness across the state.



- Across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, **5,402** school-age children and youth experiencing homelessness were **unaccompanied** by parents or other adult caregivers.
- **Region 2**, which includes rural communities, identified more **Unaccompanied Youth** than the urban regions of **Philadelphia** and **Allegheny County**.

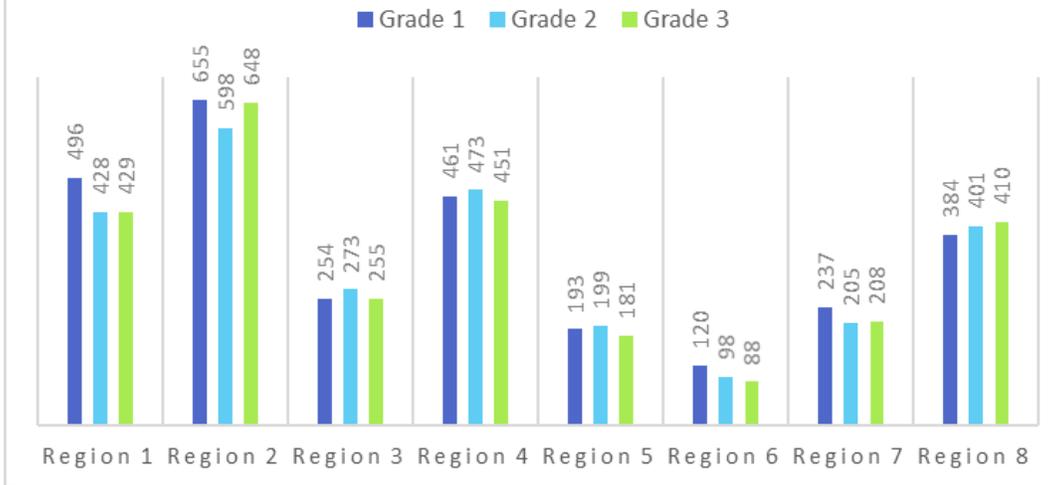


- Region 2 identified the most **K-12** children and youth experiencing homelessness.



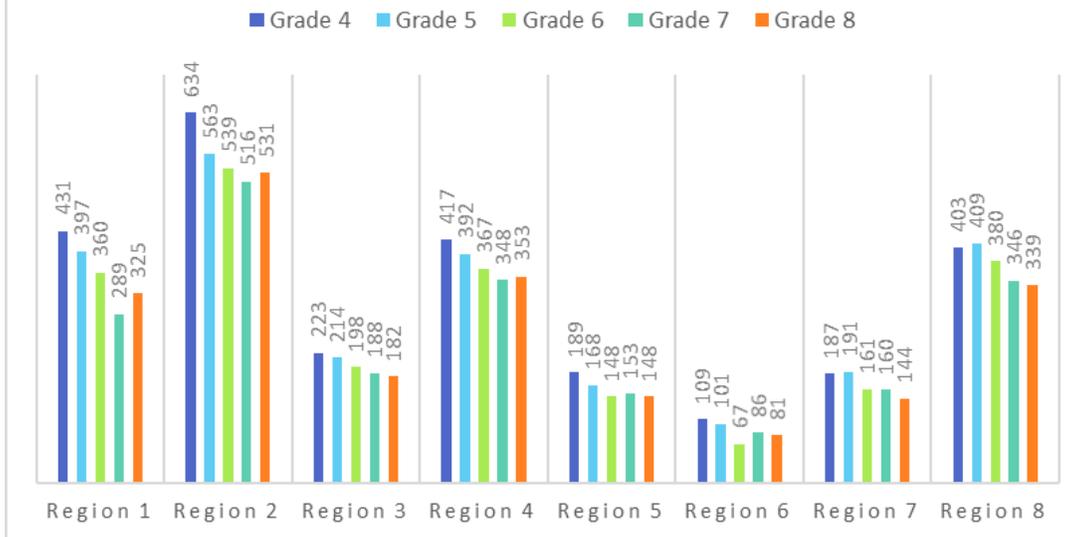
- Across Pennsylvania, more children and youth experiencing homelessness were in the age range of **two years or younger** than in any other age group.
- The number of children birth to Kindergarten **increased** in SY 17-18 in all categories **except** Age 3-5 and not in PreK.
- **Region 1** (Philadelphia) identified **2,862 children** birth to Kindergarten.

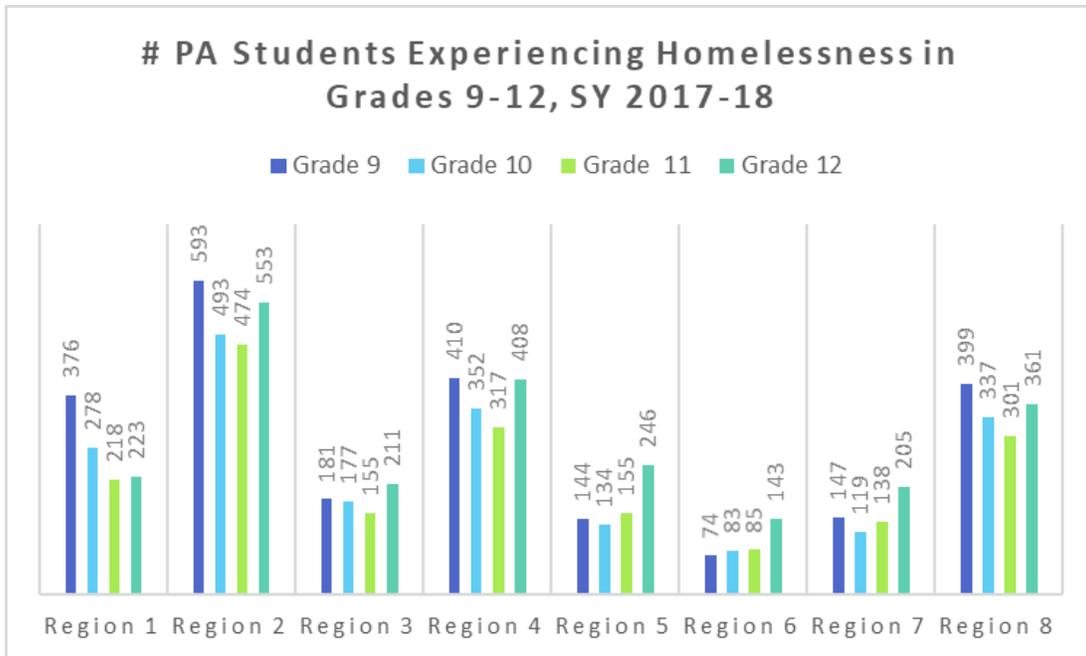
PA Students Experiencing Homelessness in Grades 1-3, SY 2017-18



- 2,800 first graders were homeless.
- 2,675 second graders were homeless.
- 2,670 third graders were homeless.

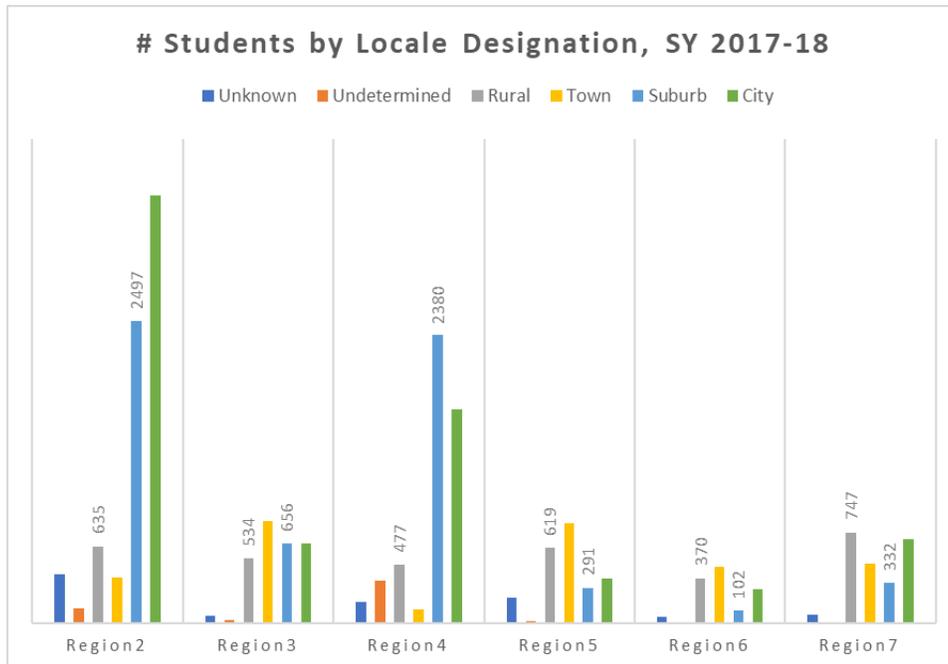
PA Students Experiencing Homelessness in Grades 4-8, SY 2017-18



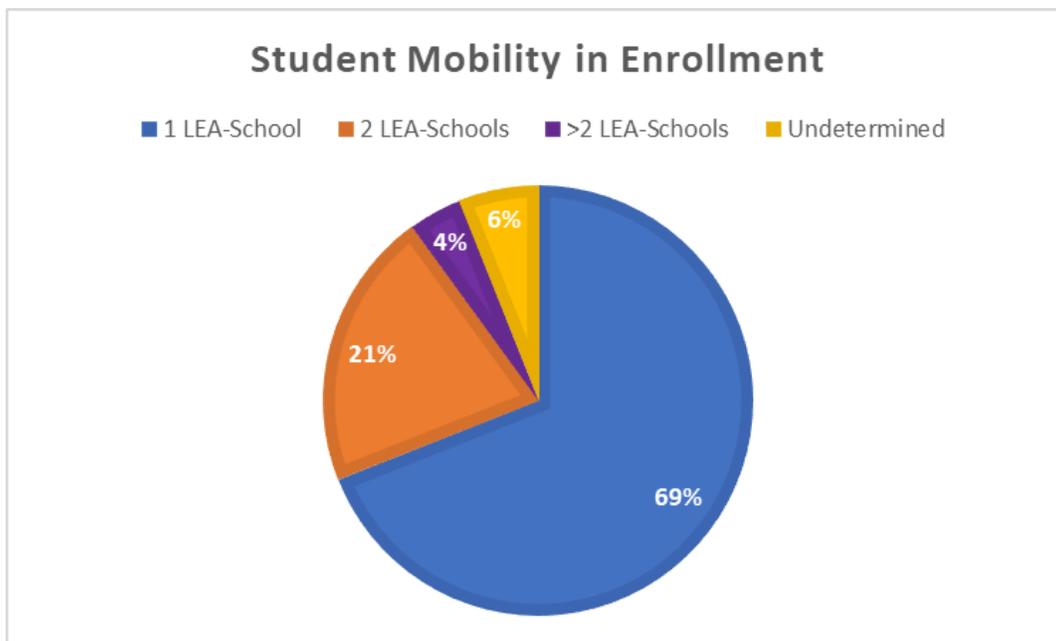


- Region 2 identified the most high school seniors, double that of Philadelphia and 65% of the number identified by Allegheny County.
- 5 Regions identified more seniors than any other grade category.

Student Location and Mobility:



- Overall, **suburban homelessness** among children and youth was more common than rural homelessness, especially in **Regions 2, 3, and 4**; in **Regions 5, 6, and 7**, though, **rural homelessness** was more common than suburban homelessness.



Mobility refers to student attendance at one or more LEA-schools during the SY 2017-18

- At least **1 in every 4** children and youth experiencing homelessness was enrolled in **two or more LEA-schools** throughout the 2017-18 academic year.

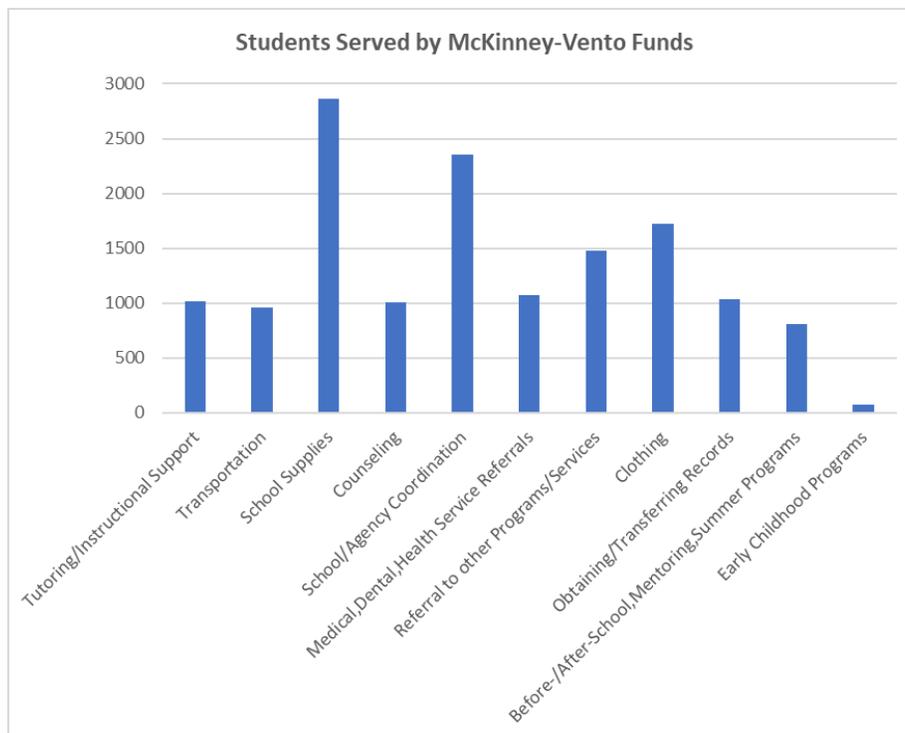
Student Disabilities and Support Services:

Student Disabilities, SY 2017-18	
Disability Category	# Students
Specific Learning Disability	3,274
Other Health Impairment	1,172
Emotional Disturbance	1,120
Unknown Disability	961
Speech/Language Impairment	935
Developmental Delay	857
Intellectual Disability	576
Autism	396
Hearing Impairment*	41
Multiple Disabilities	41
Traumatic Brain Injury	23
Visual Impairment**	22
Orthopedic Impairment	15
Deaf-Blindness	1

*Includes deafness

**Includes blindness

- Approximately **9%** of children and youth experiencing homelessness were found to have a **specific learning disability**. Nearly **5%** had another form of **health impairment**.

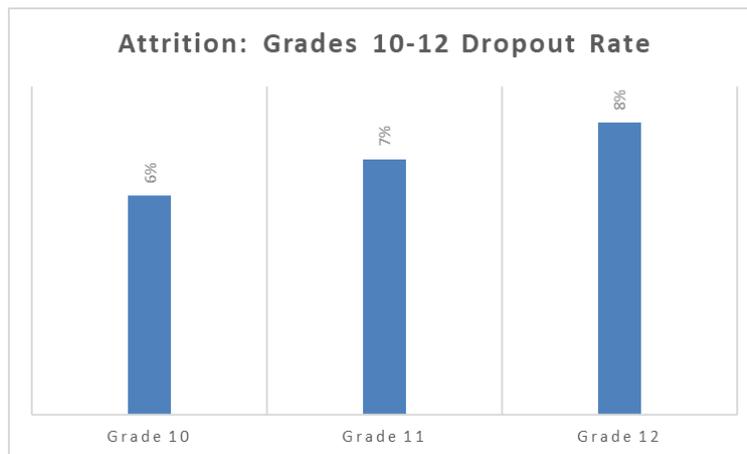


- Children and youth experiencing homelessness were **severely underserved** by McKinney-Vento supported services in **early childhood**.

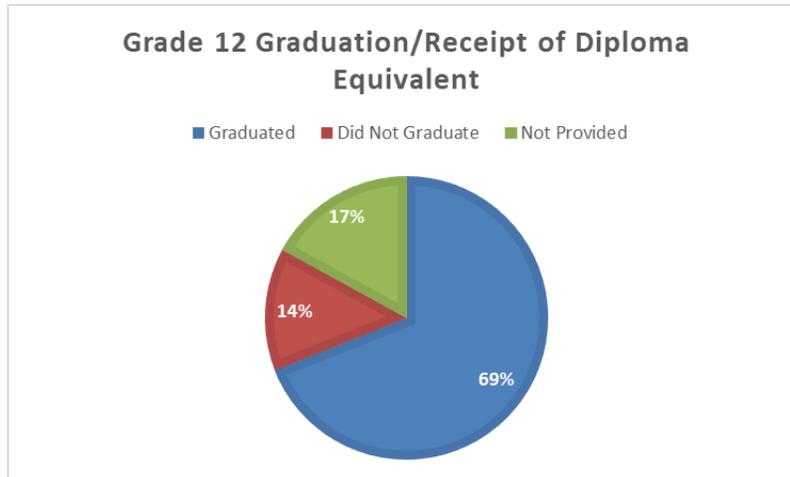
Student Achievement, Graduation, and Attrition:

2017-18 Reading/ELA PSSA/PASA or Literature Keystone Exam Performance Level (%)							
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
Below Basic	24%	23.8%	22.9%	17.3%	8.8%	21.9%	25.6%
Basic	39.3%	44.9%	47.2%	49.9%	56.7%	44.7%	31.5%
Proficient	30.3%	24%	26%	25.3%	29.6%	29.4%	39.4%
Advanced	6.4%	7.3%	3.9%	7.5%	4.8%	4%	3.5%

2017-18 Math PSSA/PASA or Algebra I Keystone Exam Performance Level (%)							
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
Below Basic	53.7%	61.3%	60.6%	62%	72.4%	73.1%	29.7%
Basic	23.1%	23.2%	24.4%	25.1%	16.8%	17.1%	38.3%
Proficient	17.8%	11.4%	11.8%	9.7%	8%	7.8%	25.3%
Advanced	5.5%	4.1%	3.2%	3.2%	2.7%	1.9%	6.8%



- A higher percentage of 12th Graders drop out than students in Grades 10 and 11.



Recommendations:

Considering the data presented above, PDE evaluators offer the following recommendations:

- State and regional ECYEH staff continue exploring options for transportation assistance.
- Regional staff continue working with local Continuum of Care contemporaries.
- Regional staff continue exploring instructional support options for students.
- Regional staff consider professional development or technical assistance to LEAs for:
 - examining pre-kindergarten programming options for young siblings of students.
 - student attendance, attrition, and graduation rates.
 - participation in academic support activities.
 - assessment data.
- Regional staff and state team revisit how training, technical assistance, and collaboration are implemented to accommodate needs of ECYEH staff.
- Regional staff continue improving documentation of ECYEH-offered professional development, technical assistance, and engagement activities.

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 parenting and early childhood education and more, PEC seeks to change the life trajectory for the women and children who seek its services and inspire them to aspire to new heights. All inquiries can be sent to policy@pec-cares.org.