MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Mohammed Choudhury

DATE: December 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Spotlight on Students Experiencing Homelessness

PURPOSE:

To update the State Board on students experiencing homelessness in Maryland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The presentation will include background information on students experiencing homelessness and the homeless student group in Maryland including:

1. Description of Maryland's students experiencing homelessness,
2. Where students experiencing homelessness are in Maryland,
3. Outcome data on students experiencing homelessness, and
4. Maryland state initiatives.

ACTION:

No action is necessary; for discussion only.

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

Spotlight on Students Experiencing Homelessness

Maryland State Board of Education

December 7, 2021

Topics

Background Information

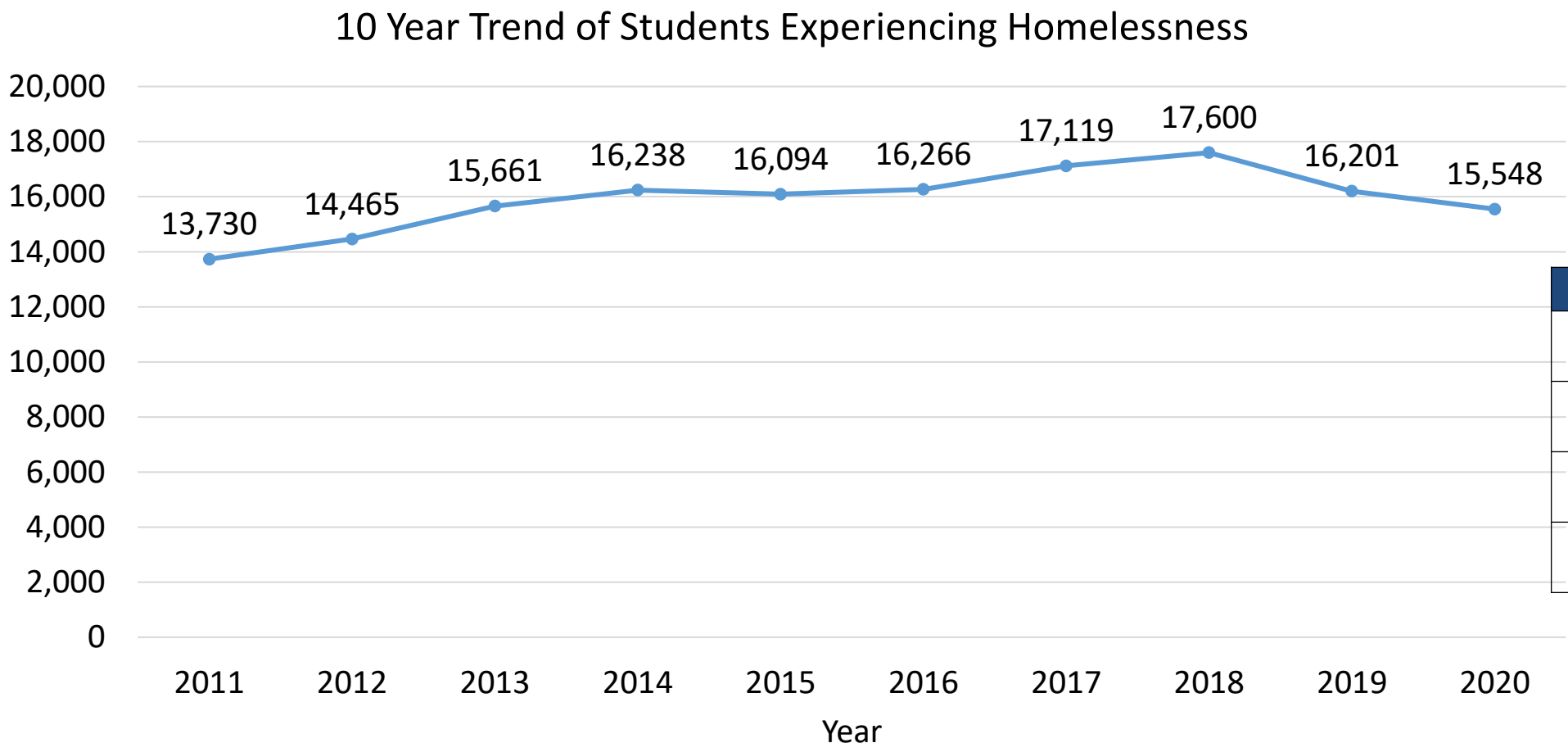
Characteristics of Maryland's Students Experiencing Homelessness

Where are Maryland's Students Experiencing Homelessness?

Outcomes of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Maryland State Initiatives

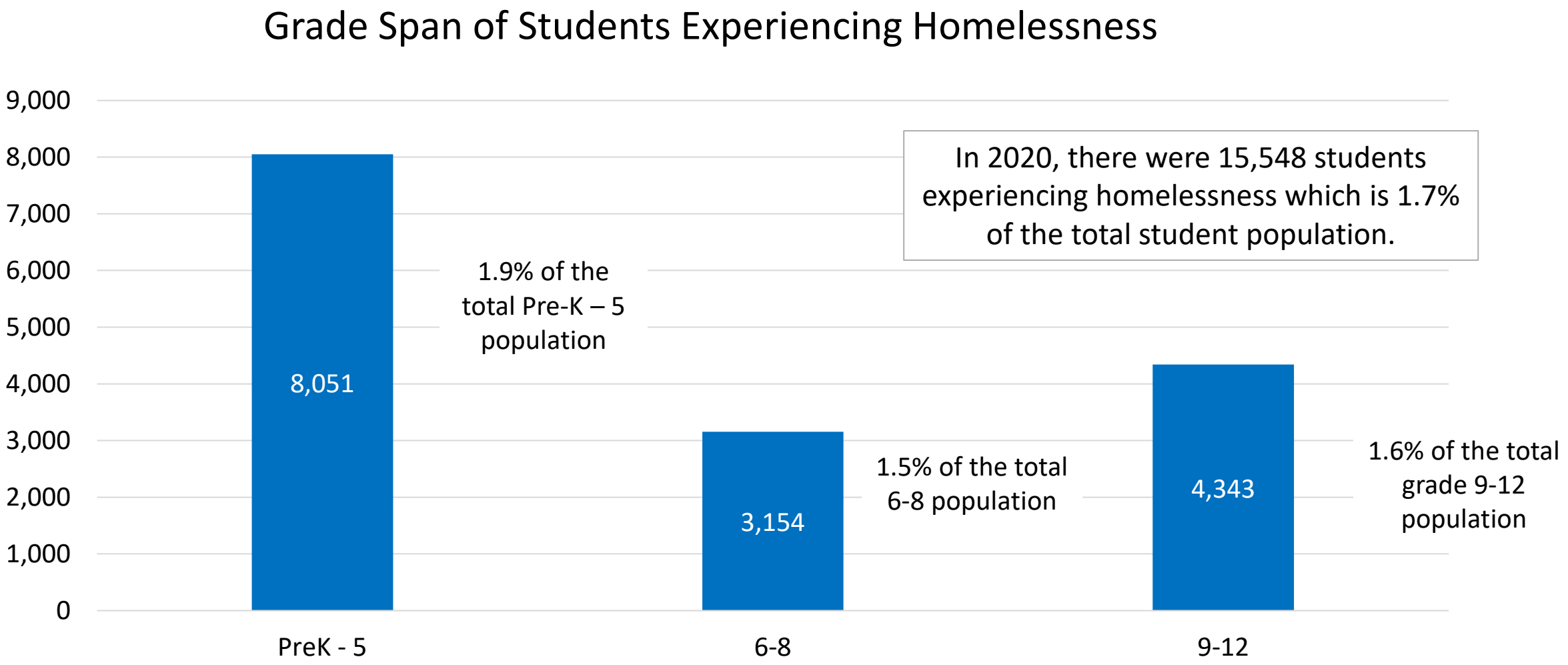
Maryland's Students Experiencing Homelessness: Trend



Year	Percent
2016-2017	1.9%
2017-2018	2.0%
2018-2019	1.8%
2019-2020	1.7%

Data Source: MSDE EDFacts submission

Maryland's Students Experiencing Homelessness: Grade Span



Data Source: MSDE EDFacts submission

Maryland's Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

3,104	Estimated count of children birth to age 2 experiencing homelessness
610	Estimated count of out-of-school youth through age 21

Sources for 2020 estimated counts include; shelters, point-in-time survey data, census data, McKinney-Vento intake forms, per pupil case management, department of social services, GED program, High school intervention staff, health department Youth REACHMD survey, drop out statistics.

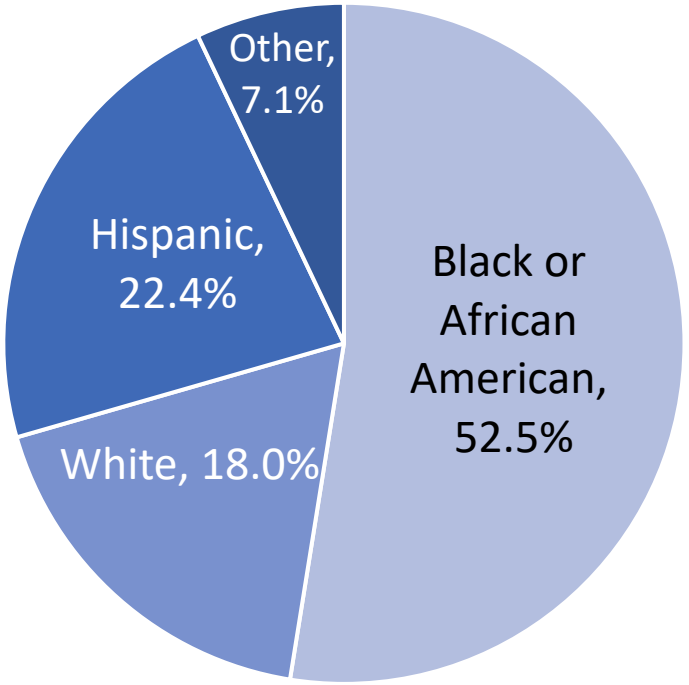
Note: Counts exclude Baltimore County

Missing Students Experiencing Homelessness

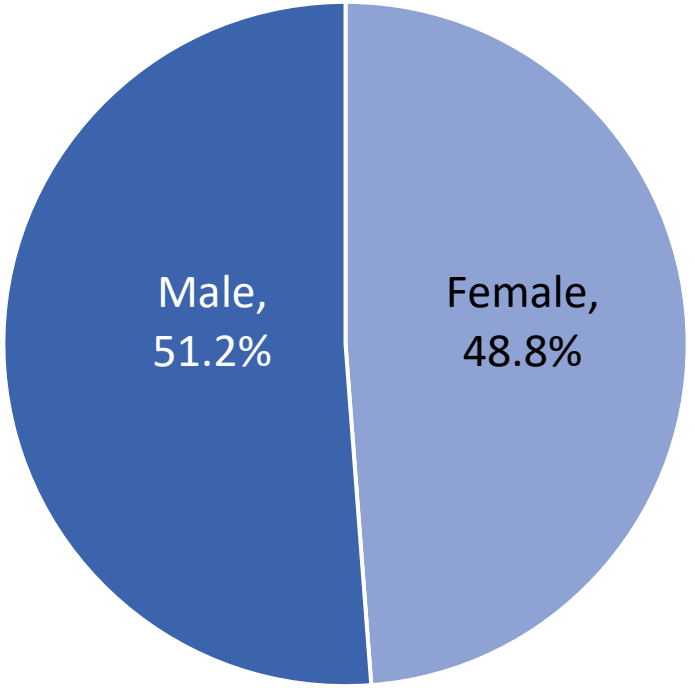
- As COVID-19 disrupts education, children and youth experiencing homelessness are exceptionally vulnerable. Identifying these students can be challenging during COVID particularly with virtual education.
- The Hechinger Report stated that despite reports of increasing homelessness throughout the country, nationally an estimated 420,000 students experiencing homelessness went missing from schools during the pandemic (Morton, 2021).
- According to a survey by School House Connection and Poverty Solutions, there has been a 28% decrease in the number of identified homeless students in the fall of 2020 compared to the fall of 2019. Students are slipping through the cracks and may not be receiving the support and services they need (Walker, 2020).
- School House Connection's analysis of data from the youth risk behavior survey found that young people experience homelessness at an even higher rate than currently reported by the U.S. Department of Education. The survey data indicated that 5.8% of high school students surveyed in the 27 states experienced homelessness at some point during the 2018-2019 school year.

Students Experiencing Homelessness: Race/Ethnicity and Gender

Students Experiencing Homelessness by Race/Ethnicity



Students Experiencing Homelessness by Gender



Race Distribution Among All Students

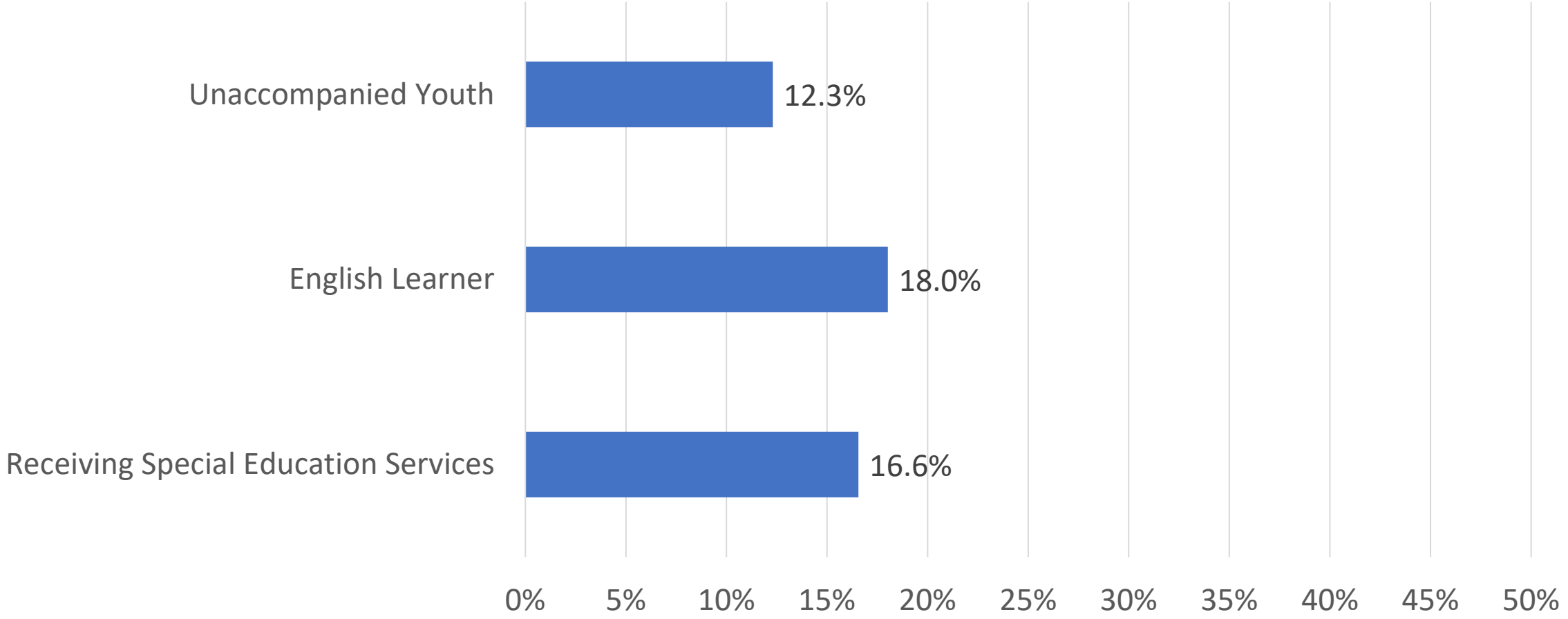
Black or African American, 33.1%	White, 35.6%	Hispanic, 19.4%	Other, 11.8%

Gender Distribution Among All Students

Male, 51.2%	Female, 48.8%

Data Sources: MSDE 2021 Early Attendance data collection; MSDE 2020 EDFacts submission

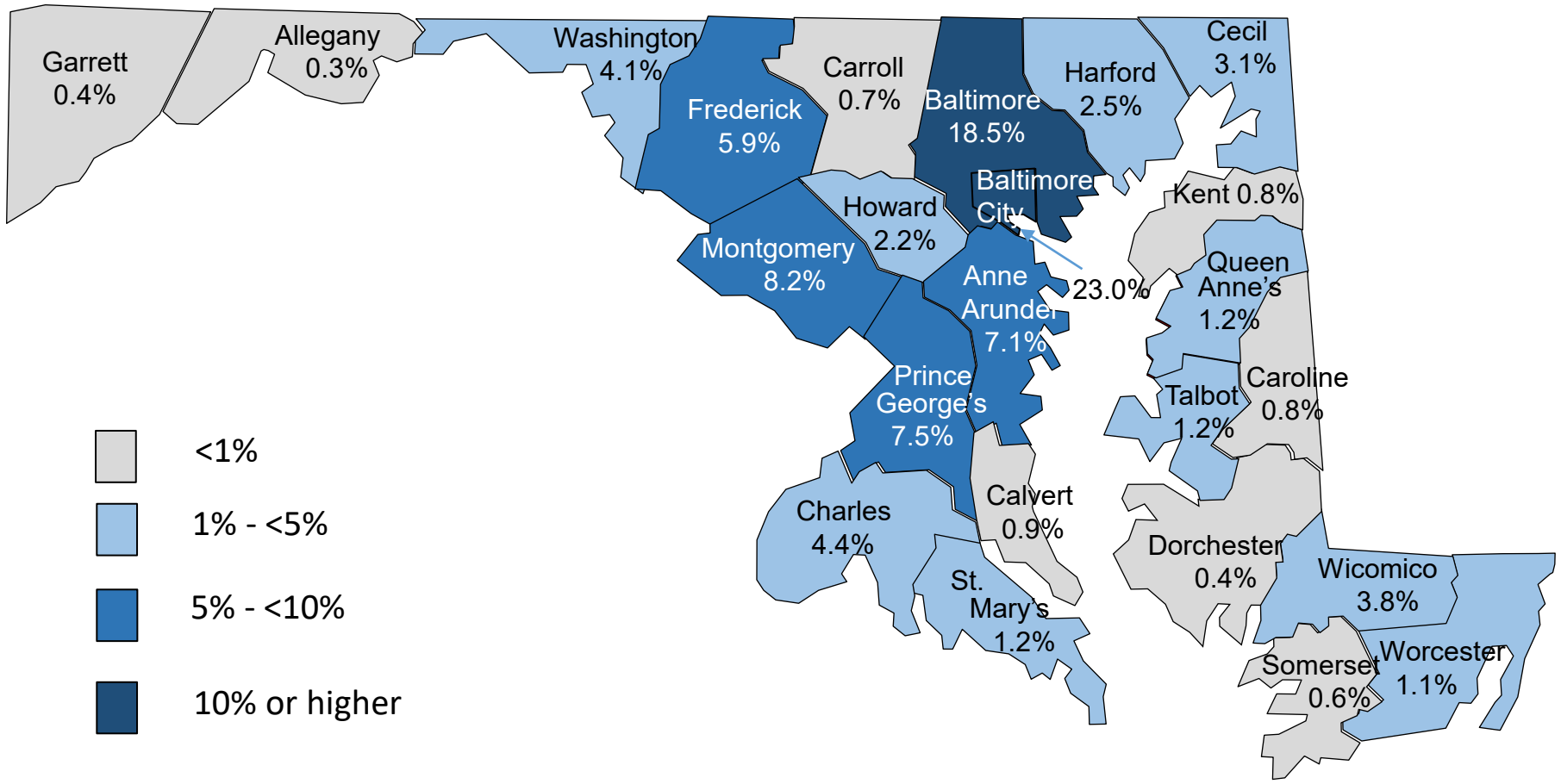
Characteristics of Students Experiencing Homelessness: SY 2019-2020



Data Source: MSDE 2020 EDFacts submission

Where are our students experiencing homelessness?

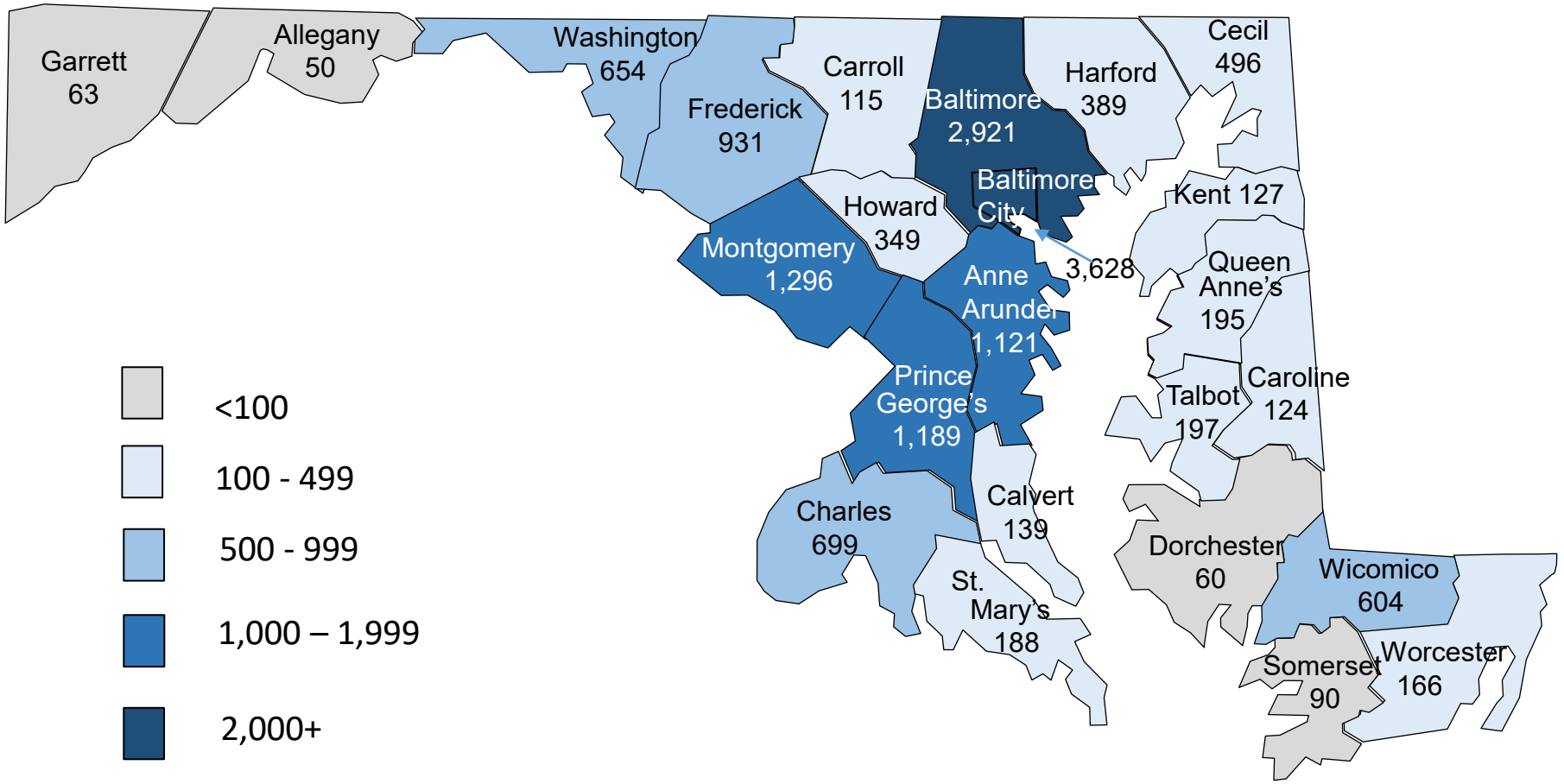
Share of students experiencing homelessness: Percentage by Local School System (2020)



Data source: MSDE 2020 EDFacts submission

Where are our students experiencing homelessness?

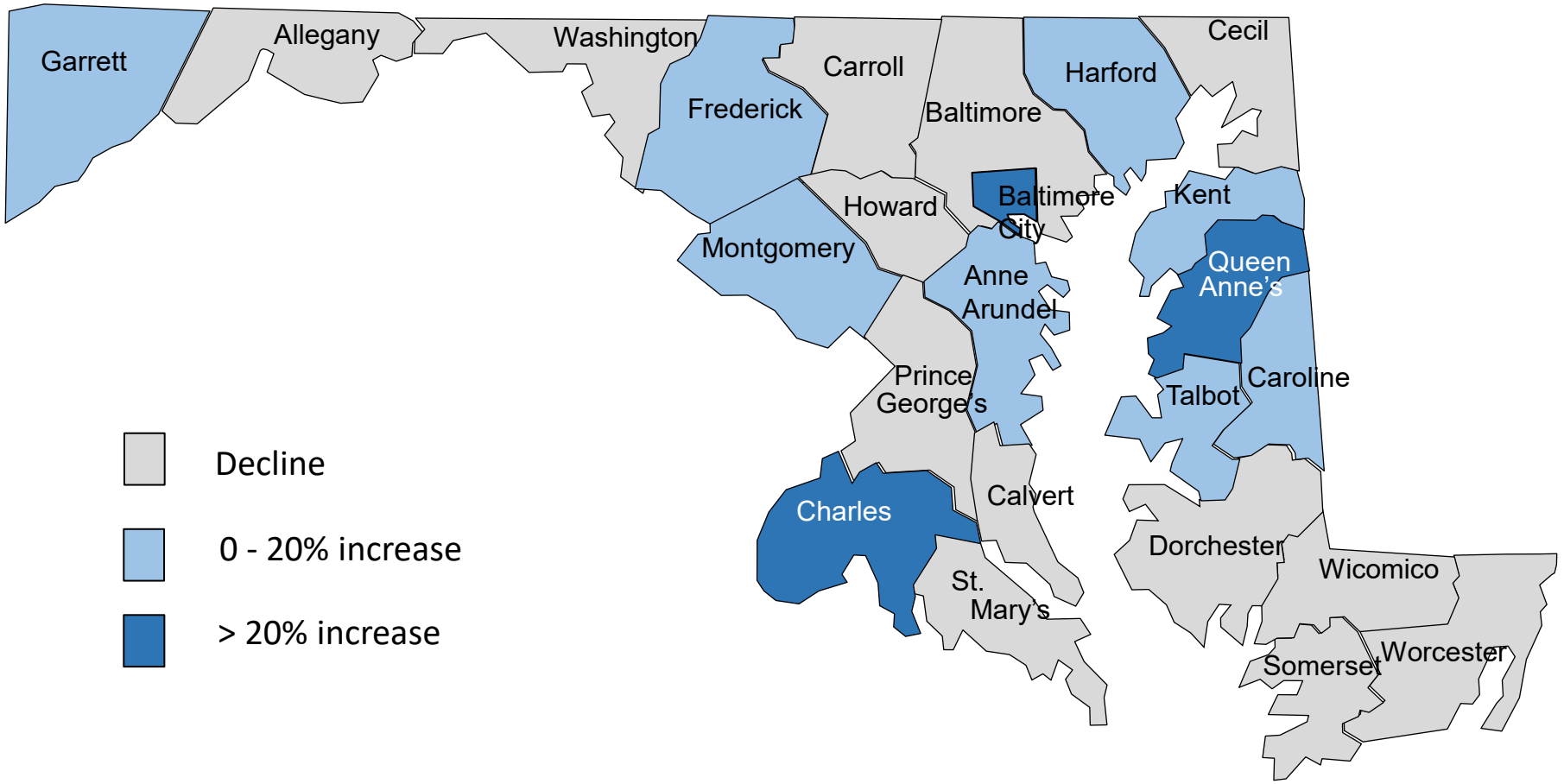
Counts of students experiencing homelessness by Local School System (2020)



Data source: MSDE 2020 EDFacts submission

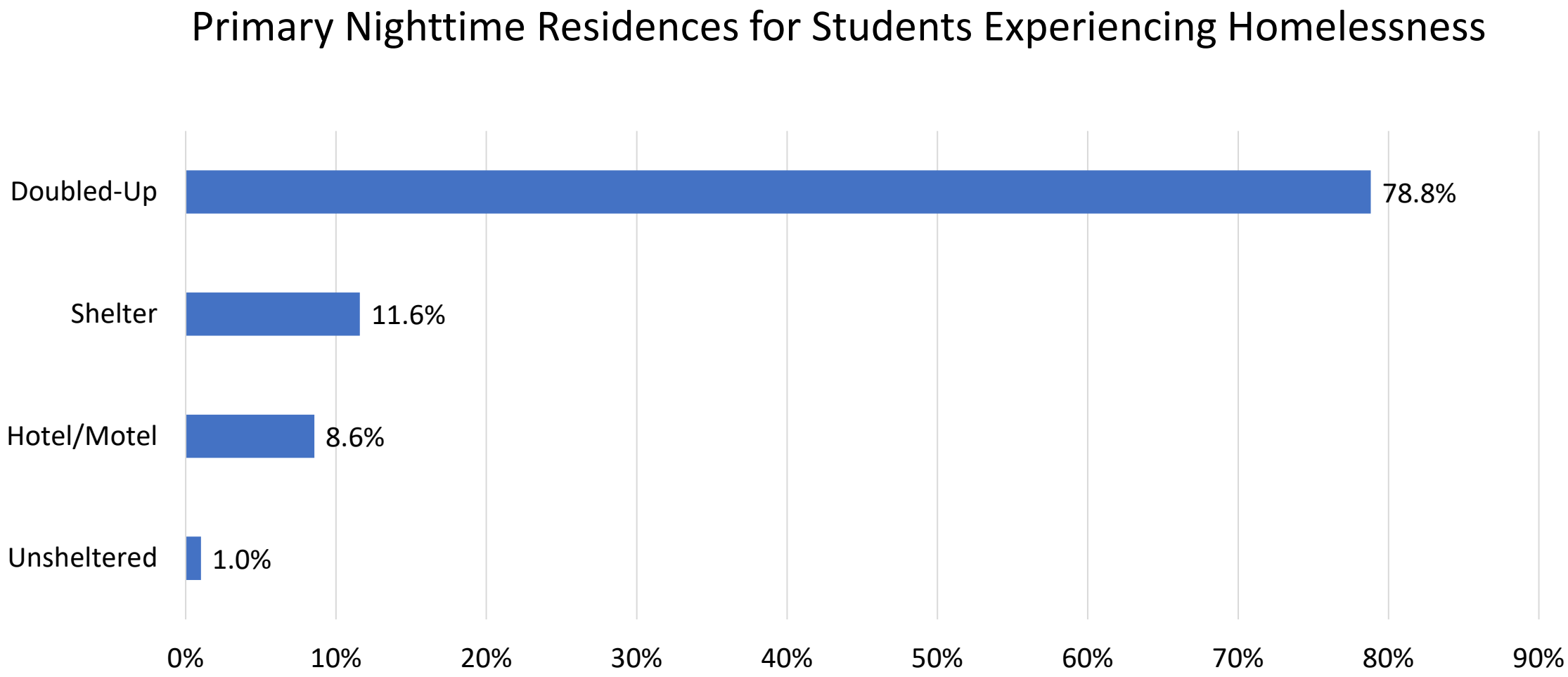
Where are our students experiencing homelessness?

5-Year Change in Students Experiencing Homelessness by Local School System



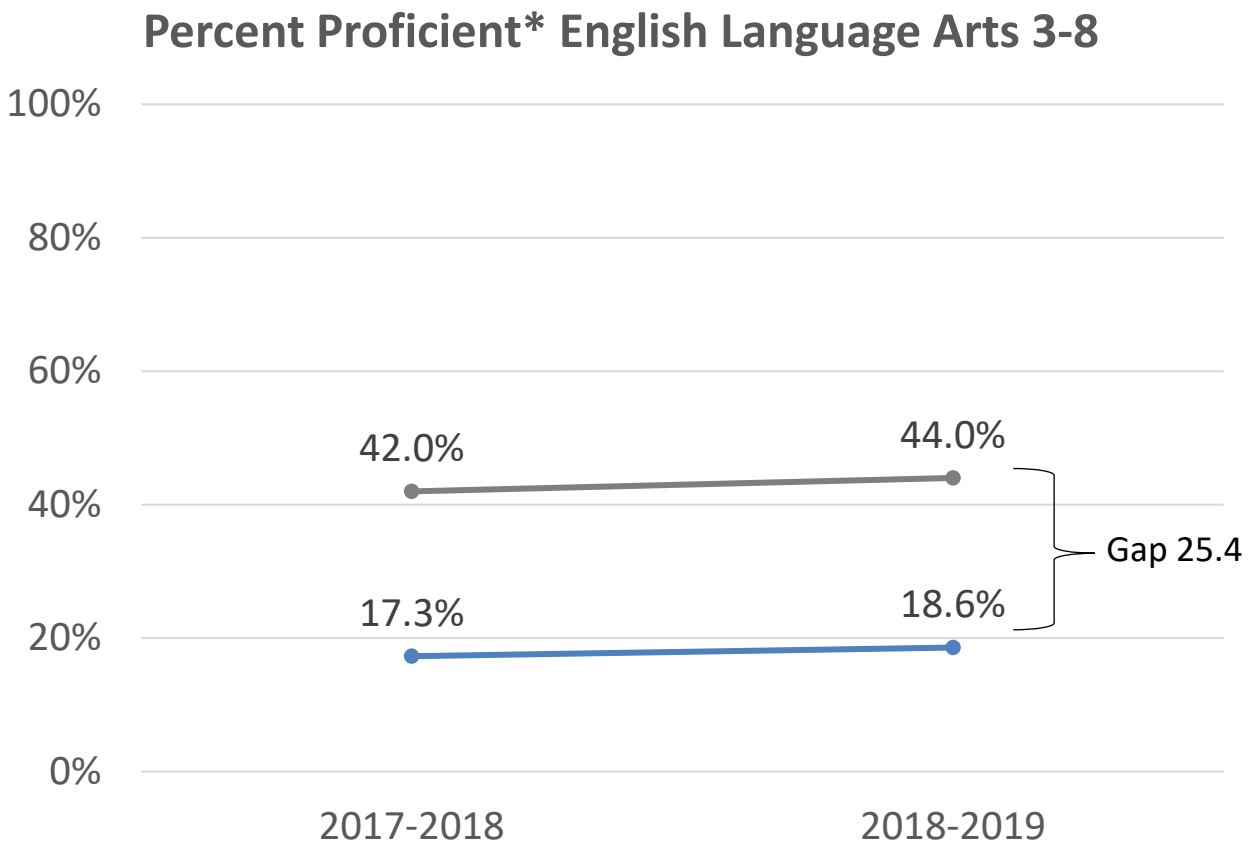
Data source: MSDE 2016 and 2020 EDFacts submission

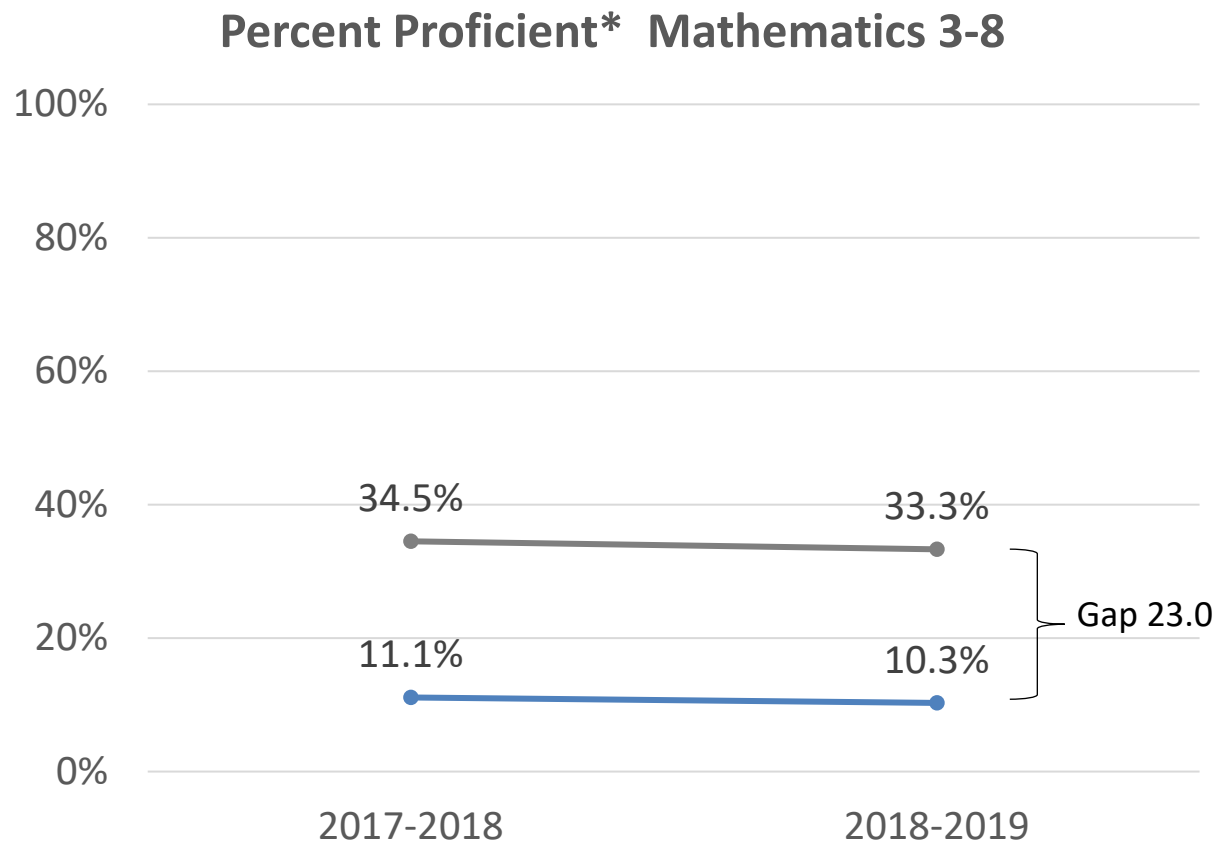
Where do students experiencing homelessness sleep?



Data Source: MSDE 2020 EDFacts submission

How do students experiencing homelessness perform on grade 3-8 state assessments?

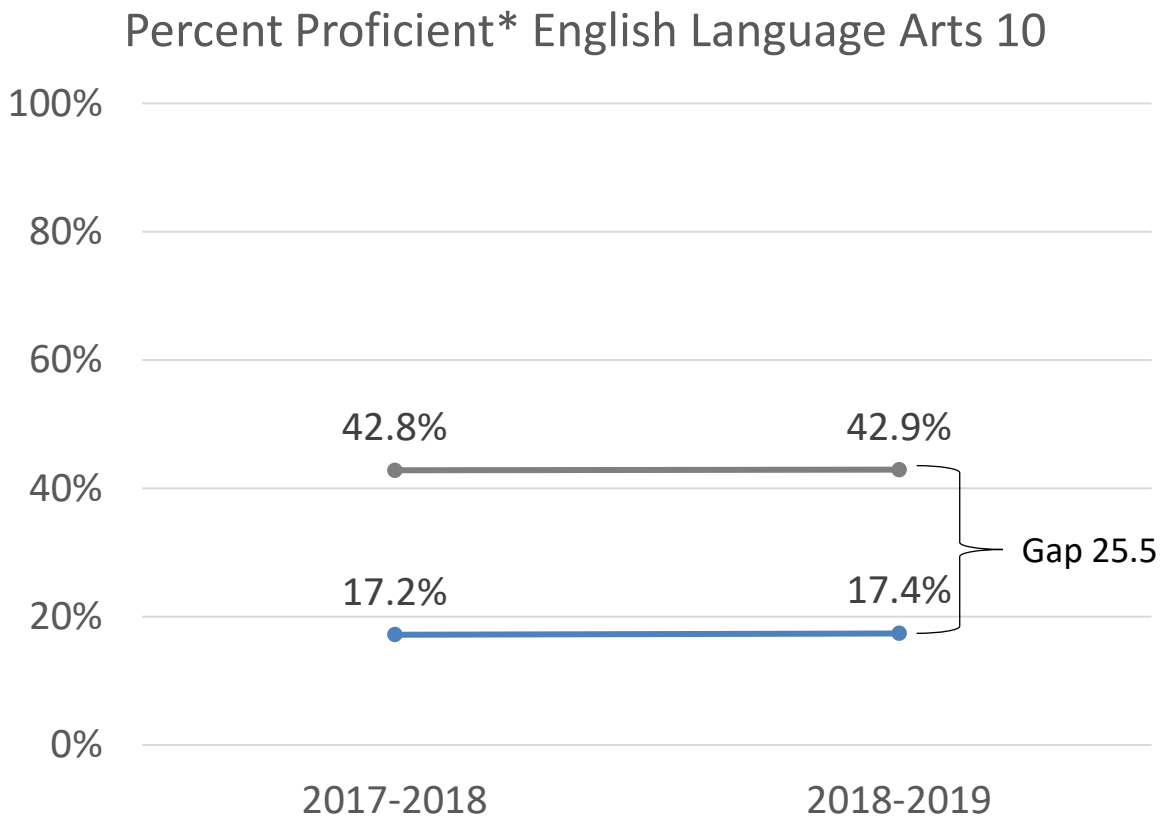


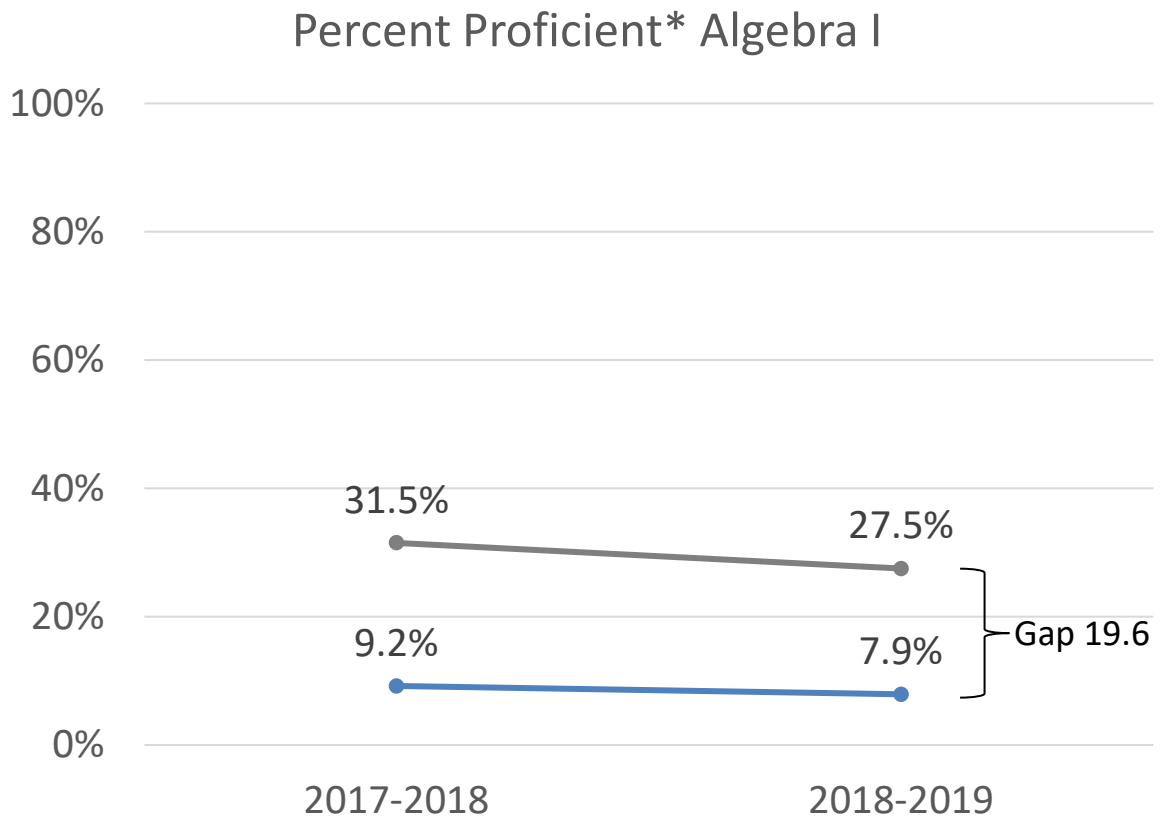


Homeless Non-Homeless

*Proficiency is met with a performance level of 4 or 5

How do students experiencing homelessness perform on high school assessments?





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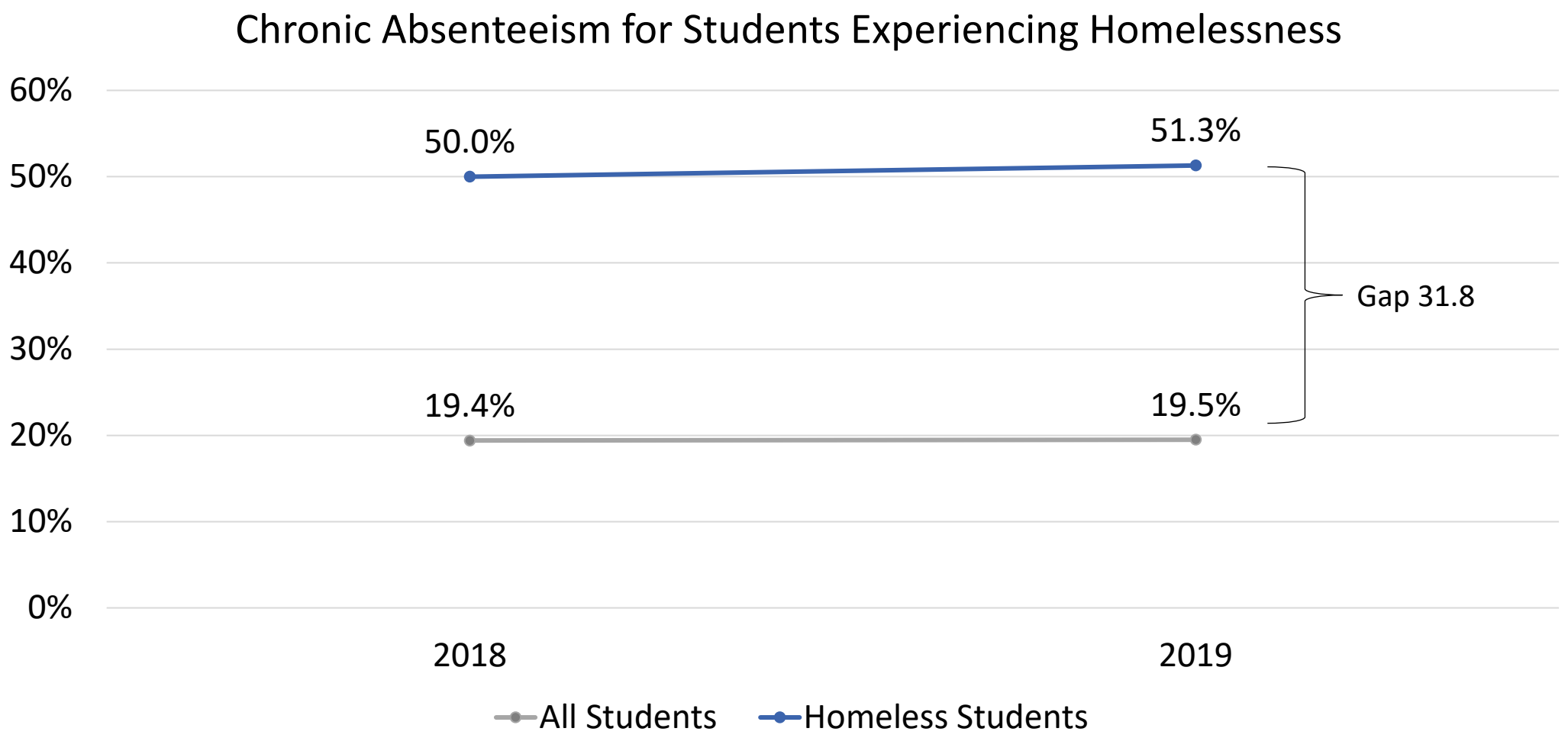
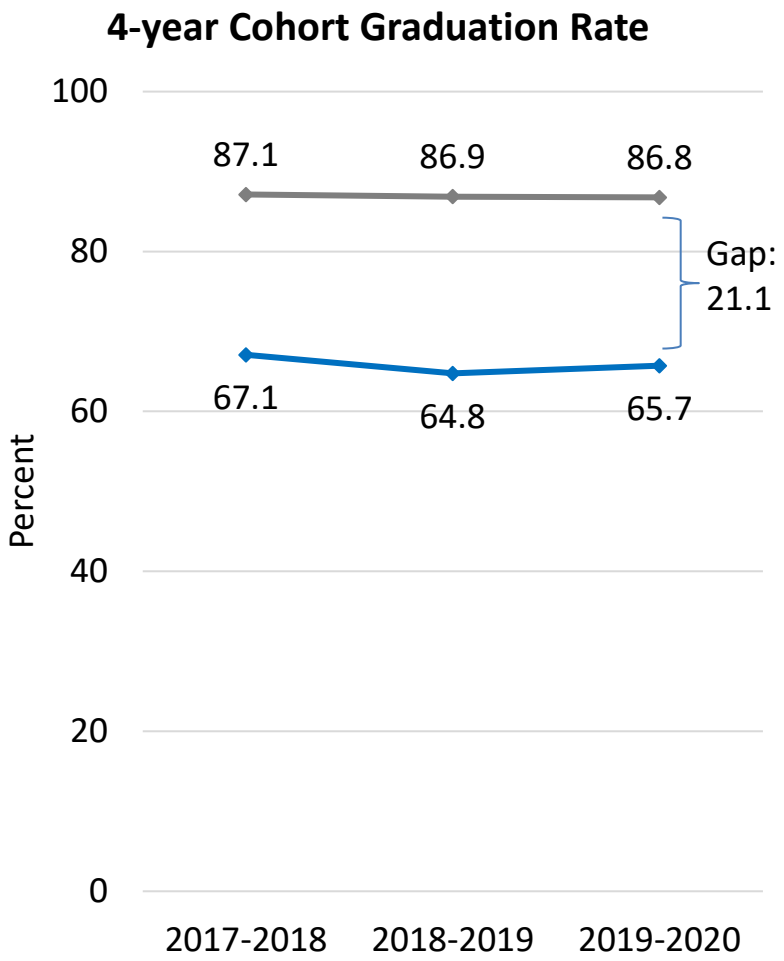
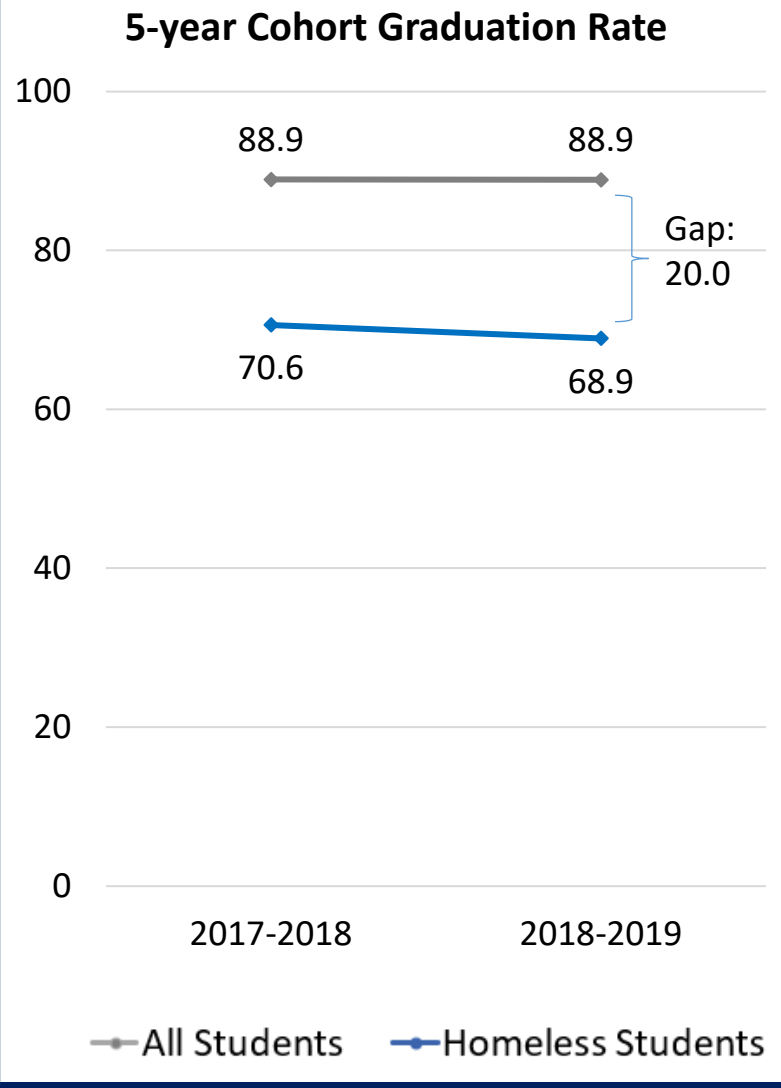
Attendance of Students Experiencing Homelessness: Chronic Absenteeism

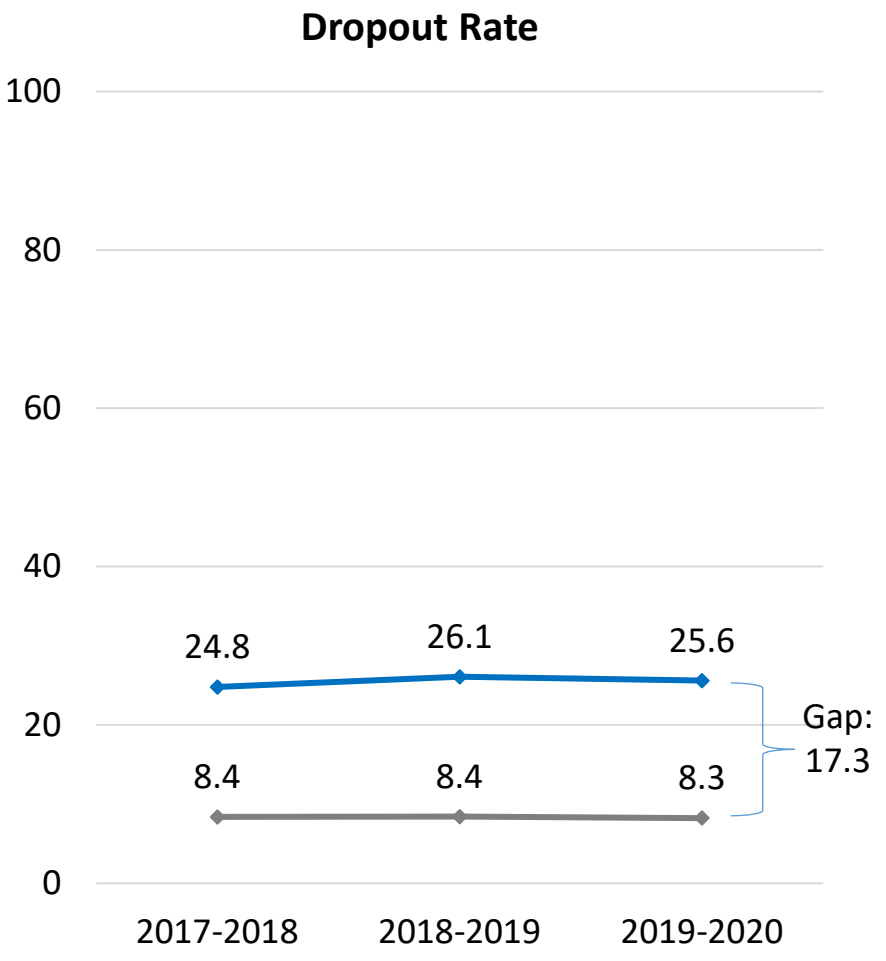


Data Source: MSDE End-of-Year Attendance data collection

Cohort Graduation & Dropout Rates for Students Experiencing Homelessness

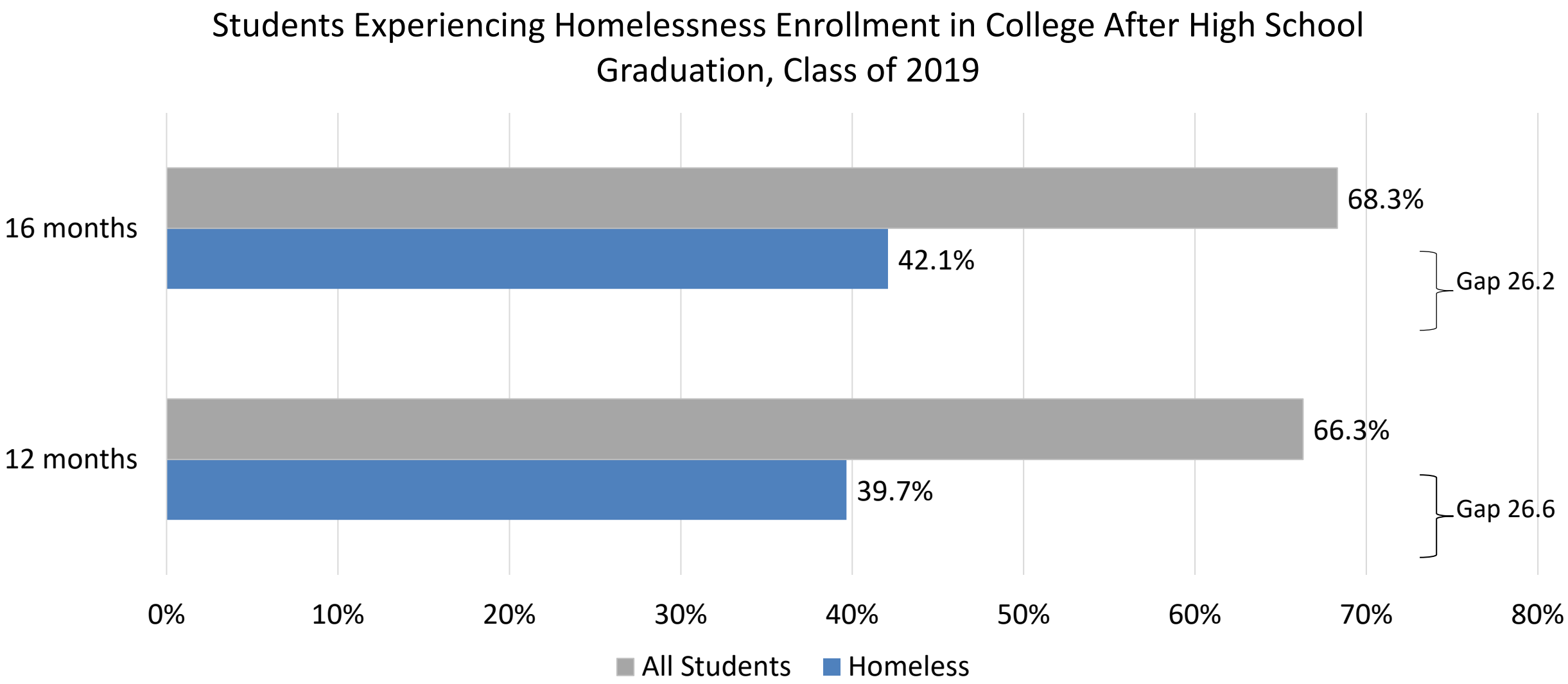






Data Source: MSDE End-of-Year Attendance data collection

College Enrollment for Students Experiencing Homelessness: 2019 Graduates



Data Source: National Student Clearinghouse, Maryland 2019 Cohort

Career and Technical Education Opportunity for Students Experiencing Homelessness

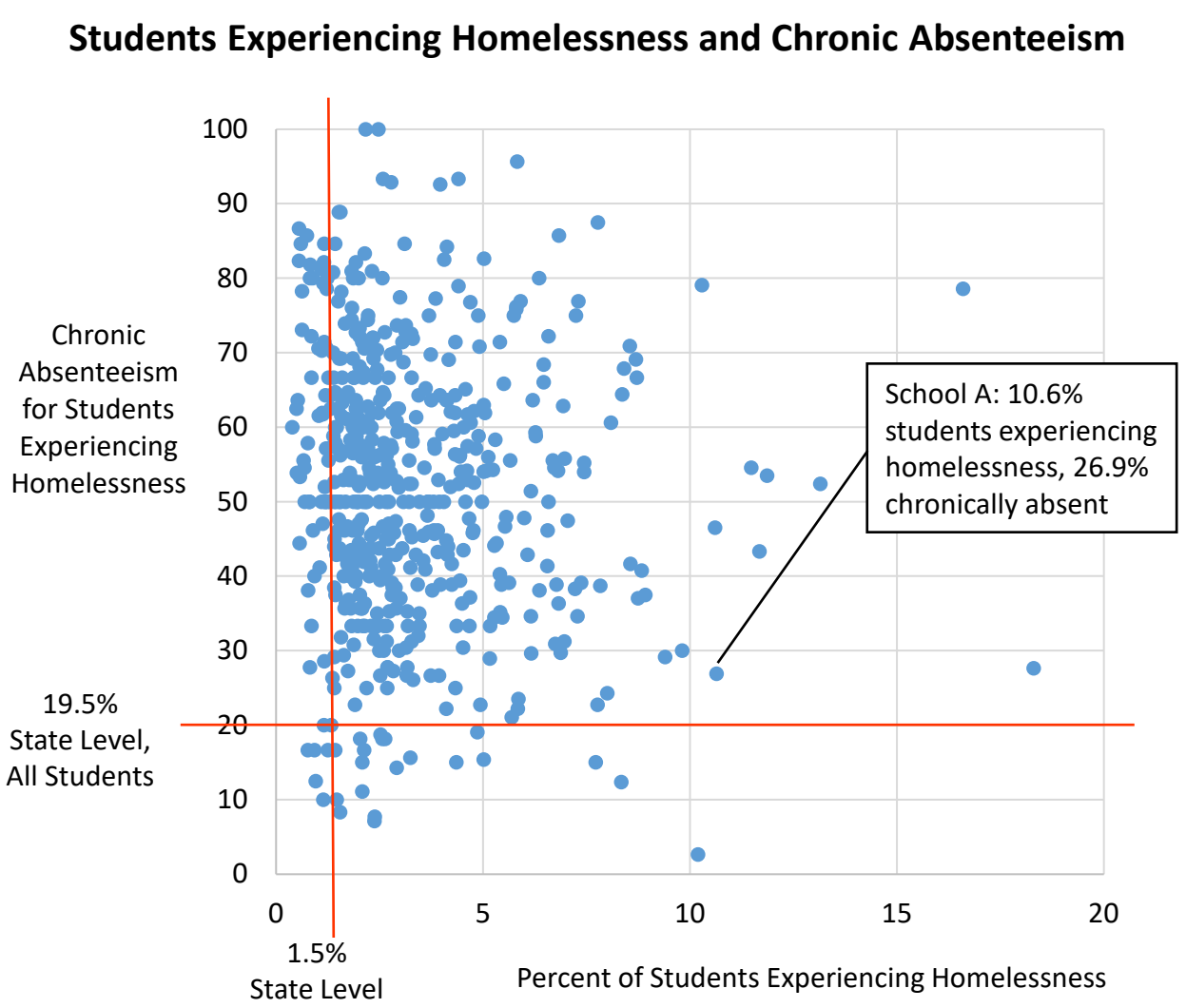
Participation in Career and Technical Education in High School by Students Experiencing Homelessness

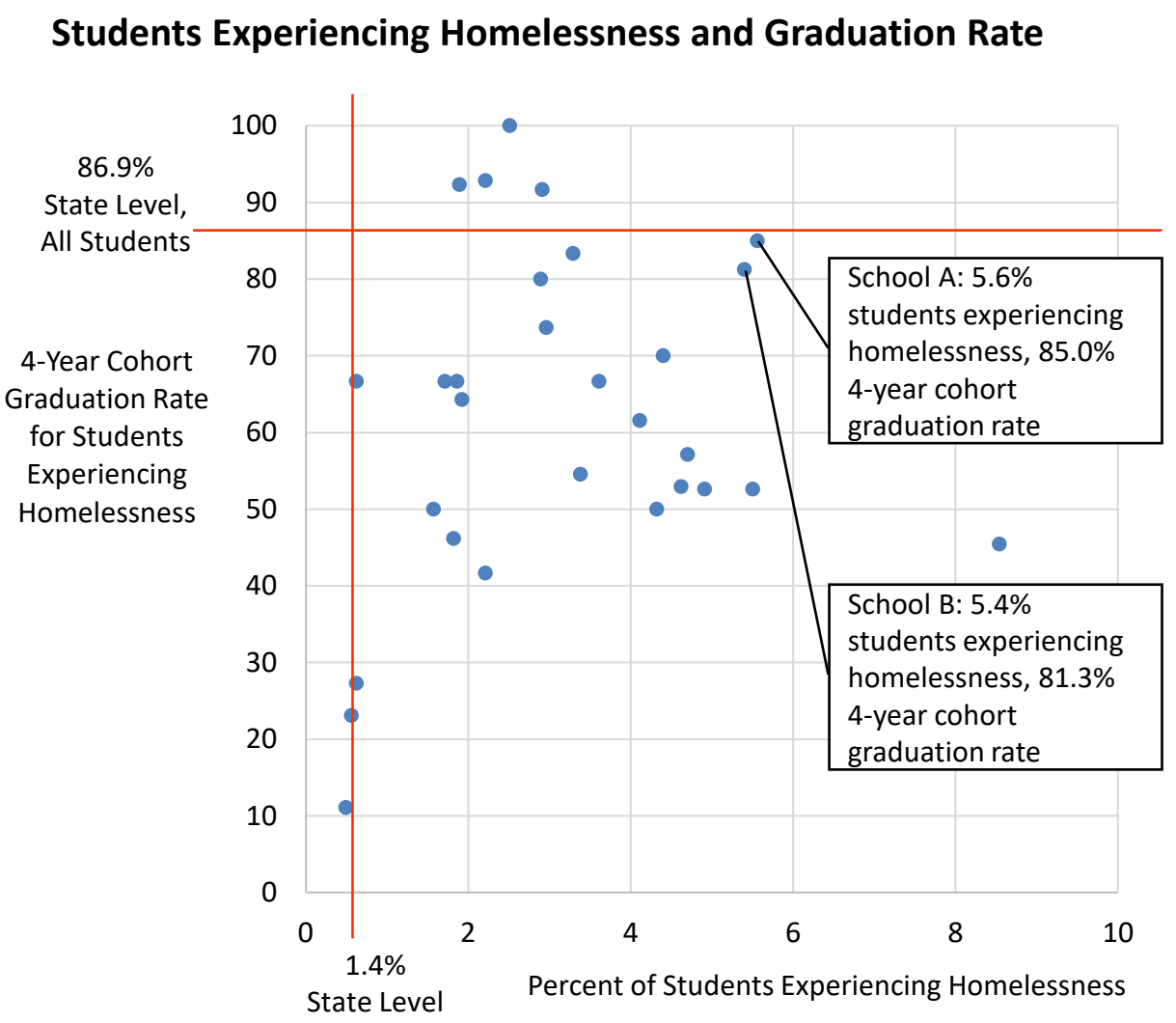
Year	Graduates	Percent CTE Concentrators	Percent CTE Completers
2021	557	31.2%	28.2%
2020	817	26.3%	23.0%

Statewide: In 2021, 31.8% of all high school graduates were CTE Concentrators and 23.9% were CTE Completers

Data Source: MSDE High School Data Collection

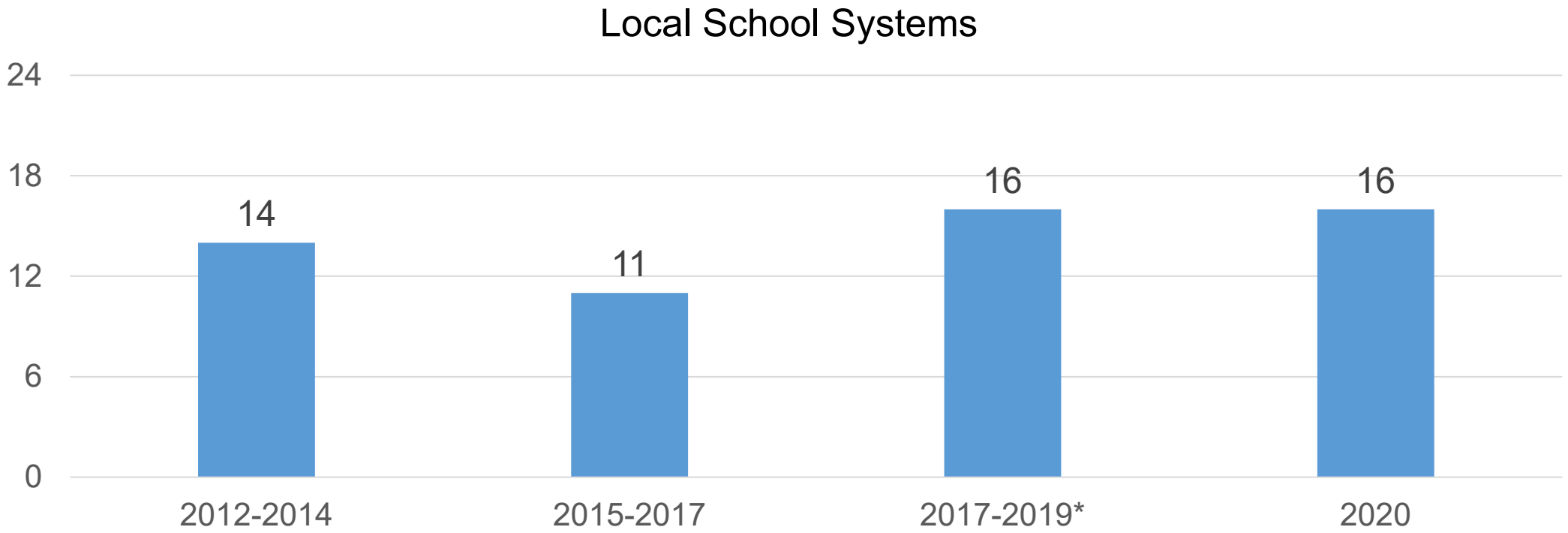
Students Experiencing Homelessness: Schools Excelling





McKinney-Vento Act

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) allocates McKinney-Vento funding annually to states based on the state's proportion of the Title I, Part A federal allocation. States must subgrant funds competitively to local school systems to be used for program implementation, and subgrants must be awarded based on need and the quality of the application. Subgrant funds must be used as outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act



*One Local School System declined funding.

Federal and State Initiatives

American Rescue Plan Act: Maryland was awarded $12,787,27 in federal funding by the US Department of Education to address needs of homeless children and youth highlighted by the impact of COVID-19. Funding to LSS include competitive and formula grants. Funding should be used for identification, wraparound services, and to provide the assistance needed to participate fully in school activities.

American Rescue Plan Act Funds in Action:

- System Navigators (Frederick County and Baltimore City) A service to reconnect families and youth to educational services and basic needs.
- The FAFSA Mentor Program (Anne Arundel, Baltimore County) A service provided to seniors experiencing homelessness in pursuit of higher education through financial aid assistance. Utilize mentors and counselors to guide students though the FAFSA process.

Federal and State Initiatives

Initiatives through the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) grant include tutoring, mental health, and transportation services, and ensure that children and youth experiencing housing instability access educational opportunities.

Local School System Initiatives in Action:

- The Power of One Mentor Program (Anne Arundel) Mentors meet with identified students twice a month to remove barriers associated with housing instability and prepare them to be college and career ready upon graduation.
- Bilingual Homeless Representative (Baltimore City) Provides advocacy and support to homeless Latino families across the city, connecting families and resources at one central point, and working to remove the lack of access to homeless services.
- Summer Engagement Program (Baltimore County) Community based partnership to provide Pre-K to grade 12 students transition support, social emotional support, enrichment activities, and academic supports.
- New Horizon Summer Program (Frederick County) Provide a supportive educational community during the summer for homeless students to earn academic credit to support on-time graduation. The program incorporates extended learning opportunities with career and life skills.
- Shelter Therapy Program (Frederick County) Provide trauma-responsive services to address mental health concerns of children in emergency shelters, and to ensure school-based supports are in place.