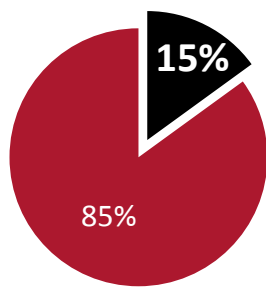


## Thousands of Homeless Students are Unaccompanied

A significant portion of Washington's 30,000+ homeless students are unaccompanied youth, meaning they face homelessness while "not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian."<sup>1</sup> These kids must juggle completing their homework with finding a safe place to sleep, often without the support of a responsible adult. K-12 school districts reported 2,254 enrolled unaccompanied homeless youth in 2012-13. However, due to incomplete reporting, this is a significant undercount. 78% of school districts (including many large urban districts) have yet to report any unaccompanied youth. To reach an accurate statewide estimate, CLS analyzed district-level data provided by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to conclude that approximately:

**4,622** homeless students in Washington schools are unaccompanied



Estimated Breakdown of WA Homeless Student Population (2012-13):

- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (4,622)
- All Other Homeless Students (25,987)

Our analysis indicates that **approximately 15% of Washington's homeless students are unaccompanied youth**. However, this estimate includes only those unaccompanied homeless youth enrolled in K-12 schools. It does not include youth not enrolled in school. Thus, the true number of unaccompanied homeless youth statewide is likely even larger than our estimate.

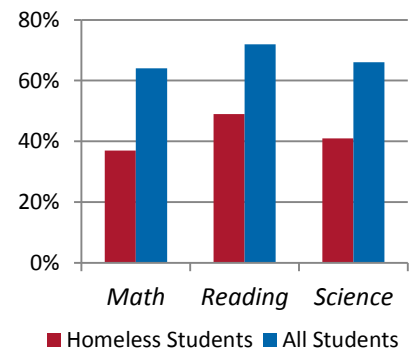
## Homelessness: A Barrier to Student Success

**30,609** schoolchildren in Washington State are homeless, **up 82% since 2006-07**. These kids are highly mobile, moving to wherever they can find shelter and frequently changing schools. **Instability at home hurts homeless students' readiness to learn.**

**36.6%** of homeless students are proficient in math, vs. 64% among their housed peers. **This learning gap extends across all academic subjects.**

**45.1%** of our state's homeless students graduated on-time in the class of 2013, compared to 78% among their housed peers. In other words, **2,283 homeless seniors did not get to walk across the graduation stage.**

The Learning Gap: Proficiency by Subject



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<sup>1</sup> As defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11434a(6), 2001)