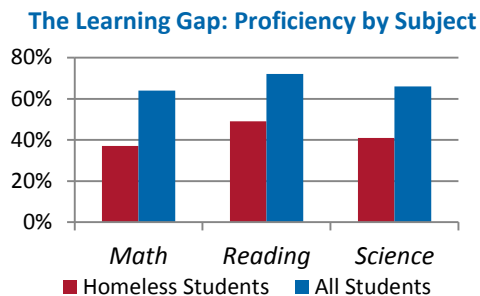


The number of homeless students is rapidly rising

30,609 WA students are homeless, **up 82% since 2006-07**. **Instability at home hurts homeless students' ability to learn**. Each time a student moves to a new school, he or she loses between 4-6 months of academic progress.

Homeless Students Struggle to Learn

Only 38% of homeless students are proficient in math, versus 64% among their housed peers. **This learning gap extends across all subjects, including reading and science.**



Only 45.1% of homeless students graduated in the class of 2013, compared to 78% among their housed peers. **2,283 homeless seniors did not get to walk across the graduation stage.**

The Homeless Student Stability Act

The Washington State Constitution requires that all students have an equal opportunity to receive a basic education, but homeless students lack this opportunity due to outside barriers. **The Homeless Student Stability Act gives homeless students the supports they need to realize their full potential!**

Investing in stability for homeless students: A two-pronged approach

Educational Stability Funds: Federal law requires school districts to designate a homeless student liaison to connect families with resources like transportation. Liaisons meet a pressing need, and are often successful in getting kids to continue their education when they have the resources to do so. Yet, **only 8% of districts receive funding** for liaisons. This greatly limits their capacity to carry out this work. **Some liaisons serve a caseload of hundreds of homeless students *in addition* to their other job duties.**

The HSSA provides **dedicated staff support for homeless student education liaisons as a component of basic education**. Staff support is based upon need and size to ensure that funds are allocated to make the strongest impact. The HSSA provides a dedicated FTE to districts serving approximately 150 homeless students. Funding is only available to districts with at least 50 identified homeless students, therefore providing an incentive for districts to identify homeless students.

Housing partnership grant program: Existing school-housing partnerships have increased attendance and reading scores among homeless students but are not widely available. The HSSA creates a grant program serving up **to 15 districts by providing each with \$500,000 per year to directly increase housing stability for homeless students and families**. Funds could be used for housing vouchers, rapid rehousing, host homes, or other programs based upon local need. Partnerships will be data-driven and targeted to improve stability and academic performance of homeless students.

Supporters of HSSA: Catholic Community Services, Children's Alliance, Church Council of Greater Seattle, Faith Action Network, Firesteel, Housing Alliance, League of Education Voters, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, and the State Poverty Action Network