

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Letter of Information  
**Baltimore City Council Resolution 19-0132R –  
Informational Hearing – Homelessness**

March 7, 2019

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) appreciates the opportunity to provide information and data regarding homeless students enrolled in City Schools, which we hope will be helpful to informing the Baltimore City Council’s discussion of this important topic.

Please note that City Schools uses the federal McKinney-Vento definition of “homeless” which includes children and youth who “lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence”. Utilization of this definition yields a larger number of homeless students than may be captured by the City of Baltimore.

**Specifically, City Schools Board Policy defines a homeless student as:**

“A child or youth who lacks a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime place of residence, including:

1. Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative, adequate accommodations, are living in emergency or transitional shelters, also referred to as transitional housing, or are abandoned in hospitals;
2. Children and youth who have primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for individuals;
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings; or
4. A child awaiting foster care placement.”

City Schools’ Office of Home and Hospital Services (HHS) conducts trainings targeting school staff, central office staff, and community partners to raise awareness about the importance of identifying homeless students and connecting them with appropriate supports. Internally, HHS trains school social workers and guidance counselors on the procedures, processes, and importance of homeless data. These efforts coupled with City Schools’ continual outreach with community-based organizations that work directly with homeless families had led to an increase in recent years in the district’s identified numbers of homeless students.

During the last school year HHS also provided tutorial services in seven shelters, which enabled homeless students to make significant academic strides. The services also increased the outreach

and knowledge of homeless services at the community level. Families received direct homeless services and were informed of their rights and services under McKinney Vento; empowering families with knowledge of the homeless procedures process.

### **Students Identified as Homeless in City Schools**

<b>School Year (SY)</b>	<b>Homeless Students</b>	<b>Percentage of Increase</b>
2011-2012	2292	-4.4%
2012-2013	2716	18.5%
2013-2014	2534	-6.7%
2014-2015	2068	-18.4%
2015-2016	1981	-4.2%
2016-2017	2654	34.0%
2017-2018	3513	32.3%

*Note: Counts of homelessness are based on the End of Year Attendance file and reflect students who were homeless at any point during the school year excluding summer school attendance.*

During SY2017-2018, the following schools had the highest percentage of homeless students:

<b>School Number</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>Count of Homeless Students</b>	<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>Homeless Percentage</b>
142	Robert W. Coleman Elementary School	83	346	24.0%
314	Sharp-Leadenhall Elementary School	7	31	22.6%
4	Steuart Hill Academic Academy	63	289	21.8%
130	Booker T. Washington Middle School	40	237	16.9%
107	Gilmor Elementary School	46	277	16.6%
39	Dallas F. Nicholas, Sr., Elementary School	44	286	15.4%

*Note: Counts of homelessness are based on the End of Year Attendance file and reflect students who were homeless at any point during the school year excluding summer school attendance. Homeless percentage is the number of students divided by the school's enrollment based on official 9/30 Enrollment.*

During SY2017-2018, the following schools had the highest number of homeless students overall:

<b>School Number</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>Count of Homeless Students</b>	<b>Count of Students</b>	<b>Homeless Percentage</b>
8	City Springs Elementary/Middle School	91	808	11.3%
142	Robert W. Coleman Elementary School	83	346	24.0%
4	Steuart Hill Academic Academy	63	289	21.8%
125	Furman Templeton Preparatory Academy	62	547	11.3%
37	Harford Heights Elementary School	61	479	12.7%
105	Moravia Park Elementary School	57	849	6.7%

*Note: Counts of homelessness are based on the End of Year Attendance file and reflect students who were homeless at any point during the school year excluding summer school attendance.*

In SY2017-2018, HHS stocked 35 school-based clothes closets to provide immediate uniform support in schools with large numbers of homeless students. These clothes closets have assisted

in improving access to uniforms without having to provide uniform vouchers to students and families.

<b>Services Provided to Homeless Students</b>					
<b>School Year</b>	<b>Homeless Students</b>	<b>Students Receiving Taxi or Yellow Bus Transportation</b>	<b>% of Students Receiving Transportation</b>	<b>Students Receiving Uniform Vouchers</b>	<b>% of Students Receiving Uniform Vouchers</b>
10-11	2398	912	38%	535	22.3%
11-12	2292	1160	51%	593	25.8%
12-13	2716	1080	40%	664	24.4%
13-14	2534	1100	43%	775	30.6%
14-15	2068	1271	61%	856	41.1%
15-16	1981	1423	72%	563	28.4%
16-17	2654	1433*	53.9%	2095	78.9%
17-18	3513	1468	47.7%	999	28.4%

### **Financial Implications**

City Schools spent over \$10.6 million dollars providing direct services to homeless students in SY2017-18. It should be noted that transportation made up almost the entire amount of spending.

<b>Costs Associated with Homeless Services</b>		
<b>Service</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>
Transportation	\$10,288,157.30	COO General Funds
School Uniform/School Clothes Closets	\$124,085.00	Title I
School Supplies	\$3,829.23	Title I
Summer Program	\$175,000.00	Title I
Technology	\$5, 205.50	Title I
Tutors/Temporary Employees	\$80,000.00	Title I

### **Chronic Absence Rate of Homeless Students in SY 2017-18**

Of the 3,513 students identified as homeless for SY2017-18, 1,972 students were considered Chronically Absent.

<b>Grade Band</b>	<b>Total Students</b>	<b>Chronically Absent</b>	<b>Chronically Absent Percentage</b>
PK-5	2605	1385	53.2%
6-8	505	278	55.0%
9-12	403	309	76.7%
Total	3513	1972	56.1%

*Note: As described in Maryland's ESSA plan and federal reporting guidelines: "chronically absent" means a student is absent 10 percent or more school days during the school year in membership at least ten days.*

### **Suspension Incidents of Homeless Students**

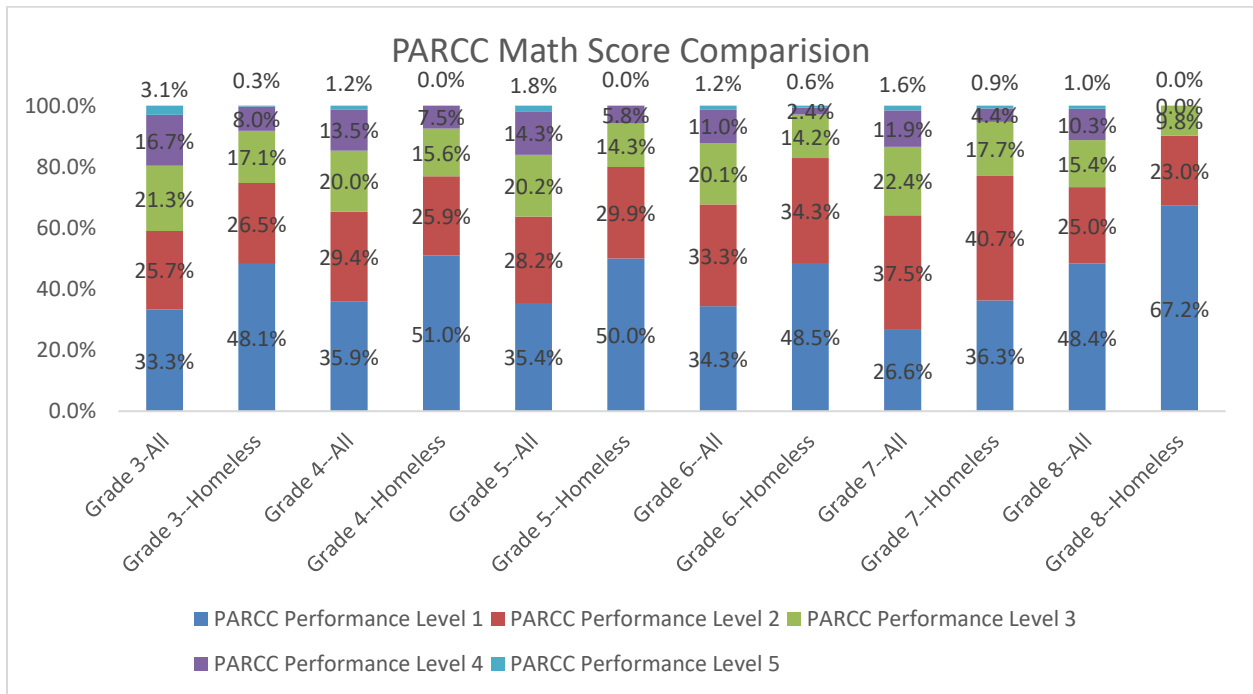
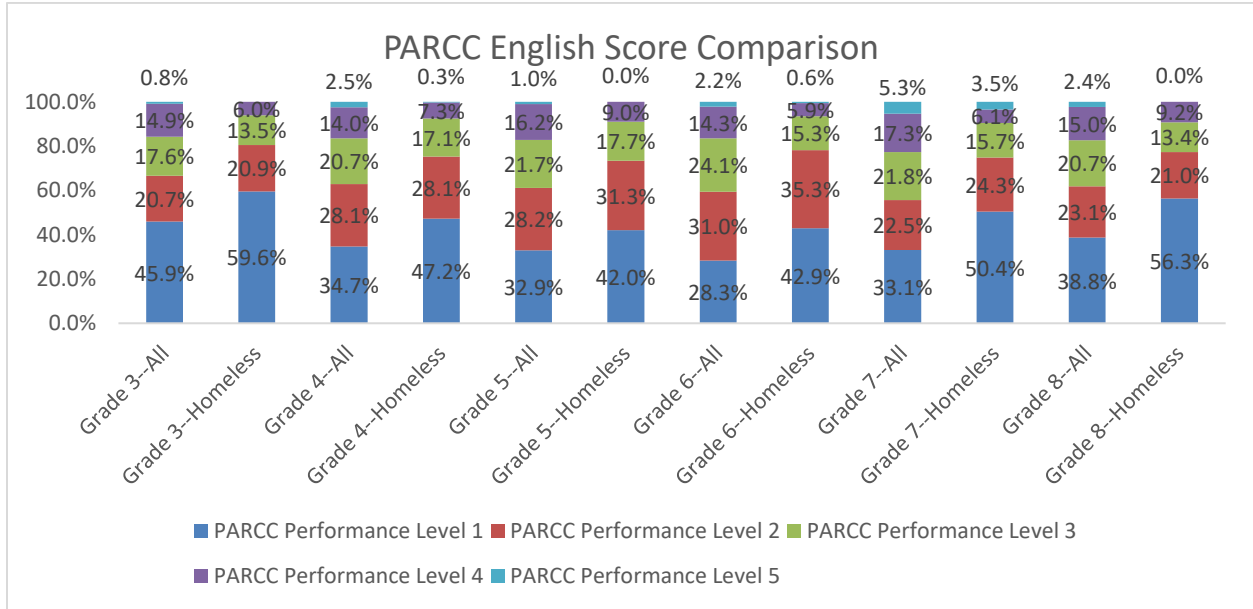
<b>Grade Band</b>	<b>Count of Students</b>	<b>Total Suspensions</b>	<b>% of Students Suspended</b>	<b>Count of Homeless Students</b>	<b>Homeless Students Suspended</b>	<b>% of Homeless Students Suspended</b>
PK-5	45240	1112	2.5%	2605	96	3.7%
6-8	17706	1670	9.4%	505	84	16.6%

9-12	21939	1468	6.7%	403	35	8.7%
Total	84885	4250	5.0%	3513	215	6.1%

Note: Source of data is SY2017-18 End of Year Attendance File and Official MSDE Suspension File.

### Academic Performance of Homeless Students

Below is a summary of students' academic performance for SY 2017-18. Due to the transient nature of our homeless population and annual re-identification process, multiple year comparisons are not applicable.



In closing, City Schools remains committed to improving the identification of homeless students in order to provide the necessary services and supports needed for student success. The Office of Home and Hospital Services will continue to work with a variety of offices to address the unique needs of our homeless population. This includes collaboration with the Office of Transportation, the Office of Enrollment and Attendance, the Office of Food and Nutrition, and of the Office of Early Learning.

We greatly appreciate the Baltimore City Council's attention to this important issue and look forward to further discussion.

For additional information, please contact City Schools Government Affairs:

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