



# Public Education and Homeless Students

**ESSENTIALS** FOR *ALL* DISTRICTS

# Essential Topics

- ◌ Oregon's Homeless Student Data
- ◌ Guiding Legislation
- ◌ Determining Eligibility
- ◌ District Responsibilities
- ◌ Homeless Liaison Duties
- ◌ Title I-A Set-Asides
- ◌ ODE Compliance Monitoring
- ◌ Professional Development

# Essential Legislation

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Education of Homeless Children & Youth  
*a.k.a.*

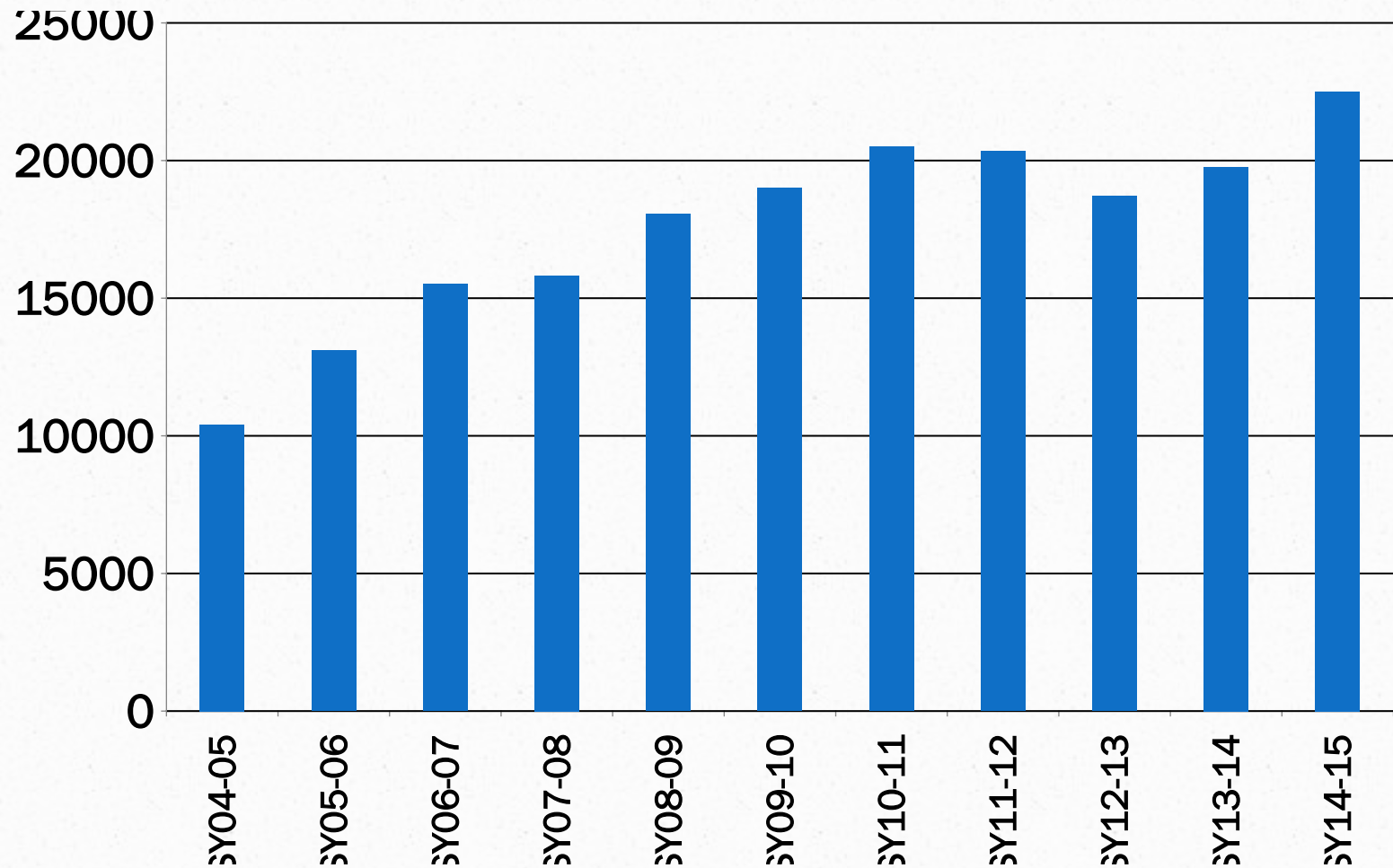
**ESEA Title X**

Enacted in 1987

Reauthorized 2002 and 2015 (??)

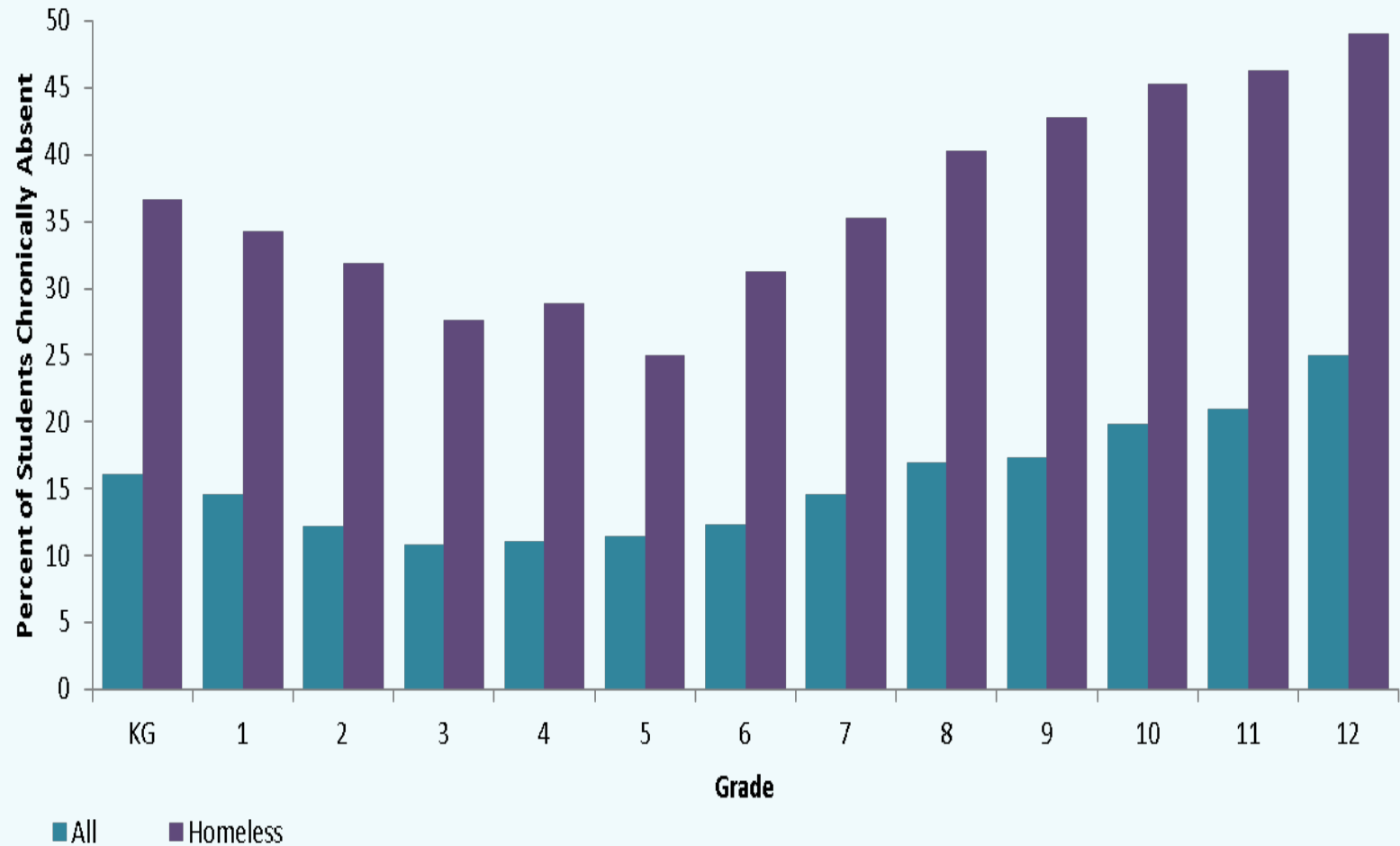


# K-12 Homeless Students in Oregon

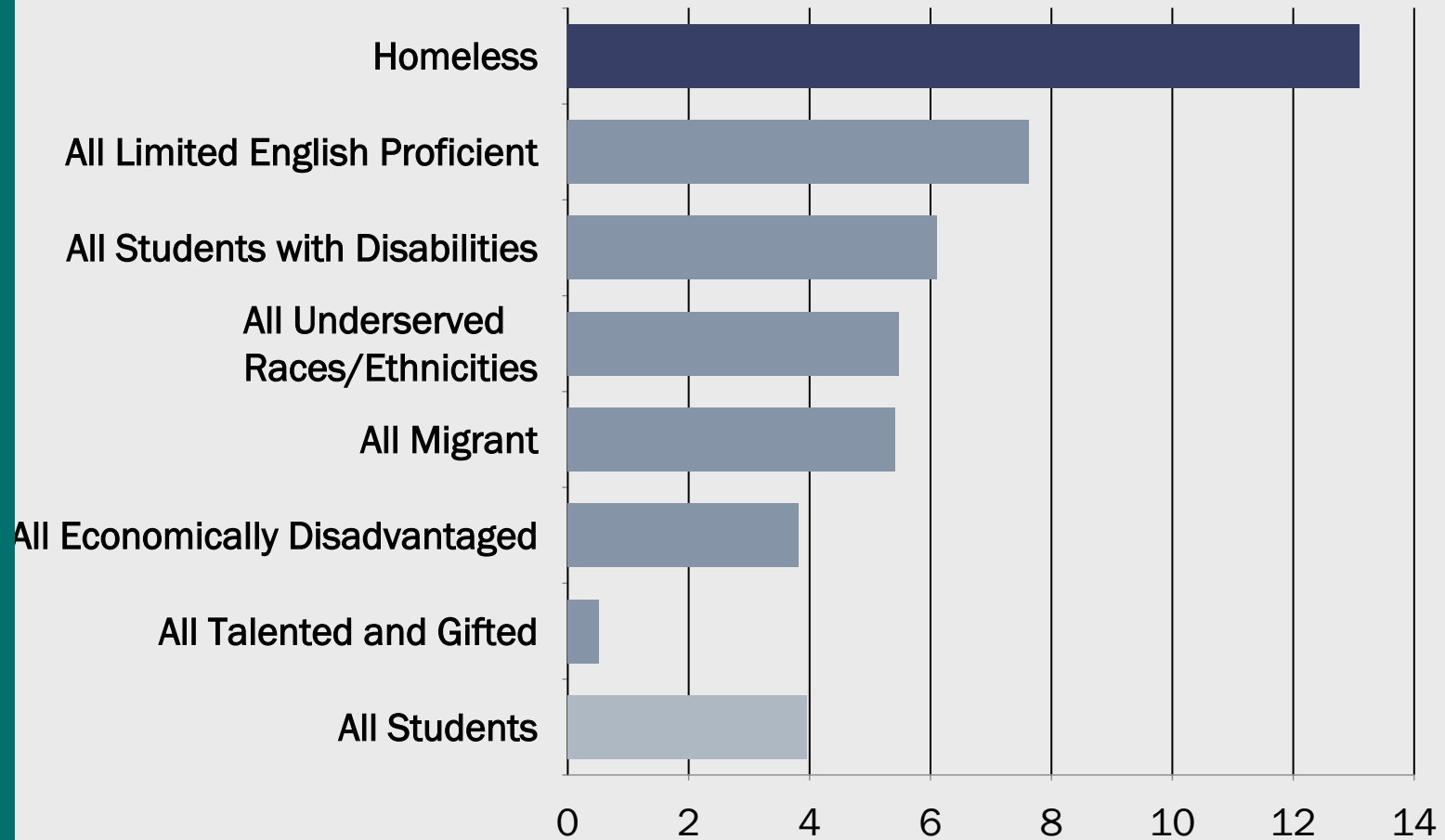


# Percent of Students Chronically Absent

By Grade and Homeless Status, 2013-14

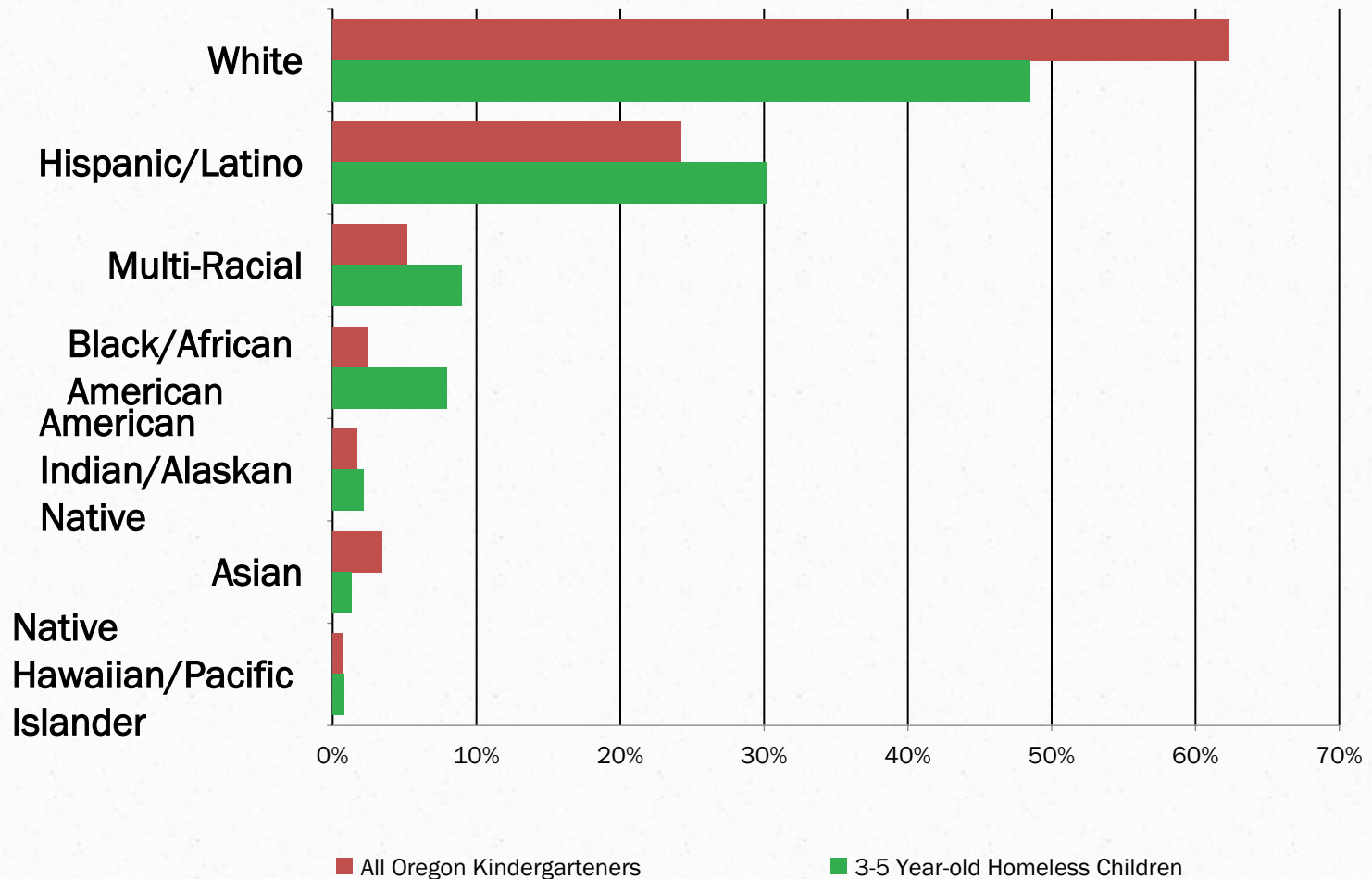


## Percent of Dropout Students in Oregon by Subgroup 2013-2014



# 3-5 Year-Old Homeless Children

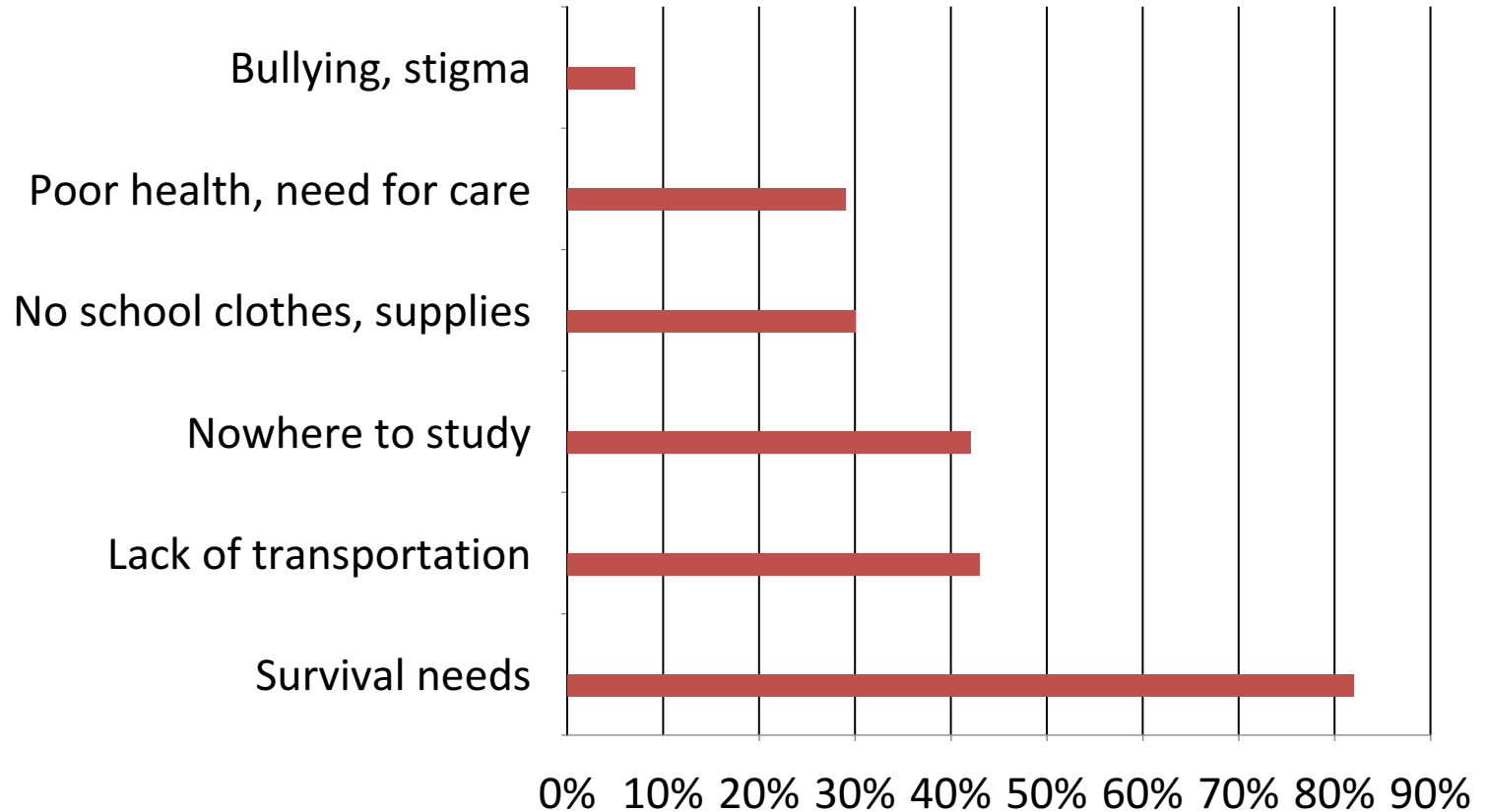
Compared to Statewide Kindergarteners





# Barriers to School Attendance

Reported by Homeless Students and Parents





# Essential Purpose

To ensure **homeless students in PreK-Grade 12** have  
**equal access to the same free public education**  
as provided other children and youth,  
with opportunities to meet the same  
**challenging academic achievement standards**

# State Requirements

- o **Develop and implement State Plan**
- o Gather valid data from districts
- o Statewide inter-agency coordination  
(housing, human services, health, etc.)
- o Provide technical assistance to districts
- o **Monitor district compliance**
- o **Revise state laws that act as barriers**

# **ORS 339.115(7)**

## **SCHOOL ADMISSION**

**A school district shall not exclude from admission a child located in the district:**

- o solely because the child does not have a fixed place of residence, or**
- o solely because the child is not under the supervision of a parent, guardian or person in a parental relationship.**



# Essential Definition

– HOMELESS –

Lack of a

**fixed**, **regular** and **adequate**

nighttime residence



## **FIXED -**

Not subject to change or fluctuation

## **REGULAR -**

Normal, standard, used on a regular basis

## **ADEQUATE -**

Sufficient to meet physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment

# Eligible Living Situations

- **Shelter** or Transitional Housing
- **Hotel or Motel** due to lack of funds or availability of alternative housing
- **Doubled-Up** / Sharing housing due to:
  - Loss of Housing
  - Economic Hardship
  - Other Similar Reason
- **Unsheltered**

# Doubled-Up / Sharing Housing

- ☐ Staying with friends or relatives due to:
  - loss of housing
  - economic hardship
  - other similar reason
- ☐ May be terminated without notice or legal recourse
- ☐ Determined on a case-by-case basis
- ☐ Long-term doubled-up situations should be reviewed to weigh “permanency”



# Unsheltered

- Camping in parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, tents
- Other places not designed for human sleeping accommodation: vehicles, bus terminals, benches, sheds, garages
- Substandard Housing: lacking essential utilities, unsafe and/or dilapidated
- Overcrowded housing: more than 2 people per sleeping area/livable room



# Unaccompanied Youths

- o Not in the physical custody of a parent, guardian or person in a parental relationship
- o Runaway youths
- o Abandoned youths
- o Couch-surfing, staying with friends

# Unaccompanied & Homeless

- o An unaccompanied student is eligible if also living in one of the four homeless living situations.
- o Unaccompanied homeless students may enroll themselves in school, without parental permission.
- o A parent cannot prevent a district from enrolling a youth, or demand that a school deny enrollment, under these circumstances.

# Students in Foster Care

- o Students in foster homes are not MV eligible.
- o “Awaiting foster care placement” is MV eligible – but a very limited category.
- o In Oregon, foster students have the right to stay in their school of origin – but who must provide transportation varies (district, DHS, or foster parents)
  - o DHS Foster Student Contact:  
[catherine.r.stelzer@state.or.us](mailto:catherine.r.stelzer@state.or.us)



# Questions so far?





# Responsibilities of Districts

- Designate an ACTIVE District Liaison
- Post notices on rights of homeless students with Liaison contact information
- Provide transportation to school-of-origin
- Revise policies that create barriers

# Required District Policy

- o All Oregon districts required to have a policy on admission of homeless students in compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act.
- o Adoption of OSBA Sample Policy on Homeless Students PLUS Administrative Rules suffices for compliance.
- o Revise all policies that create barriers to school, sports\* and school activity participation.

# Eligibility & Placement Determinations

- Liaisons make determinations with varying degrees of administrative oversight.
- Case-by-case determinations important due to ambiguity of some definitions, situations.
- A student's need for assistance can factor into the eligibility determination.
- Denial of services to an eligible student is #1 reason for complaints to ODE.



# Liaison Duties: Students

- o Identify homeless students through referrals and outreach.
- o Assist with *immediate* enrollment, school placement, access to free school meals.
- o Handle eligibility and placement disputes quickly
- o Arrange and provide school of origin transportation as needed.



# Liaison Duties: Students

- Provide school supplies, hygiene products, clothing , shoes and other essentials
- Assist students to access tutoring, credit recovery, other education services
- Help families and youth obtain immunizations, health services, birth certificates, etc.
- Academic and attendance tracking (e.g., using Synergy or eSchool)

# Liaison Duties: Inter-district

- ◉ Work cooperatively with other local district Liaisons to provide services
- ◉ Share responsibility and costs of school transportation in inter-district cases
- ◉ Designated as contact for the program with the state office on behalf of district

# More Liaison Duties

- ◉ District staff awareness training
- ◉ FAFSAs for unaccompanied students
- ◉ Collaboration with local service providers, including Head Start
- ◉ Collect and report data on homeless students in PreK - Grade 12 to ODE



# Preschool-Age Children

- Head Start Programs prioritize enrollment of homeless children.
- Counts of homeless Head Start children are included in district of *residence*.
- Refer homeless families with children ages 0-2 to screening and assessment for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education at local ESDs.

# Essential Rights

- o **Immediate Enrollment** at school of origin or other school determined to be in student's
- o **Best Educational Interest** (school placement)
- o **Due Process** in the form of eligibility and placement Dispute Resolution and appeals
- o Automatic **Free Meals** and **Title I-A** eligibility
- o **Student Privacy** (same as F/R status)

# Issues to Address

- o Identification of eligible students through registration and intake forms (non-intrusive)
- o Fraud protection from ineligible persons seeking school choice options
- o Discipline and homeless students
- o Truancy and absenteeism
- o Complaints and challenges from within districts and from other districts



# Questions?



# Essential Resources

- o Title X does NOT provide districts with a direct allocation of federal funds
- o Competitive McKinney-Vento Subgrants available to districts and ESDs every 2 years (next round in Spring 2017)
- o General Funds / SSF Transportation
- o Title I-A Homeless Set-Asides



# Title I-A Set-Asides

- o All homeless students are Title I-A
- o Title I-A funded districts must reserve a portion to serve homeless students
- o Primary use is to provide Title I services to homeless students in non-Title I funded schools
- o Other uses include Liaison FTE and training & homeless student transportation



# Uses of Title I-A Set-Asides

Funds may be used for services not ordinarily provided to other Title I students, such as:

- o School clothing and shoes, including PE clothes and athletic shoes
- o Class materials and participation fees
- o School supplies including backpacks
- o Birth Certificate replacement fee
- o Food & Water

# ODE Title X Monitoring

- Title X is monitored onsite and in desk audits, on same schedule as Titles I-A and I-D.
- Signed assurances, evidence notebooks and interviews are usual means of evaluation.
- Reviews also prompted by Risk Assessments:
  - missing data or required reports
  - multiple complaints
  - fiscal concerns

# Title X Review Areas

- o Data collection and reports
- o Reservation and use of Title I-A set-asides
- o District policies and procedures
- o Dispute resolution process in place
- o Staff awareness training; Liaison PD
- o Local service provider collaboration
- o Intake process and forms
- o Attendance and academic tracking
- o Public notices of rights posted



# Professional Development

- o National Center on Homeless Education  
Online Trainings, Topical Briefs

<http://center.serve.org/nche>

- o Oregon Association on Comprehensive  
Education – OACE [www.oace.us](http://www.oace.us)

**Seaside Conference :Jan. 21-23, 2016**

- o Regional Liaison Trainings - TBA

# ODE Online

## Oregon Homeless Education Website

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/Go/HomelessEd>

OR – go to [www.ode.state.or.us](http://www.ode.state.or.us)

Search for “Homeless Ed”

click on first *folder* link:



**For More Info:**

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