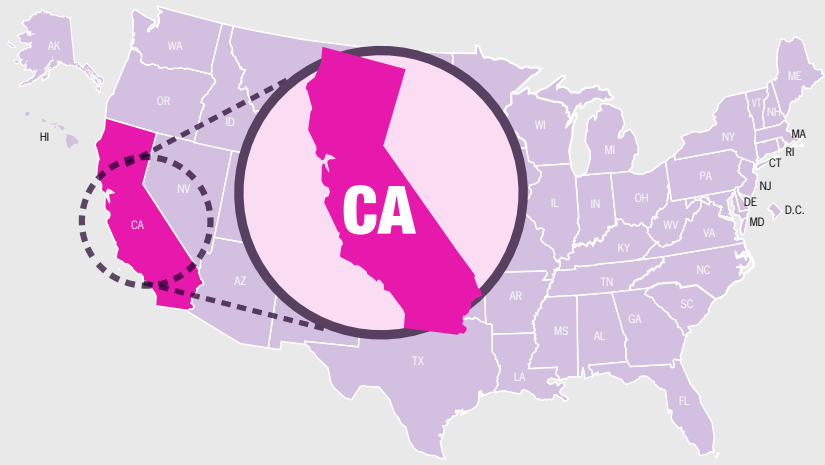


# Education Leads Home

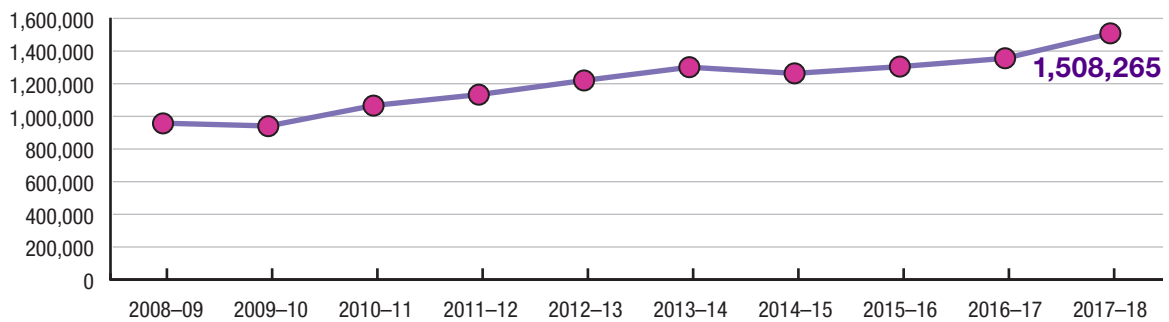
## State Snapshot on Student Homelessness

### CALIFORNIA



### The National Picture

The number of students identified as homeless in the United States has increased over 50% since 2008–2009.



As high as these numbers are, they are certainly an undercount given that the number of students enrolled does not capture those who were never identified; school-aged children and youth who experience homelessness during the summer only; those who dropped out of school; or young children who are not enrolled in preschool programs administered by Local Educational Agencies.

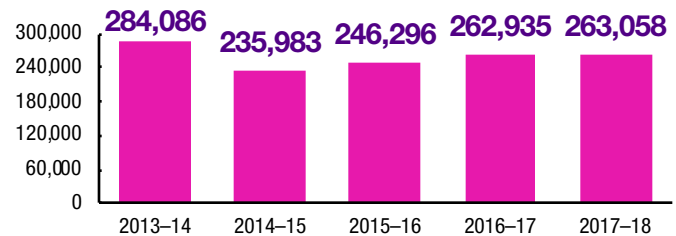
# 263,058

Students in California's public schools were identified as homeless

# 4.2%

Of all California students enrolled in public school were identified as homeless

California public schools have identified 7.4% fewer homeless students since 2013–2014.



All data for SY 2017–2018. Source: National Center for Education Statistics

About 6 in every 10 extremely poor 6–17 year-olds\* were homeless in California.



\*Extremely poor 6-17 year-olds are measured as those living at or below 50% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Students may experience homelessness at any point during their life, from Pre-K all the way through postsecondary education.

**9.0%**

Of children under age 6 experience homelessness in California

Estimate based on the number of school-age children experiencing homelessness each year.

Source: Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**5,674**

FAFSA applicants in California were determined to be (or at risk of becoming) an unaccompanied homeless youth

Source: NCHE, Homelessness Reported for Federal Student Aid Applicants

## How Is Homelessness Defined?

According to federal early care and education law (the McKinney-Vento Act), a student is considered homeless who “lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence.” This definition specifically includes children and youth living in emergency shelters and transitional housing; cars, campgrounds, and other places not meant for human habitation; hotels or motels due to lack of adequate alternative arrangements; and sharing the housing of others temporarily due to loss of housing, economic hardships, or similar reasons.

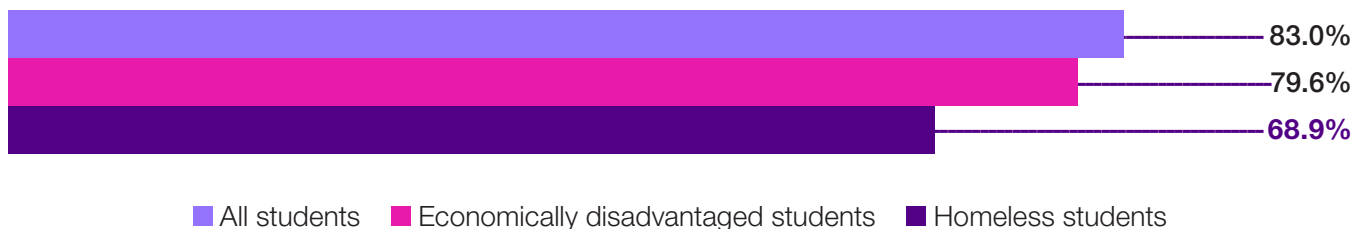
**84.2%**

Of homeless students in California’s public schools stayed with others while homeless

Source: NCHE, Consolidated State Profiles Education Statistics

Homelessness is not a homogenous experience. Students may be homeless with their families, on their own, or both on their own and with their families. They may stay in a shelter, motel, car, or with other people because they have nowhere else to go. Homelessness is often a recurring issue with many experiencing homelessness more than once.

## Graduation Rate Data



**EDUCATION  
LEADS HOME**

Launched in 2018, Education Leads Home is a national campaign to improve educational outcomes for children and youth who experience homelessness. The campaign seeks to increase school readiness, close the high school graduation gap, and create more pathways to postsecondary attainment so that today’s homeless students will not become tomorrow’s homeless adults. Education Leads Home is spearheaded by four national organizations—America’s Promise Alliance, Civic, the Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness, and SchoolHouse Connection—and guided by the perspectives of the families and students at the heart of this campaign. To learn more visit, [www.educationleadshome.org](http://www.educationleadshome.org).