



# National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)

## Presentation to the Alaska Senate Education Committee

January 29, 2024



# About NCHE

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**NCHE** is the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program.

- Website: <http://nche.ed.gov>
- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)
- Products: <https://nche.ed.gov/resources/>
- Webinars: <https://nche.ed.gov/group-training/>
- Listserv: <https://nche.ed.gov/resources/> (click *Listserv* tab)



# Topics

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- The McKinney-Vento Definition of Homelessness
- Data on Students Experiencing Homelessness (SEH) in Alaska
- Funding Sources
- The Role of the Local Homeless Liaison
- Q&A

# McKinney-Vento Definition of Homelessness

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Children or youth who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence

- **Fixed** – stationary, permanent, not subject to change
- **Regular** – used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis (e.g., nightly)
- **Adequate** – lawfully and reasonably sufficient to meet physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment

42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)

The abbreviation “HCY” is often used in materials as an acronym for “Homeless Children and Youth.” We prefer using the term “students experiencing homelessness” when possible, so you will see the acronym “SEH” throughout the presentation.



# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- The term *unaccompanied youth* includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or (legal) guardian.

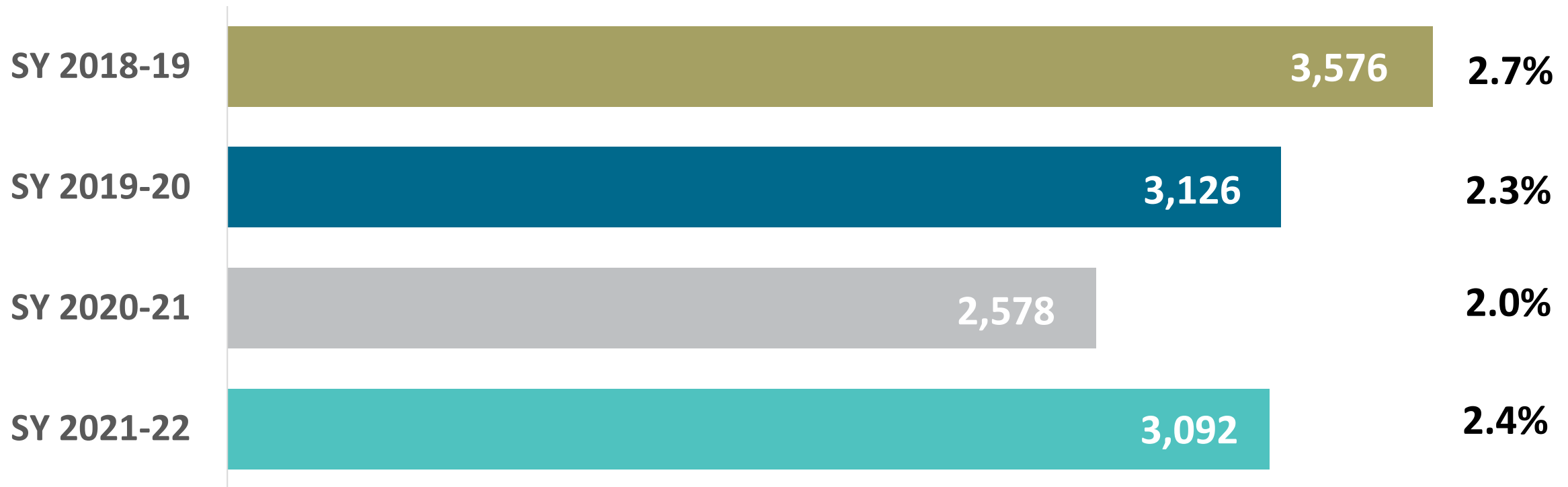
42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)

- Liaisons must assist UHY with enrollment, school selection, & dispute resolution
- Have the same right to immediate enrollment & educational services as other students



# Data on Students Experiencing Homelessness in Alaska

# Alaska Statewide Enrollment – Students Experiencing Homelessness



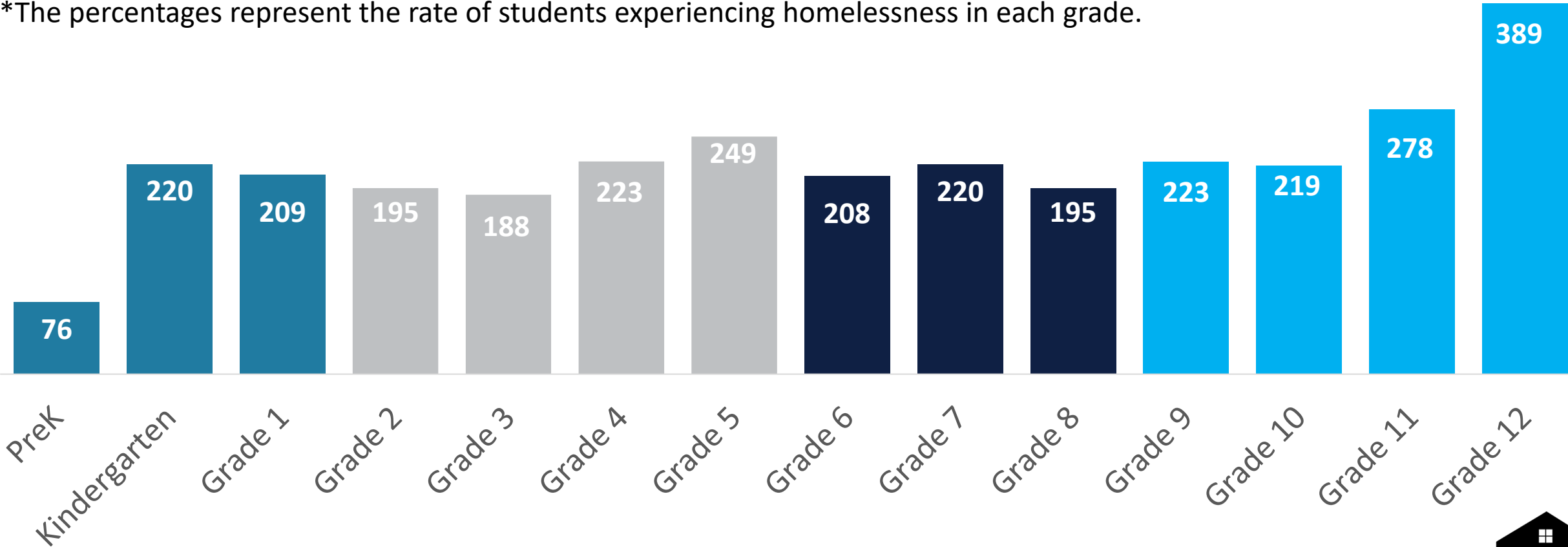
Source: U.S. Department of Education's *EDFacts* Initiative



# State SEH Enrollment by Grade level: SY2021-22

2.5% 2.2% 2.2% 2.0% 1.9% 2.3% 2.5% 2.1% 2.2% 2.0% 2.2% 2.3% 3.0% 4.2%

\*The percentages represent the rate of students experiencing homelessness in each grade.

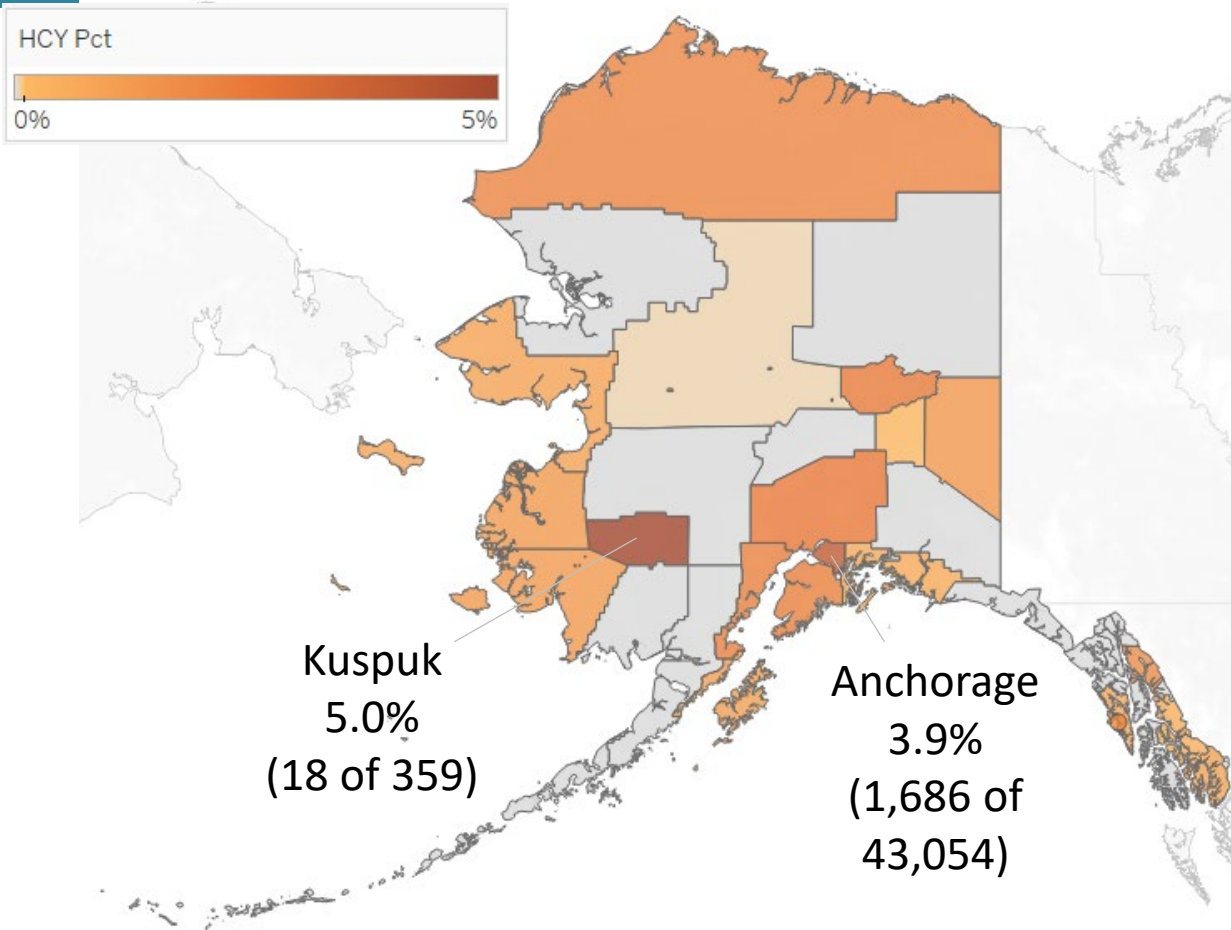


Source: U.S. Department of Education's *EDFacts* Initiative





# Identification Across Alaska

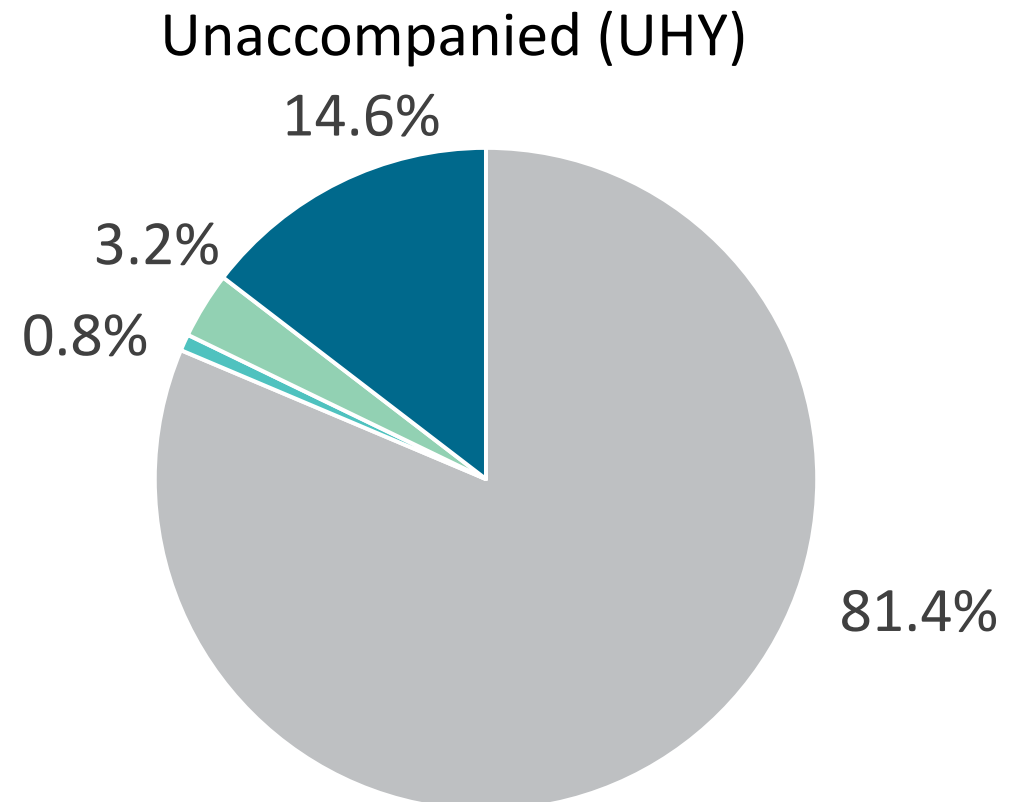
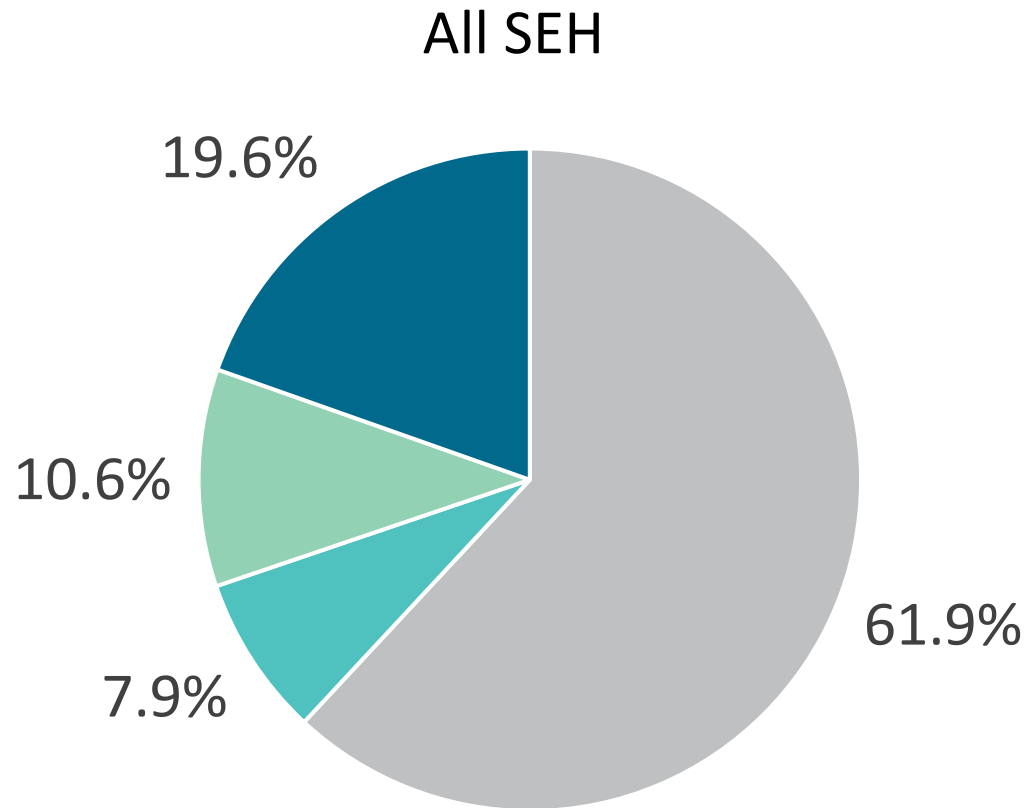


## School Year 2021-22

- 28 LEAs (school districts) identified SEH = 52%
- 26 LEAs did not report or identify SEH = 48%
- Note: Gray LEAs had fewer than 10 students *identified* through McKinney-Vento

- Sources: U.S. Department of Education's *EDFacts* Initiative

# Statewide Primary Nighttime Residency: SY 2021-22



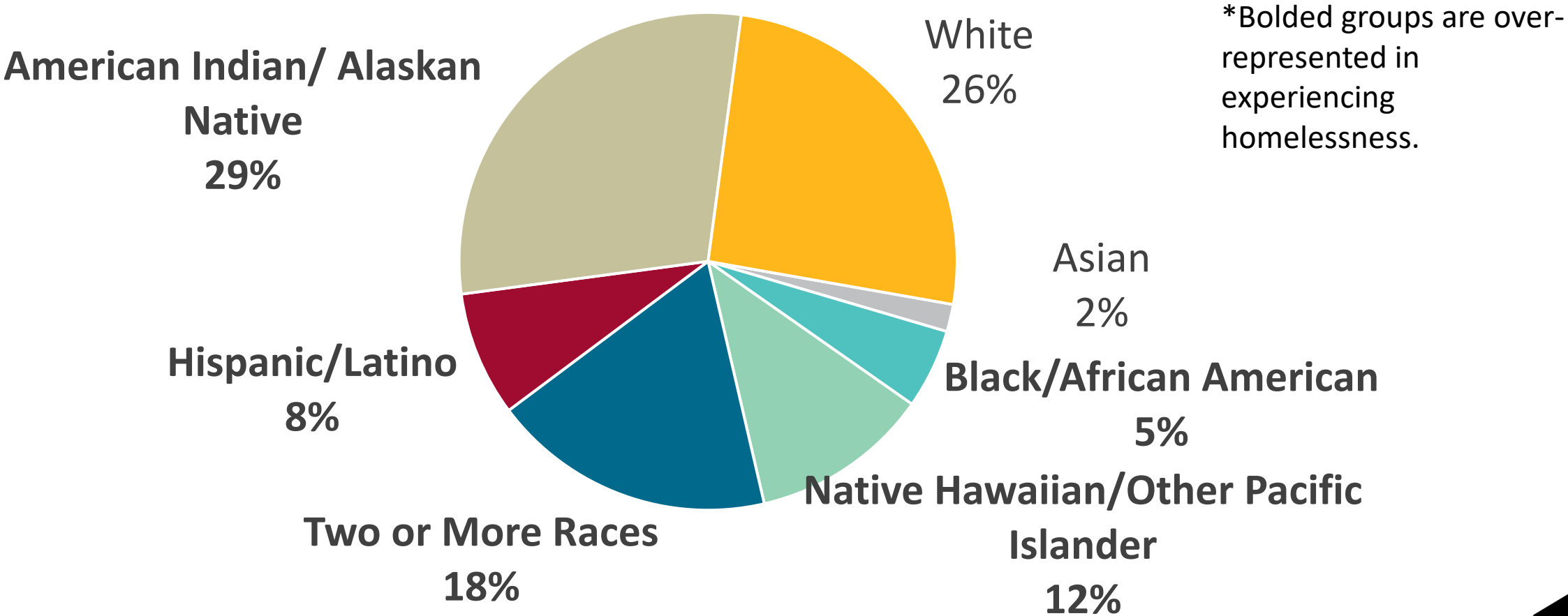
■ Doubled-up

■ Hotels/motels

■ Unsheltered

■ Shelters

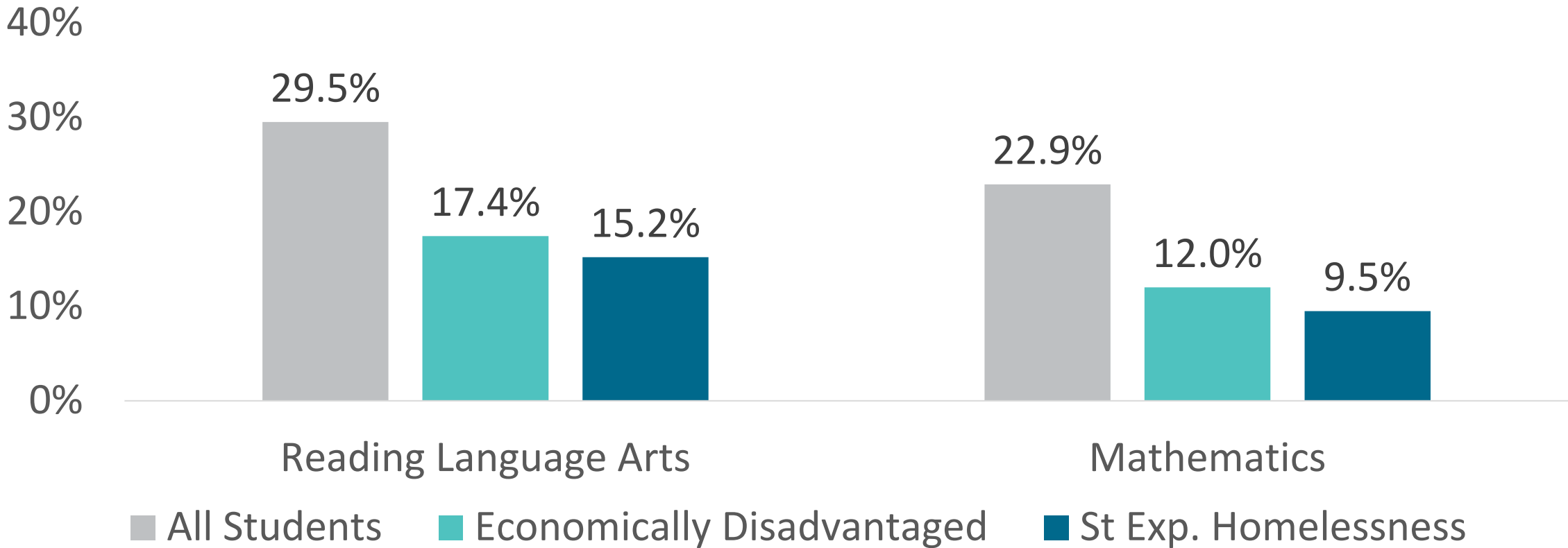
# Statewide Race/Ethnicity Percentages for Students Experiencing Homelessness: SY 2021-22



Source: U.S. Department of Education's *EDFacts* Initiative



# Statewide Academic Proficiency by Subject: SY 2021-22



Source: U.S. Department of Education's *EDFacts* Initiative & Alaska State Report Card



# Statewide Four-Year Adjusted Cohort (Started 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in the Same Year) Graduation Rate Trends by Subgroup

School year	All students	Economically disadvantaged students	Students who experienced homelessness
2021-22	77.9%	70.3%	58.8%
2020-21	78.1%	69.8%	50.8%
2019-20	79.0%	72.3%	58.4%



# Funding Programming for Students Experiencing Homelessness to Participate Fully in Education

# Funding Sources for HCY

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- State and local education funds
- Community partners and foundations
- Federal funds
  - Title I-A set aside
  - McKinney-Vento subgrant
  - American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)



# ARP-HCY

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- ARP Homeless funds supplement the EHCY program and expand the number of LEA grantees through a formula for distribution
- Any activity allowable under the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program in section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is also allowable under the ARP-HCY program.



# Additional Resources Regarding Funding

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- NCHE's *Use of Funds Tip Sheet for Subgrants Serving Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness*

<https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/use-of-funds-tip-sheet.pdf>

- McKinney-Vento Act, Authorized Activities <https://nche.ed.gov/mv-auth-activities/>

- NCHE (September 2023). Chapter 7: Managing McKinney-Vento Subgrants. *State Coordinators Handbook*. <https://nche.ed.gov/state-coordinator-handbook/>

# **Duties of Local McKinney-Vento Liaisons**

# Local Liaison Duties

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- Ensure SEH (students experiencing homelessness) are identified in coordination with others
- Ensure immediate enrollment & access to services
- Provide information about rights & opportunities
  - Includes meaningful opportunities for parents to participate in their children's education
  - Includes transportation, school meals, & other programs
- Ensure disputes are mediated
- May affirm for Housing and Urban Development programs that SEH meet McKinney-Vento eligibility criteria

# Local Liaison Duties

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- Support unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) in school selection & dispute resolution
- Ensure UHY are provided verification of their status for FAFSA purposes
- Provide training & other support for school personnel
- Provide referrals to services in the community
- Collaborate & coordinate services with State Coordinators, community and school personnel
  - Includes collecting & reporting data

Local Liaison Toolkit: <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Local-Liaison-Toolkit-2020.pdf>

# NCHE Resources

## Determining Eligibility Flow Chart

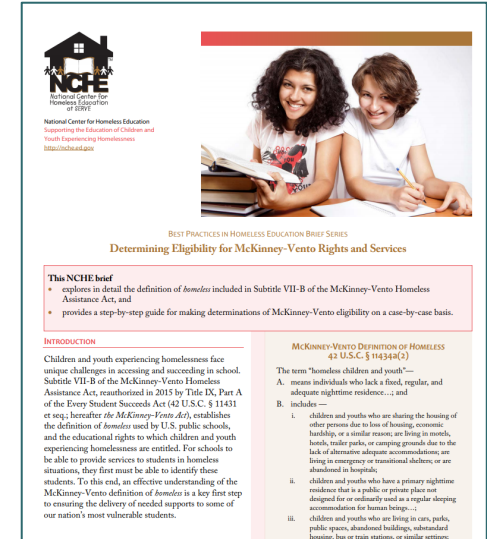
- <https://ncche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCHE-Eligibility-Flowchart.pdf>

## NCHE Resource Page for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- <https://ncche.ed.gov/unaccompanied-youth/>

## Homeless Liaison Toolkit – Appendix 9.A UHY Flow Chart

- <https://ncche.ed.gov/homeless-liaison-toolkit/>



Questions?

# Contact Us with Follow-Up Questions

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# **Additional Slides Regarding Local Liaisons**



# Requirement to Remove Barriers

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States and school districts must **develop, review, and revise policies**

- To remove barriers to the school identification, enrollment and retention of McKinney-Vento students
- Includes barriers due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(I)

Question A-4 of EHCY Non-Regulatory Guidance provides the following information on ensuring homeless students have equal access to public education

- Review of policy and practices is a broad, ongoing requirement
- Reviews should include input from parents, students, and advocates
- Should include review of discipline policies that disproportionately impact homeless students
- <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/160240ehcyguidanceupdated082718.pdf>

# Immediate Enrollment

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*Enroll* and *enrollment* includes “attending classes & participating fully in school activities”

42 U.S.C. § 11434a(1)

Enrollment must be immediate

- Even if students lack school, medical, or other records normally required
- Even if enrollment or application deadlines were missed while homeless
- Even if the student has history of absences or outstanding fines/fees

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(i)



# School Selection

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## Option 1: School of origin

- Defined as the school the students attended when permanently housed or the school the students last attended
- Includes public preschools
- Includes receiving schools

## Option 2: Local attendance area school

- Includes any public school that non-homeless students living in the same location have the right to attend

# School Selection

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Can remain in the school of origin

- For the duration of the homelessness
- Until the end of the school year in which the student obtains housing
- If the student becomes homeless over the summer & is still homeless at start of school year

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(II)

Decisions are based on the individual student's best interest

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)



# Best Interest

- School of origin is presumed to be in student's best interest
  - Unless this is contrary to parent or UHY's wishes
- Consider student-centered factors
  - Impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, & safety



42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(B)

- US ED encourages consideration of sibling school placement

Question I-3, EHCY Non-Regulatory Guidance

# Dispute Resolution

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- Disputes may be over: eligibility, school selection, or enrollment
- If enrollment is denied, a written statement must be given explaining the reason and appeal process
  - Provided in a format and language the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied homeless youth can understand
- The parent/student must be immediately referred to the liaison
- Students must be enrolled and receive services while a dispute is mediated

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(E)



# Transportation

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HCY are eligible for transportation to the school of origin

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)

Right to transportation extends

- For the duration of the homelessness or
- Until the end of the school year in which they obtain housing

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(A)(2)

Transportation should be comparable to what others receive

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(4)(A)



# Transportation

Districts can split the cost & responsibility

- Can use a common agreement
- If can't come to agreement, then the split is 50-50

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)

Can use the following to cover **excess** cost:

- MV funds
- Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds

42 U.S.C. §11433(d)(5) and 20 U.S.C. § 6313(c)(3)(C)(ii)