

Students Experiencing Homelessness in Chicago Public Schools

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) reports that 16,451 students experienced homelessness during the 2018-2019 academic year. Of those, 8,250 homeless students, or roughly half, were concentrated in ten wards on the south and west sides of Chicago. These ten wards each reported more than 600 homeless students, and another 23 wards reported between 100 and 600 homeless students.

Current federal resources fall short of meeting the housing needs of the more than 86,000 Chicagoans that annually experience homelessness. In the case of homeless CPS students, almost none receive housing assistance from HUD. Roughly 90% of homeless CPS students are temporarily sharing housing due to a loss of their own housing. This form of homelessness, often called “doubled-up,” is not recognized by HUD and therefore the vast majority of CPS students cannot access federal programs to provide housing for people experiencing homelessness.

If Chicago had a locally generated funding stream for homelessness, the city would not be bound by HUD’s definition of homelessness and could provide housing resources for all homeless students and their families.

TOP 10 WARDS WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBERS OF HOMELESS CPS STUDENTS

WARD	NUMBER OF HOMELESS STUDENTS
20 nd (Taylor)	1,078
24 th (Scott Jr.)	1,028
28 th (Ervin)	976
27 th (Burnett)	865
8 th (Harris)	829
3 rd (Dowell)	783
34 th (Austin)	743
6 th (Sawyer)	688
16 th (Coleman)	658
21 th (Brookins)	602

TOP 10 WARDS WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF HOMELESS STUDENTS AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL CPS STUDENTS IN WARD

WARD	PERCENT OF STUDENTS HOMELESS
42 nd (Reilly)	18.6%
6 th (Sawyer)	12.8%
24 th (Scott Jr.)	12.7%
37 th (Mitts)	12.4%
34 th (Austin)	11.8%
20 th (Taylor)	11.6%
8 th (Harris)	11.5%
28 th (Ervin)	10.7%
16 th (Coleman)	10.7%
3 rd (Dowell)	9.8%

BRING CHICAGO HOME

A coalition comprised of people experiencing homelessness and community, policy and direct-service organizations dedicated to addressing homelessness in Chicago.

WARD	TOTAL STUDENTS	TOTAL HOMELESS	PERCENT HOMELESS
1	9,062	259	2.9%
2	3,833	93	2.4%
3	7,969	783	9.8%
4	9,682	347	3.6%
5	5,517	335	6.1%
6	5,356	688	12.8%
7	4,709	404	8.6%
8	7,204	829	11.5%
9	7,728	516	6.7%
10	8,391	262	3.1%
11	4,942	121	2.4%
12	9,310	181	1.9%
13	8,528	24	0.3%
14	17,666	165	0.9%
15	9,144	161	1.8%
16	6,175	658	10.7%
17	7,137	533	7.5%
18	7,345	285	3.9%
19	6,291	62	1.0%
20	9,268	1078	11.6%
21	8,677	602	6.9%
22	9,984	126	1.3%
23	5,805	98	1.7%
24	8,116	1028	12.7%
25	9,752	190	1.9%
26	7,201	366	5.1%
27	14,055	865	6.2%
28	9,084	976	10.7%
29	6,440	359	5.6%
30	6,889	124	1.8%
31	3,899	87	2.2%
32	5,140	45	0.9%
33	6,304	87	1.4%
34	6,277	743	11.8%
35	6,129	78	1.3%
36	11,955	197	1.6%
37	3,552	442	12.4%
38	5,529	0	0.0%
39	8,047	12	0.1%
40	7,160	83	1.2%
41	9,909	42	0.4%
42	1,823	339	18.6%
43	5,477	33	0.6%
44	3,341	46	1.4%
45	7,102	116	1.6%
46	3,605	243	6.7%
47	11,060	67	0.6%
48	5,263	30	0.6%
49	4,297	183	4.3%
50	4,602	14	0.3%