



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

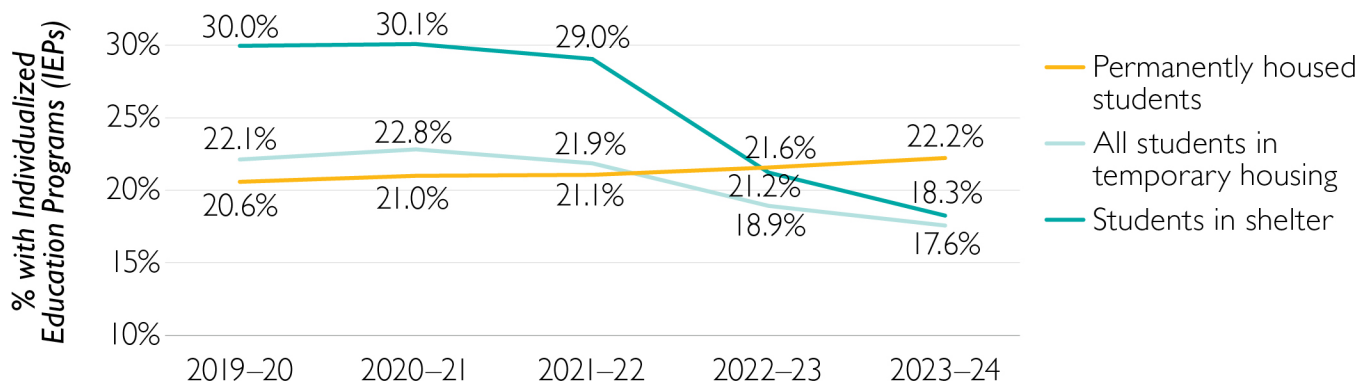
EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 2023–24

*This brief summarizes data on a subset of the more than 146,000 New York City students who were identified as homeless during the 2023–24 school year.**

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

As in prior school years, homelessness disproportionately impacted students of color in New York City in 2023–24: **87% of all students in temporary housing and 93% of those in shelter were Black or Hispanic, as compared to 58% of permanently housed students.** Students experiencing homelessness were also disproportionately likely to be learning English as a new language: 44% of students who were homeless in 2023–24 were English Language Learners (ELLs).

Historically, students in temporary housing—and particularly those in shelter—were classified as having disabilities at higher rates than their permanently housed peers. This pattern reversed in 2022–23, when students experiencing homelessness were *less* likely than students in permanent housing to have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and the reversal persisted the following year. While the percentage of permanently housed students who had IEPs increased slightly in 2023–24, relative to the prior school year, the special education classification rate for students who were homeless fell by 1.3 percentage points.

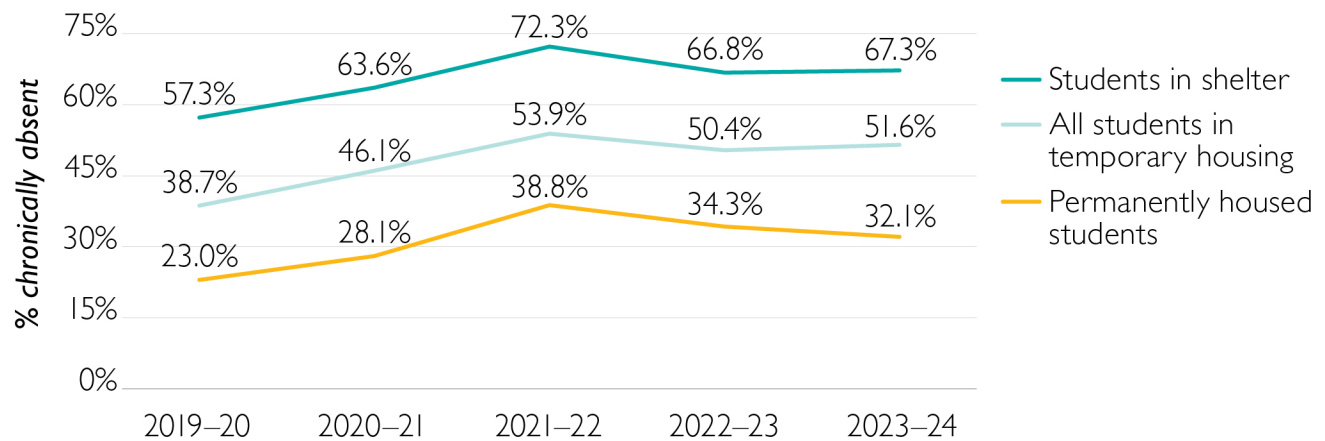


* The federal McKinney-Vento Act defines students experiencing homelessness as those who lack a nighttime residence that is fixed, adequate, and regular, and includes students living in shelters and students living in temporary doubled-up situations; the terms “students experiencing homelessness” and “students in temporary housing” are used interchangeably. All data in this brief were obtained from New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) by Advocates for Children of New York (AFC) and include 131,351 students identified as homeless during the 2023–24 school year, of whom 44% (more than 57,000 children) spent time living in City shelters. Students attending charter schools are not included.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

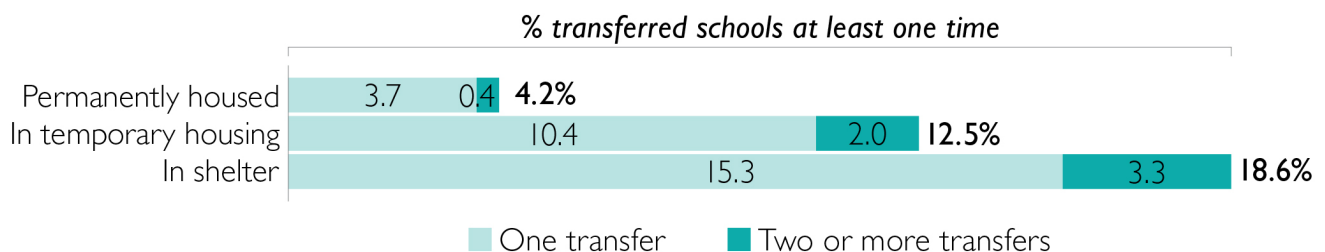
Students experiencing homelessness—and especially those living in shelter—continued to have extraordinarily high rates of absenteeism in 2023–24. The overall attendance rate for permanently housed students (90%) was five percentage points higher than that for all students in temporary housing (85%) and ten points higher than the attendance rate of students in shelter (80%).

In addition, **more than half of all students in temporary housing (52%) and two out of three students in shelter (67%) were chronically absent**, meaning they missed at least one out of every ten school days. Both rates represented a slight increase over the prior school year. By comparison, 32% of students in permanent housing were chronically absent in 2023–24, a decline of two percentage points from the year before.



SCHOOL TRANSFERS

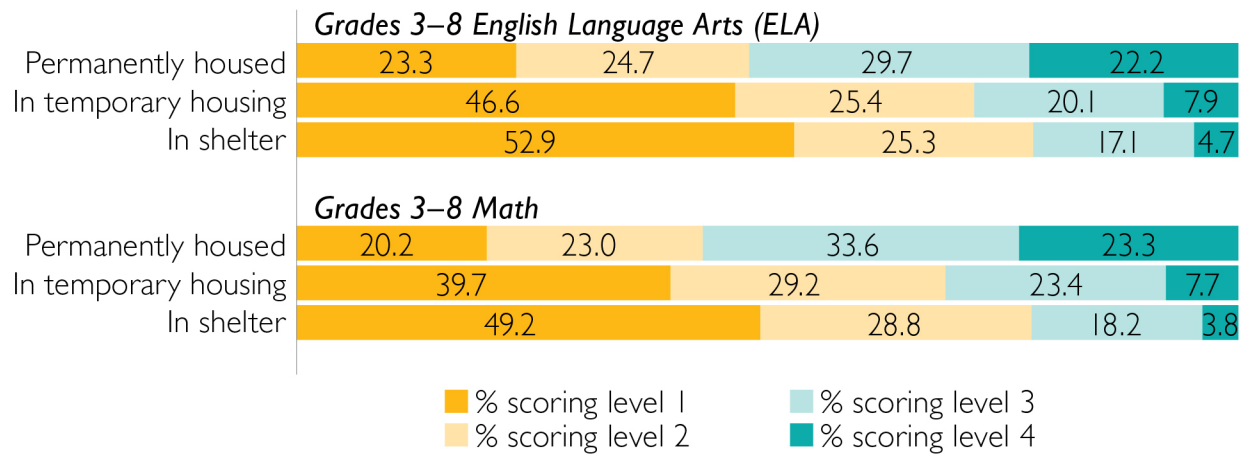
Students who are homeless are less likely than their permanently housed peers to maintain school stability. **One in every eight students in temporary housing—and more than one in six students living in shelter—transferred schools at least once during the 2023–24 school year.** By comparison, only about one in 24 permanently housed students changed schools mid-year. Thirty percent of *all* students who transferred schools two or more times in 2023–24 were students in shelter, who made up only 6% of the total student population.



READING & MATH PROFICIENCY

Only 22% of students in shelter in grades 3–8 scored proficient (level 3 or 4) on each of the 2024 New York State English Language Arts (ELA) and math exams. In both subjects, these proficiency rates were less than half those of permanently housed students, 52% of whom were proficient in reading and 57% of whom scored proficient in math.

Over half of all students in shelter who took the ELA exam in 2024 received the lowest score (level 1), suggesting that they were reading *significantly* below grade level. Similarly, 49% of third through eighth graders in shelter scored level 1 in math.



HIGH SCHOOL OUTCOMES

The four-year high school graduation rate for students in temporary housing was 13 percentage points lower than that for permanently housed students in 2024, while the dropout rate for students experiencing homelessness was more than double that of their peers in permanent housing. **Outcomes were particularly bleak for students in shelter, one in eight of whom dropped out—more than three times the dropout rate of permanently housed students—and only 62% of whom graduated high school on time.**

