

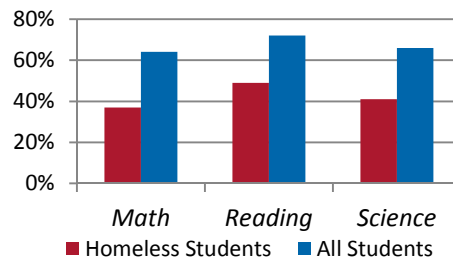
### The number of homeless students is rapidly rising

**32,494** WA students are homeless, **up 93% since 2006-07**. **Instability at home hurts homeless students' ability to learn.** Each time a student moves to a new school, he or she loses between 4-6 months of academic progress.

### Homeless Students Struggle to Learn

**Only 38%** of homeless students are proficient in math, versus 64% among their housed peers. **This learning gap extends across all subjects, including reading and science.**

The Learning Gap: Proficiency by Subject



**Only 45.1%** of homeless students graduated in the class of 2013, compared to 78% among their housed peers. **2,283 homeless seniors did not get to walk across the graduation stage.**

## The Homeless Student Stability Act (HB 1682 / SB 5065)

The Washington State Constitution requires that all students have an equal opportunity to receive a basic education, but homeless students lack this opportunity due to outside barriers. **"The Legislature should pass a bill to help provide homeless students with guidance and housing."** *Seattle Times editorial supporting HSSA, March 20, 2015.*

**A HSSA proviso would cost only \$1 million/year (\$2m for the bienn.) to serve thousands of students. The House budget fully funds HSSA.**

**Educational Stability:** Federal law requires school districts to designate a homeless student liaison to connect families with resources like transportation. Liaisons meet a pressing need, and are often successful in getting kids to continue their education when they have the resources to do so. Yet, **only 8% of districts receive funding** for liaisons. This greatly limits their capacity to carry out this work. **Some liaisons serve a caseload of hundreds of homeless students in addition to their other job duties.**

The HSSA proviso provides a framework to increase homeless student support through a competitive grant process for school districts to pilot increased identification of homeless students and the district's capacity to provide services and support.

**Housing partnership grant program:** Existing school-housing partnerships have increased attendance and reading scores among homeless students but are not widely available. The HSSA proviso creates a framework for a grant program linking homeless students and their families with stable housing located in the student's school district. Partnerships will be data-driven and targeted to improve stability and academic performance of homeless students.

### The Homeless Student Stability Act has overwhelming bipartisan support

The House voted 84-16 in support of HB 1682. SB 5065 received **unanimous** Republican support in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 committee.

**Supporters of HSSA:** Building Changes, Catholic Community Services, Children's Alliance, Church Council of Greater Seattle, Faith Action Network, Firesteel, Housing Alliance, League of Education Voters, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, State Poverty Action Network, and the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance.