

Project Connect

Project Connect is the Cincinnati Public School program serving children and youth experiencing homelessness



PREPARING STUDENTS
FOR LIFE

**ARMY
WEST POINT**



ISAIAH
WALNUT HILLS, CLASS OF 2023

McKinney Vento Law

- Federal Program
- McKinney Vento Act-1987
- Reauthorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015
- Reduce equity gaps for students identified as experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth

Founded in 1996, Project Connect is a team of educators, social workers and counselors dedicated to identifying and removing educational barriers for children and families experiencing housing instability



Who we Serve



PREPARING STUDENTS
FOR LIFE

KHARI
SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER, ROTHENBERG

Who is Eligible?

HUD vs McKinney Vento

Unaccompanied Youth

Students not in the care of a parent or legal guardian

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.



Shelters/Transitional Housing

Domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, youth shelters, trailers provided by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), housing paid for by programs such as transitional housing, etc.



Hotels/Motels

Staying in motels/hotels due to lack of adequate alternatives, regardless of who pays for the motel/hotel room.



Staying with others

Staying with other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.



Unsheltered

Staying in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

Learn More:

www.LetsEducateEveryChild.org

Impact on Education

- Students with disabilities represent 20% of all homeless students, compared to 15% of the overall student population.
- Academic achievement in elementary school is slowed during periods of homelessness and housing instability
- The achievement gaps between homeless and low-income elementary students tend to persist, and may even worsen, over time
- The 2019-2020 national average graduation rate for homeless students was 68.2%. This is 13 percentage points below other low-income students (81.3%) and nearly 18 percentage points below all students (86.5%).
- Homelessness is associated with **an 87% increased likelihood of dropping out of school**

**Information from SchoolHouse Connections*



Services Provided



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ELANA
CLARK MONTESSORI, CLASS OF 2023

Project Connect Resource Center

2120 Vine St
9:00am-3:00pm
M-F

- Uniform Items, clothing
- Shoes
- Backpacks, school supplies
- Hygiene Kits
- Coats
- Food boxes
- Laundry kits
- Metro passes

Additional Services

- Advocacy and awareness of educational rights
- Enrollment assistance
- Surrogacy services
- Transportation to school of origin
- Direct referral processes for resources including food and housing
- Wifi access/hotspots
- Wellness screenings
- Enrichment programming
- Order Ahead food program
- Emergency housing of up to 3 days
- CMHA priority voucher referrals



Enrichment Programming

- STEAM lab
- Kaleidoscope
- Social Emotional Learning groups
- Women Writing for a Change/Word Play
- Shelter tutoring
- 6 week summer academic and enrichment program K-8
- Wellness on Wheels
- Parent programming/groups
- Multi language learner (MLL) tutoring



What Does the Data Say?

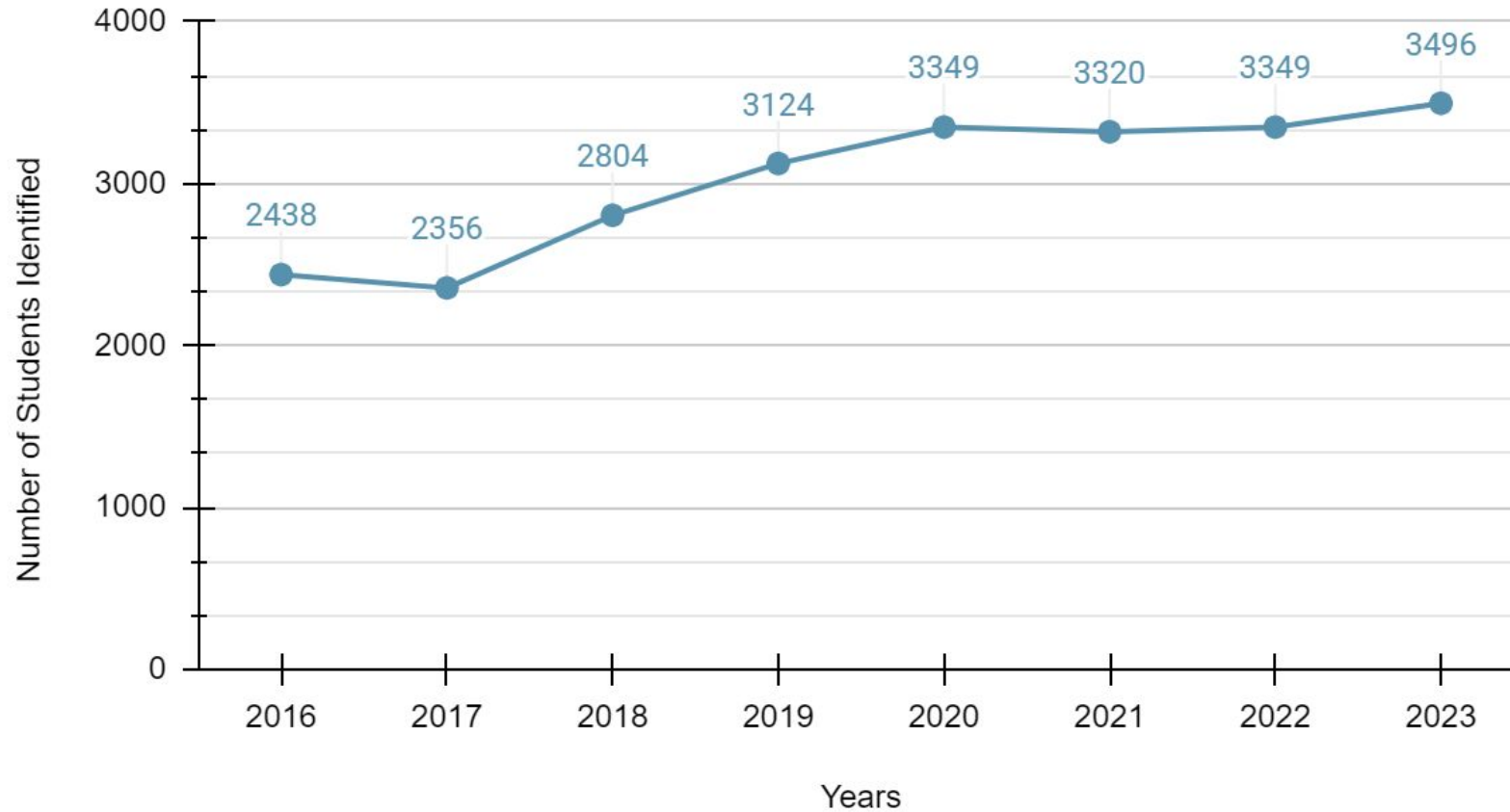


2022-23 Data

- 3496 CPS students identified
- 910 Students residing in family shelters
- 241 Youth residing in the Lighthouse shelter programs
- 165 Students residing in hotels/motels
- 425 Unaccompanied youth
- 175 Unsheltered/Substandard housing

Homelessness is on the rise

CPS Homeless Identification



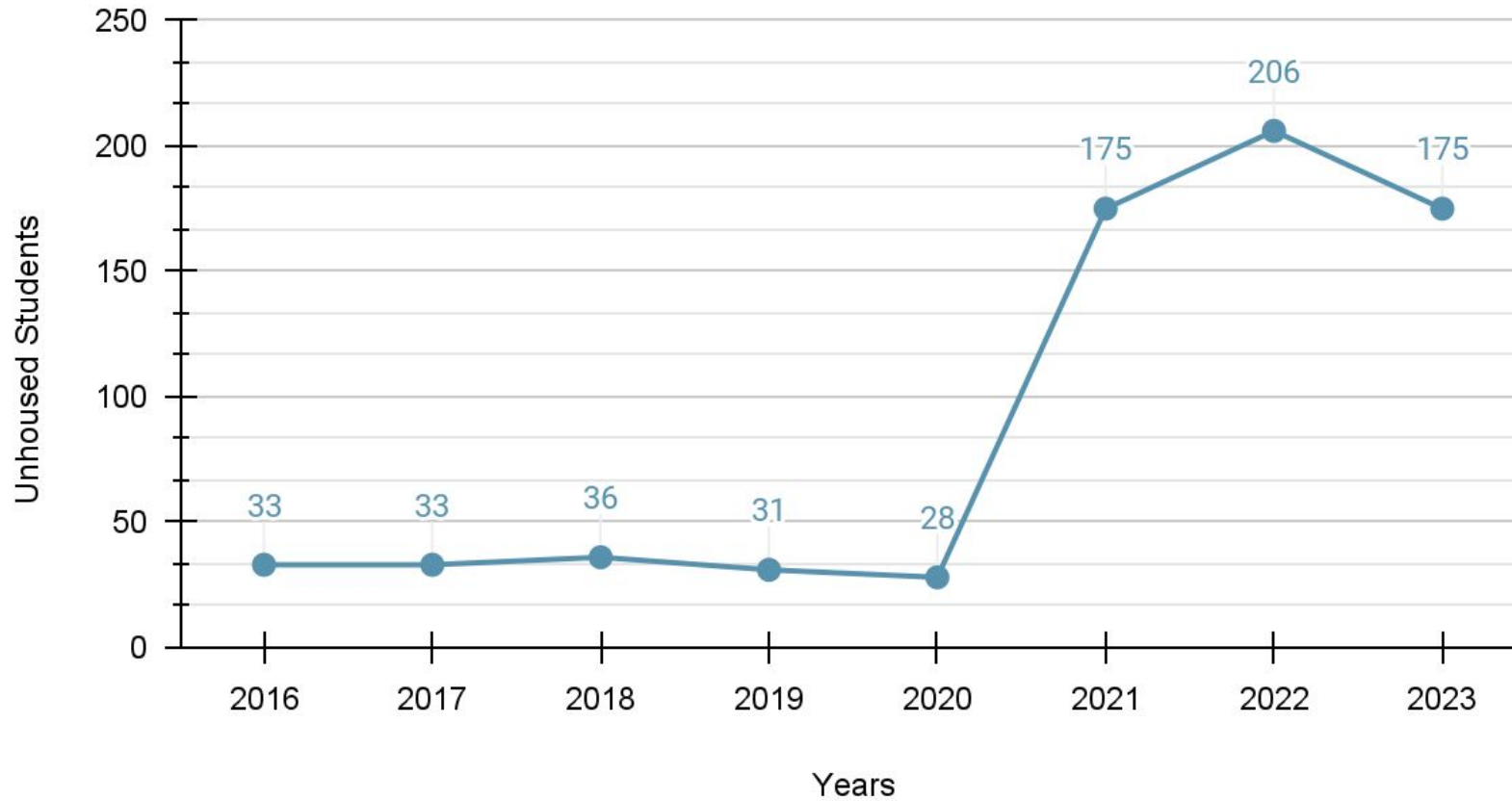
Housing Trends

- Lack of affordable housing
- Cincinnati has the 2nd highest growing housing market in the country
- Less turnover in shelter: average stay used to be 30 days and is now 90 days
- Increase in displacement due to domestic violence
- Lack of livable wages
- Immigration policies separating children and parents



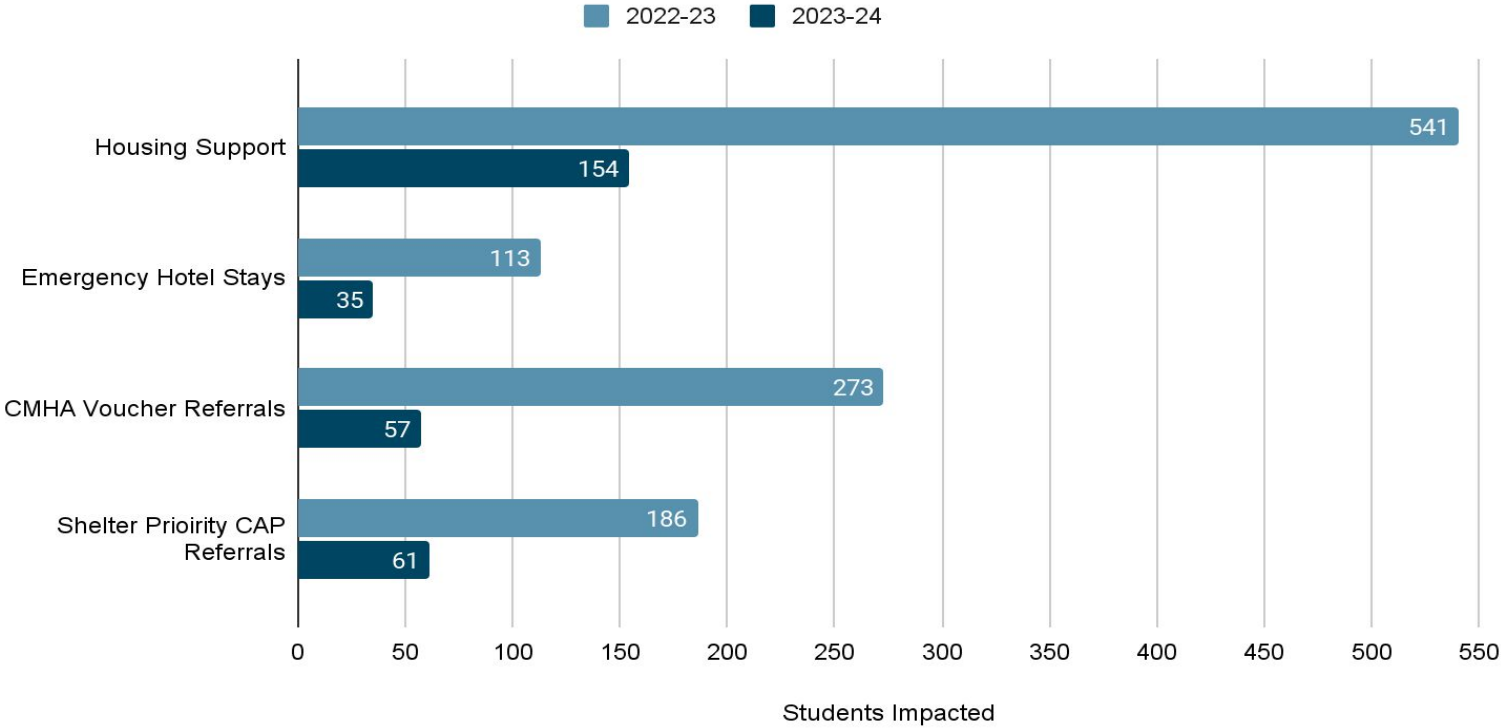
Housing Trends

Unsheltered Students/Substandard Living



Projection for Increased Housing Needs 2023-24

Housing and Shelter Support



Referring to Project Connect



Cincinnati Public Schools

Academic Achievement • Personal Well-Being • Career Readiness

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CPS' Board of Education meets at 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 4. Find information to join here.

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Project Connect

Adult Education

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Student Records

Customer Care Center

Student Records

Project Connect

Community Learning Centers

Veterans' Diplomas

Children account for the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

While families and shelters work to fulfill the basic human needs — food, clothing and shelter — the educational needs of children experiencing homelessness are often pushed aside.

Founded in 1996, Project Connect provides advocacy paired with specialized educational services and lifestyle enrichment opportunities for children who have neither a voice, nor a choice, in being homeless. Cincinnati Public Schools serves about 1,700 students whose families are homeless.



FILL OUT OUR CONTACT FORM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

https://www.cps-k12.org/projectconnect



Contact Us

Main Line: (513) 363-6570

Fax: (513) 363-6575

Main Office: 2120 Vine Street

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202



Additional Resources

[SchoolHouse Connection](#)

[National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth \(NAEHCY\)](#)

[National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\)](#)



AMAZING FUTURES IN THE MAKING.



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