



Homeless Youth Awareness Month:

Increase awareness, advocate, and educate on behalf of students experiencing homelessness

October 12, 2023





Welcome from the California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC)



About the HETAC

- The Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC)
 - Is funded by the California Department of Education to serve as the state's homeless education technical assistance center
 - Is operated jointly by the Contra Costa, Los Angeles, and San Diego County Offices of Education
- Learn more at hetac.org

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Logistics

- The webinar is being **recorded** and will be posted at hetac.org
- All attendees are **muted**
- Attendees may turn on or disable **closed captioning**
- Please use **chat** to submit questions

About National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

- **November was first declared National Homeless Youth Awareness Month in 2007.**
- In support of the federal resolution recognizing November as NHYAM, many states, including California, have passed state resolutions recognizing the same.
- Many counties also recognize November as Homeless Awareness Month.



November is
**Homeless Youth
Awareness Month**

Why Is It Important?

- To **raise awareness** about homeless youth and the issues they face.
- To **educate others** about the educational rights and supports available for students experiencing homelessness.
- It is an opportunity to **spotlight the resources available** to support youth who are experiencing homelessness, who have runaway, or who are in crisis.

November is also National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM)

- NRPM is a **public awareness campaign** by the National Runaway Safeline designed to “shine a light” on the experiences of youth who have run away and youth who have experienced homelessness that too often remain invisible.
- Supported by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- National Runaway Safeline: 1-800-RUNAWAY



NRPM Resources

The National Runaway Safeline provides a variety of helpful resources for NRPM, including:

- Downloadable Toolkit
- Sample proclamations
- Outreach materials
- Social media graphics and messages



NRPM Resources

- National Events Flyer
- Greenlight Project
- Education Week Graphics
- Visit the NRS National Runaway Prevention Month webpage to learn more



The flyer is titled "NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH" with a lightbulb icon. It lists several events for November 2023, including a Social Media Blast, Light the Night, National Resource Day, a Social Media Live Chat, Education Week, a Lunch & Learn Series, and Wear Green Day. It also includes a call to action to get involved and a website link.

NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH

#NRPM2023 NATIONAL EVENTS

SOCIAL MEDIA BLAST Nov. 1
Kick off NRPM by posting on social media! Find graphics, captions, and tips in the NRPM Social Media Toolkit. And remember to use #NRPM2023 to help users find NRPM content.

LIGHT THE NIGHT Nov. 17
Plan a special event to raise awareness of youth homelessness and engage individuals and communities in NRPM. Previous events have included resource fairs, sleep outs, candlelight ceremonies, open mic nights, walks, and more.

NATIONAL RESOURCE DAY Nov. 2
Use social media to spotlight critical resources, such as emergency shelters and substance use counseling services, in your community, showing youth and families how they can access support.

SOCIAL MEDIA LIVE CHAT Nov. 21
The National Runaway Safeline will host a Live Chat on Instagram and Threads at 3:00 PM ET / 2:00 PM CT to discuss topics related to youth homelessness. Follow along and participate @1800RUNAWAY and use the hashtag #NRPMChat. Registered partners will receive Chat questions in advance.

EDUCATION WEEK Nov. 6 - 10
All week, the National Runaway Safeline leads an online educational series to inform the public about runaway and homeless youth issues. NRS will post statistics, explore hot issues, offer resources, and touch upon the challenges of navigating different systems.

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES
The National Runaway Safeline will host three virtual Lunch and Learns covering timely topics related to runaway and homeless youth, such as the intersection of mental health and youth homelessness. Details, including dates, times, topics and speakers will be announced soon.

WEAR GREEN DAY Nov. 16
Dress in green and post pictures on social media with a message about your commitment to youth who have run away or are experiencing homelessness. Spark a friendly competition among co-workers, invite community leaders to join the fun, and dress your pets in your favorite shade of green!

**GET INVOLVED
TAKE ACTION
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

1800RUNAWAY.ORG/NRPM

New Resources from HETAC

- The California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC) and the California Department of Education (CDE) join with others in recognizing November 2023 as NHYAM.
- The following resources are available to help you be a part of bringing attention to this important matter.
- <https://www.hetac.org/resources/youth-awareness>





[ABOUT](#)

[STATUTES AND GUIDANCE](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[TRAINING AND EVENTS](#)

[GET HELP](#)



ABOUT NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH (NHYAM)



HETAC goes green for NHYAM





HETAC NHYAM Resource Webpage

- Sample Board Resolution
- Social Media and Zoom Resources
- Activities for Schools
- Book and Movie List
- Awareness Videos
- <https://www.hetac.org/resources/youth-awareness>

Board Resolution

- A board resolution can serve as a formal record of a board of director's recognition of November as Homeless Youth Awareness Month and any related steps the board has agreed to take or asks others to take in response.
- Tip: check on your LEA's board approval process to ensure the board resolution request is submitted in enough time to go through the approval process
- **HETAC Sample National Homeless Youth Awareness Month Board Resolution**


Raise Awareness – Media Messages










November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

1 in 30 youth ages 13 to 17 and 1 in 10 young adults ages 18 to 25 will experience some form of homelessness this year.

Visit hetac.org/resources/youth-awareness to learn more and help spread awareness.



Raise Awareness through Social Media

Portrait (branded)	Portrait (blank, for use with "did you know?" messages)	Square (branded)	Square (blank, for use with "did you know?" messages)	Landscape (branded)
<p>November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month</p> <p>1 in 30 youth ages 13 to 17 and 1 in 10 young adults ages 18 to 25 will experience some form of homelessness this year.</p> <p>Visit hetac.org/resources/youth-awareness to learn more and help spread awareness.</p>  	<p>November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month</p> <p>Visit hetac.org/resources/youth-awareness to learn more and help spread awareness.</p> 	<p>November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month</p> <p>1 in 30 youth ages 13 to 17 and 1 in 10 young adults ages 18 to 25 will experience some form of homelessness this year.</p> <p>Visit hetac.org/resources/youth-awareness to learn more and help spread awareness.</p>  	<p>November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month</p> <p>Visit hetac.org/resources/youth-awareness to learn more and help spread awareness.</p> 	<p>November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month</p> <p>Visit hetac.org/resources/youth-awareness to learn more and help spread awareness.</p> 

Download options:

Individual: Right-click the desired social media graphic click "Save link as...", and save the file to your computer in the desired location.

All: [Download all social media graphics as a .zip file](#)

Social Media Messages

Use “Did you know...?” statements – or write your own message

NHYAM and NRPM Social Media Messages (California Focus)

Did you know that California public schools enrolled more than 225,000 students experiencing homelessness in the 2020-2021 school year? #NHYAM #NRPM

Source: California Department of Education, [Homeless Youth in California Schools](#) (Quick Facts tab)

Did you know that students experiencing homelessness in California had a high school graduation rate of 72.9% in the 2021-2022 school year compared to 88.1% for all California students? #NHYAM #NRPM

Source: California Department of Education, [Homeless Youth in California Schools](#) (Data & Outcomes tab)

Did you know that students experiencing homelessness in California had a chronic absenteeism rate of 46.1% in the 2021-2022 school year compared to 29.4% for all California students? #NHYAM #NRPM

Source: California Department of Education, [Homeless Youth in California Schools](#) (Data & Outcomes tab)

Did you know that many youth experiencing homelessness in California will not access homeless response supports due to a severe shortage in youth-dedicated shelter beds? #NHYAM #NRPM

Source: California Homeless Youth Project, [You Count California Youth Homelessness Data Hub](#)



Zoom backgrounds

Zoom backgrounds

Light Background 1	Light Background 2	Dark Background 1	Dark Background 2
			

Download options:

Individual: Right-click the desired Zoom background, click "Save link as...", and save the file to your computer in the desired location.

All: [Download all Zoom backgrounds as a .zip file](#)

NOVEMBER 2023

National Homeless Youth Awareness Month (NHYAM) Sample Calendar of Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Learn about youth homelessness by reading the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness in America and share it with colleagues.	2 Use a HETAC NHYAM Zoom background in an upcoming Zoom meeting. For variety, switch up the Zoom backgrounds throughout the month.	3 Learn about family homelessness by reading the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Homeless Experiences of Parents Have a Lasting Impact on Children .	4
5	6 Use a HETAC NHYAM social media graphic to share about NHYAM on your social media outlet of choice. Encourage friends and colleagues to learn more.	7 Learn about data on education and homelessness by reviewing Chapin Hall's Missed Opportunities: Education Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America .	8 Get to know Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs in your area. Reach out to connect and learn about possible donation needs.	9 Learn key outreach and identification strategies by reading the HETAC's Identifying Students Without Stable Housing: A Critical First Step tip sheet.	10 Post homeless education posters in your school, district, or organization to generate greater awareness. See posters under sample materials on the HETAC website.	11
12	13 Get to know homeless shelters in your area. Reach out to connect and learn about possible donation needs. (Click "shelter", enter your zip code, and search.)	14 Learn more about the prevalence and needs of students experiencing homelessness by reviewing highlights from recent Youth Risk Behavior Surveys .	15 Use the HETAC School-Community Partner inventory to gather and organize information about local partners serving students and families experiencing homelessness.	16 Today is #WearGreenDay for National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM) . Wear green and share about it on social media using #WearGreenDay and #NRPM2023 .	17 Learn about the help available to youth through the California Coalition for Youth's CA Youth Crisis Line or the National Runaway Safeline . Share this information with youth in crisis.	18
19	20 Register for an upcoming HETAC webinar or National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) webinar to learn more about the education of students experiencing homelessness.	21 Check out the National Low Income Housing Coalition's Out of Reach webpage to learn about the cost of housing in your area and how it can contribute to homelessness.	22 Watch a brief video on youth or family homelessness from the HETAC awareness videos webpage and share it with colleagues.	23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Consider donating to or volunteering at a local food pantry feeding people in need. (Click "food pantries", enter your zip code, and search.)	24 POST-THANKSGIVING REST AND REFLECT Take time to rest and reflect on what you're grateful for and how you can share with others to help meet their needs.	25
26	27 Learn about basic needs insecurity among higher education students by reading one of The HOPE Center's briefs or reports .	28 Reach out to a college near you to learn about possible donations for students in need or consider donating to SchoolHouse Connection's Scholarship Program .	29 Choose a HETAC resource (tip sheet, archived webinar, or other resource) on a topic of interest to you to review and begin using in your work.	30 Use a HETAC NHYAM social media graphic to share about NHYAM on your social media outlet of choice. Encourage friends and colleagues to learn more.		



A California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC) Resource
Funded by the California Department of Education
[hetac.org](https://www.hetac.org)



Sample Calendar Activities

- **#WearGreenDay** for [National Runaway Prevention Month \(NRPM\)](#). Wear green and share about it on social media using #WearGreenDay and #NRPM2023.
- Watch a brief video on youth or family homelessness from the [HETAC awareness videos webpage](#) and share it with colleagues.
- Register for an upcoming [HETAC webinar](#) or [National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\) webinar](#) to learn more about the education of students experiencing homelessness.
- Consider donating to or volunteering at a [local food pantry](#) feeding people in need. (Click “food pantries”, enter your zip code, and search.)

Awareness Videos

View and share homelessness awareness videos on the California HETAC's [Awareness Videos resources webpage](#)

[HOME](#) > [RESOURCES](#) > [AWARENESS VIDEOS](#)

AWARENESS VIDEOS

RESOURCES

[16:49 - Sixteen Hours, Forty-nine Minutes](#)

16:49 is a 1-minute 30-second video produced by Project 16:49, a group of service providers and concerned citizens working to provide a safe and stable place for youth experiencing homelessness in Rock County, WI. This brief video explores the 16 hours and 49 minutes students experiencing homelessness must live through between the end of one school day and the beginning of the next. Featuring the experiences of Kayla, Cory, and Brandon, three unaccompanied homeless youth, 16:49 is a powerful look into the daily lives of some of our nation's most vulnerable young people.

[60 Minutes: The Hard Times Generation](#) | [60 Minutes: Families Living in Cars](#)

Host Scott Pelley takes a closer look at family and youth homelessness in Central Florida. Pelley profiles several different families in homeless situations, including a family doubling up with a neighbor, a family living in a motel, and a family living in a truck.

[View The Hard Times Generation \(Part 1\)](#) (14 mins)

[View Families Living in Cars \(Part 2\)](#) (14 mins)

[America's Promise Alliance: Don't Quit on Me Mini-documentary](#)

The 2-minute *Don't Quit on Me* mini-documentary examines, from the perspective of young people themselves, the important role that relationships with interested and supportive adults and peers play in decisions about staying in, leaving, and returning to high school.

[Education Week: Homeless Students In Their Own Words](#)

This 2-minute Education Week video features two students in the Kansas City, KS public school district as they share how support from their school has made a difference in their lives.

[HEAR US: Positively Homeless: Invisible Family Homelessness in America](#)

This 5-minute awareness video from HEAR US shares about the dynamics and struggles of family homelessness in America as shared by Nicole, a mom with school-age children who has stayed in her car and a hotel while experiencing homelessness after falling behind and being evicted in Michigan.

[View other HEAR US awareness videos](#)



Books and Movies About Homelessness

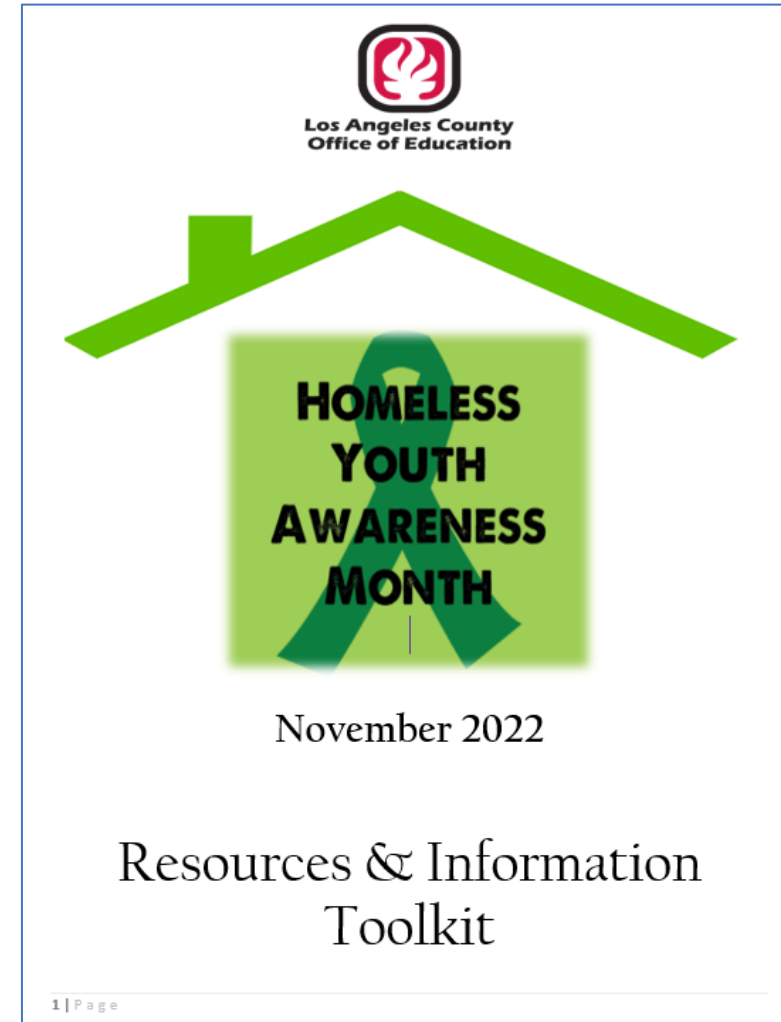


View other homelessness awareness videos on the California
[HETAC's Awareness Videos resources webpage](#)


Create an Awareness Toolkit

Include:

- Resources to connect students and families to services
- A calendar of events for November for school sites to engage in
- Resource links for books and videos



Youth Voice

The podcast cover features a white square on a dark teal background. Inside the square is a purple microphone icon with sound waves, flanked by the words 'LET'S' and 'TALK'. Above the icon is 'YOUTH VOICE' and below it is 'AMPLIFIED PODCAST'.

Podcast

Youth Voice Amplified

Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office

Follow ...

About

Join hosts Gennessa Fisher and Brian Johnson for this youth-led and youth-focused monthly interview series as they talk with young people about their life experiences with homelessness, foster care, disabilities, teen parenting, and more. Each conversation will uncover stories of hope and strength from youth storytellers who will share the best ways we can support youth in similar situations. If you want to know how to do better for youth or simply be inspired, this is your show! Every youth has a story to tell. Are you ready to listen?

<https://kern.org/yva/listen-to-episodes/>

Youth Voice Amplified is a youth-led podcast, where youth have overcome adversity share their stories of hope, strength & resilience.

The Youth Voice Amplified Podcast is a project under the Kern Co. HIP grant.

To learn more about Kern Co.'s Student Voice Model Innovative Practice (MIP) Toolkit, visit www.kern.org/hip/

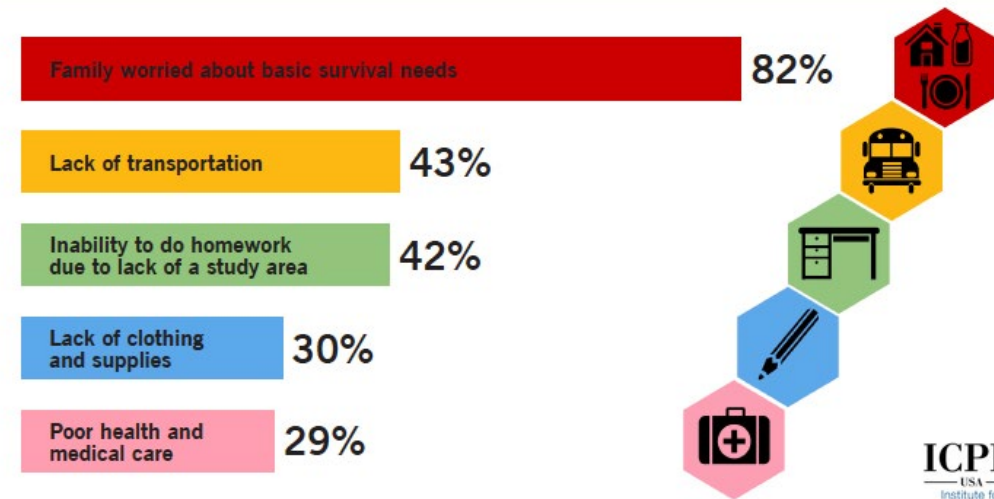


Use Infographics

- Use infographics to increase awareness of challenges homeless children face in attending school
- Use local data on youth homelessness to create Infographics to inform others.



The top challenges homeless children faced in attending school were:



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Policy and Program Studies Service, State and District Implementation of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, Washington, DC, 2015. Data reflects the 2010–11 school year.

ICPH
—USA—
Institute for
Children, Poverty
& Homelessness
www.ICPHusa.org

Share Homeless Student Data

Statewide data points from DataQuest's *Annual Enrollment* report:

- Homeless student enrollment **increased by 9 percent**, from 171,714 students in the 2021–22 school year to 187,298 students in the 2022–23 school year.
- That is **15,584 more students** identified as homeless.
- Despite the increase in homeless student enrollment, there was a drop in overall statewide enrollment by **1 percent (-39,696 students)**

DataQuest Annual Enrollment: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/edtop.asp>



NEW Homeless Youth Geographic Information System (GIS) Map

CDE's GIS map is now available:

- Can be found on the [Homeless Student Data](#) web page under the "GIS" tab.
- Provides access and information for the [Homeless Census Day Enrollment by School District Map](#).
- The data for this GIS map will reflect the same data seen in the Annual Enrollment report.
- <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sg/homelessyouth.asp>



Homeless Youth in California Schools

Information, resources, and educational outcomes for homeless youth.

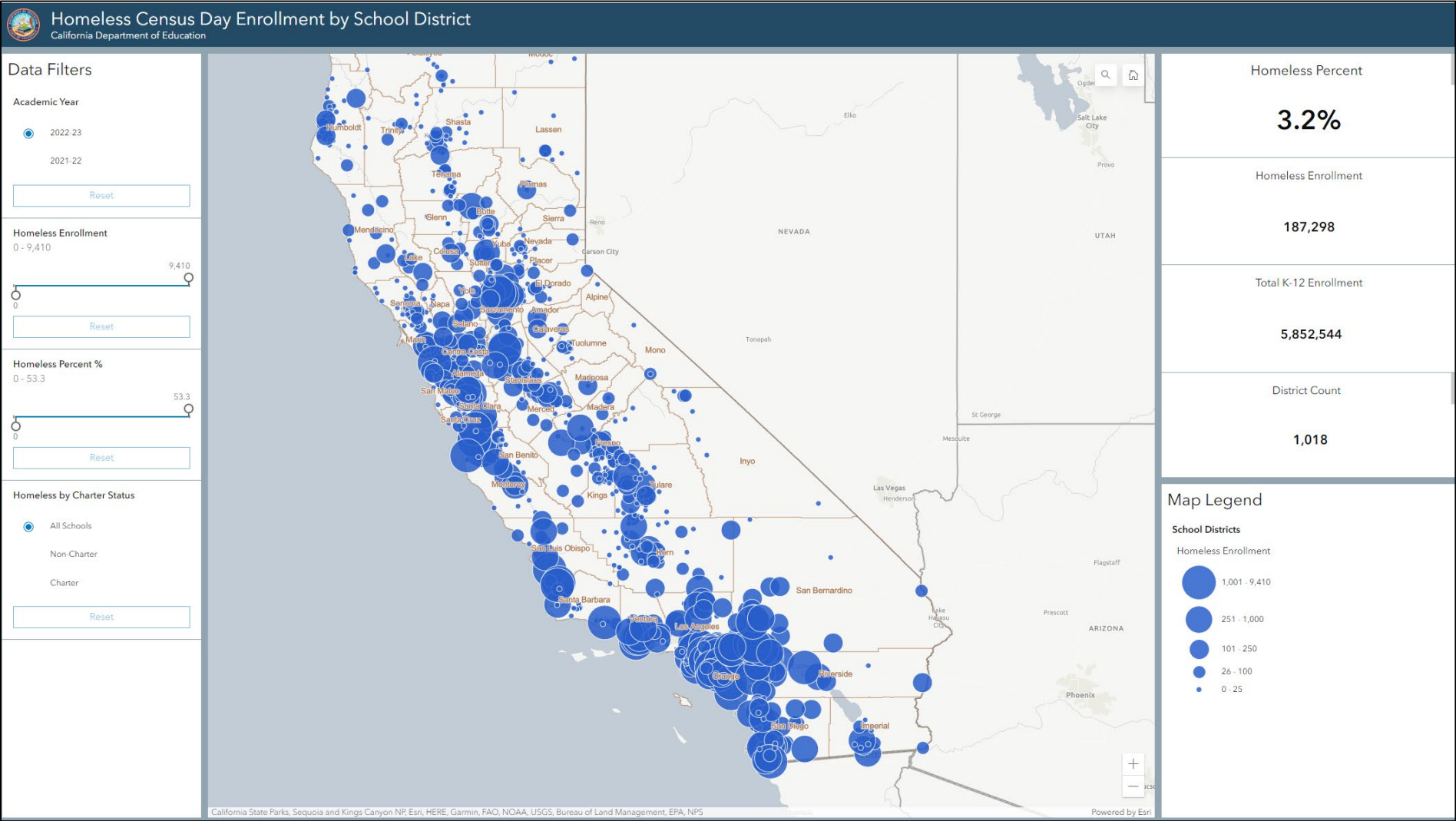
Homeless youth and students are a vulnerable population making up three percent of California's students (2022–23 Census data). This page contains the state level educational outcomes and enrollment data for the homeless youth population. Resources and frequently asked questions are also available to support local educational agencies, homeless liaisons, and homeless student advocates.



Homeless Education's Laws and Definitions

This tab provides information about the McKinney-Vento Act as well as terms related to the homeless student group population specific to the California Department of Education (CDE). For more information and resources for homeless children and youth, visit the CDE [Homeless Education](#) web page.

Census Day Homeless Student Enrollment By District

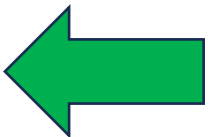
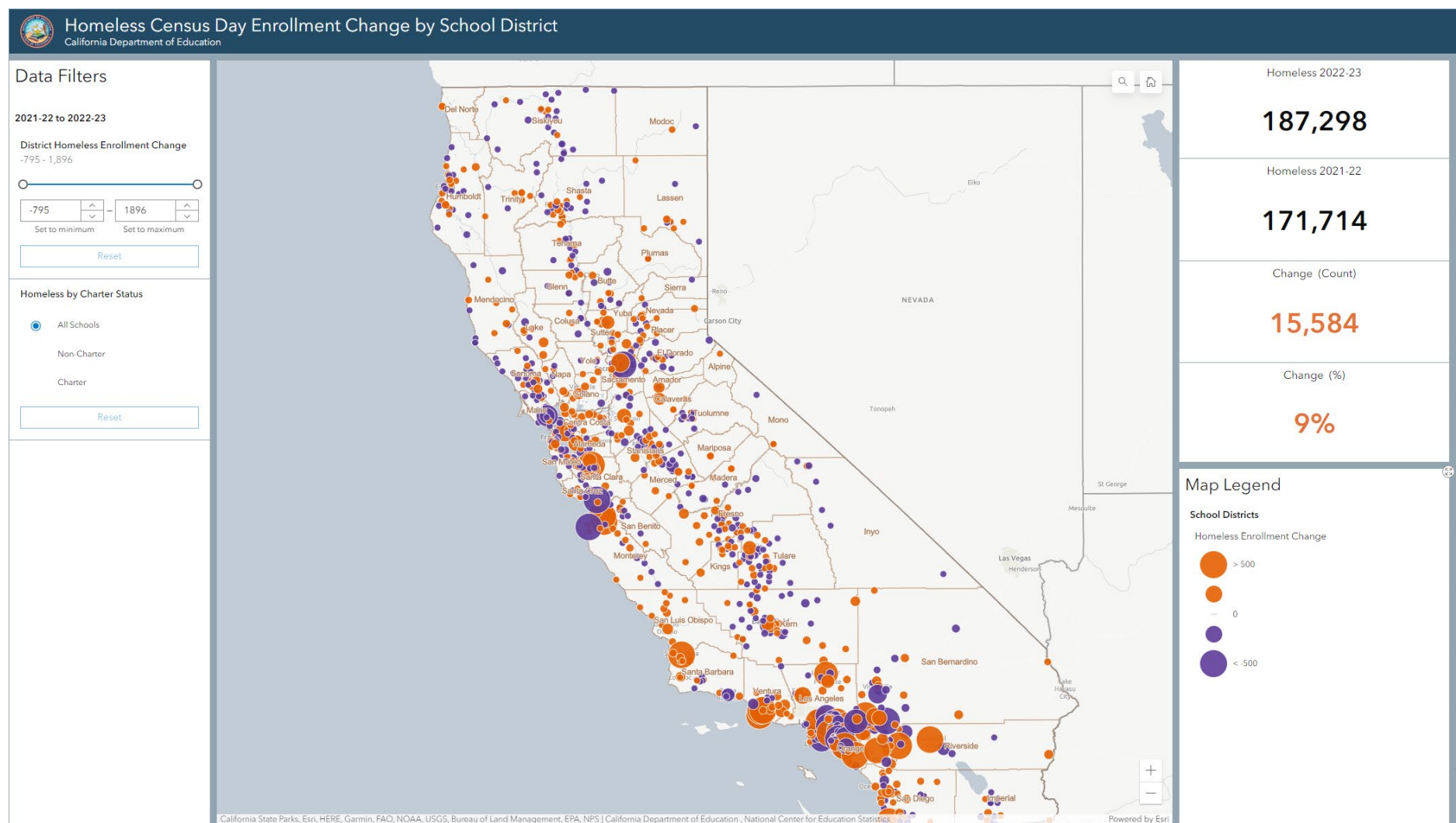


NEW Homeless Youth Geographic Information System (GIS) Map

How to find the Change Map:

- On the bottom left corner of the Homeless Census Day Enrollment by School District map, select the “Homeless Enrollment Change by District” tab.
- This change map displays the difference in homeless enrollment between the two most recent years of data.

Homeless Census Day Enrollment Change by District





District and School Site Activities

District or School Site Activities

- Work with your school district to create a National Homelessness Awareness Proclamation.
- Encourage school staff and student to wear green in honor of Homeless Youth Awareness Month.
- Create or **distribute bracelets** to raise awareness.
- Order **green ribbon stickers or green ribbon pins** to pass along to others to call attention to this important issue.
- Encourage staff, administrators, and students to participate in **Wear Green Day**.



School Site Activities

- Coordinate a drive for non-perishable food, backpacks, school supplies or hygiene items
- Create holiday food baskets to share with needy families
- “Sponsor” a family for the holidays for gifts
- Hold a Poetry or Essay Contest



Make Presentations

- School Board
- School Staff Meetings
- Parent Meetings



Provide Trainings and Resources

- National Center for Homeless Education [Self-paced online trainings](#)
- California Department of Education – Homeless Education [webinars](#)
- HETAC Recorded [webinars](#)
- SchoolHouse Connection [webinars](#)
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth [Webinars](#)





Community Activities

Presentations to the Community

- County Homeless Continuum of Care November meeting
- Local City Council
- Community-Based Organizations



Partner on local Homeless Awareness Activities

- Participate or co-host a community forum or video screening and panel discussion.
- Partner on cross-training events with homeless service providers.
- Host a food drive in collaboration with the local food bank or community organization.



CONTRA COSTA
HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS
MONTH COMMITTEE



Homelessness
Awareness Month
Community Forum

A Community Conversation on
Homelessness: Forum, November

California Department of Education Resources

- Check out the wealth of information that CDE has to offer on homeless education at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/>
- Post homeless education rights posters at schools sites, the district office, and in the community where students and families frequent to increase awareness.



You can ENROLL in school!

Even if you have:

- Uncertain housing
- A temporary address
- No permanent physical address

You are guaranteed enrollment in school by the federal McKinney-Vento Act and California state law if you live:

- In a house or apartment with more than one family due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- With friends or family because you are a runaway or an unaccompanied youth
- In substandard housing (without electricity, water, or heat)
- In a shelter (family, domestic violence, or youth shelter or transitional living program)
- In a motel, hotel, or weekly rate housing
- In an abandoned building, in a car, at a campground, or on the streets

You can enroll in school immediately even without the documents normally required for enrollment, such as:

- Proof of residency
- Immunization records or other required health records
- School records
- Legal guardianship papers

Your child may:

- Participate fully in all school activities and programs for which he/she is eligible.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin if you request it.
- Continue to attend the school in which he/she was last enrolled even if you have moved away from that school's attendance area.
- Qualify automatically for school nutrition programs.

Your responsibilities are to:

- Make sure your child gets to school on time and ready to learn.
- Stay informed of school rules, regulations, and activities.
- Contact the homeless liaison for assistance in removing barriers to your child's education.
- Attend parent/teacher conferences, Back-to-School Nights, and other school-related activities.

It is not a crime to live in one of the above situations and schools are here to assist you and your children with enrollment and appropriate services. This information will not be shared outside of the educational entity.

For questions about enrolling in school or for assistance with school enrollment, contact:

Your local school district homeless liaison:	Your county homeless liaison:	Your homeless state coordinator: Leanne Wheeler State Coordinator California Department of Education 1430 N Street, Suite 6408 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 1-866-856-8214

HSY-001 English 11/01 WEB

Other HY Awareness Month Resources

- [California Youth Crisis Line](#) (California Coalition for Youth)
- [Early Childhood Homelessness webpage](#) (SchoolHouse Connection)
- [Higher Education Homelessness webpage](#) (SchoolHouse Connection)
- [Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness in America](#) (Annie E. Casey Foundation)
- [The HOPE Center for College, Community, and Justice website](#) (The HOPE Center; focus: higher education basic needs insecurity)
- [Voices of Youth Count website](#) (Chapin Hall)
- [Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(YRBS\) Data on Student Homelessness webpage](#) (SchoolHouse Connection)

National Organizations



- A national membership association dedicated to educational excellence for children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Through state and federal policy and technical assistance, NAEHCY works to change systems so all children and youth can learn, succeed academically, and achieve their dreams.
- <http://www.naehcy.org/>



- A national organization promoting success for children and youth experiencing homelessness, from birth through higher education.
- Engages in strategic advocacy and provide technical assistance in partnership with early care and education professionals (including school district homeless liaisons and state homeless education coordinators), young people, service providers, advocates, and local communities.
- <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/>

Planning Tips

- Start planning early and get as many people involved as possible.
- Think about creative ways to publicize the month and raise awareness.
- Recruit partners!
- If you are planning events think about location and how many volunteers might be needed.

Homeless Youth Awareness Month Planning Sheet

BRAINSTORM

Week by Week Breakdown

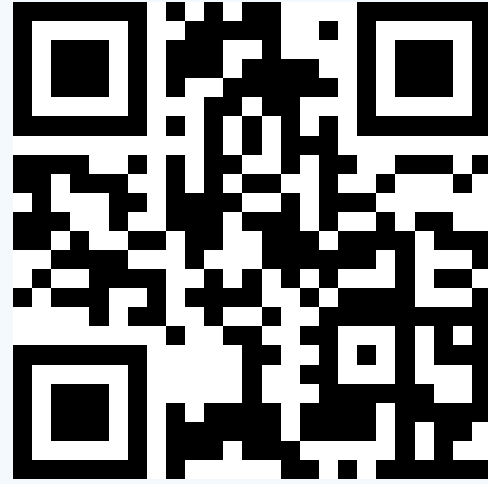
To Do List

Supplies

People to Contact

Other





Thank you for participating in a California HETAC technical assistance offering. Please take a few minutes to fill out this evaluation.

