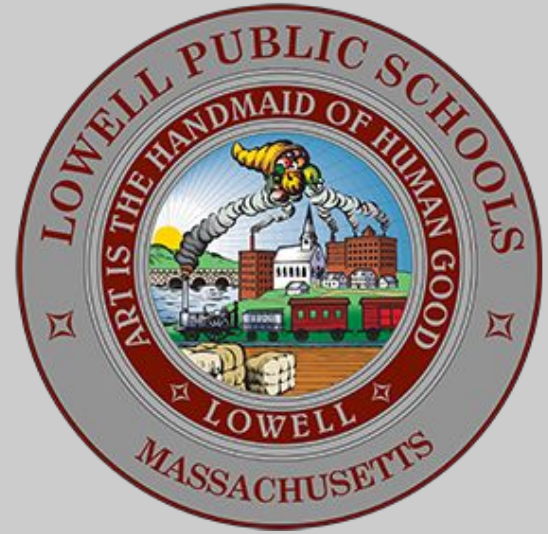


Homeless Education Policy and Foster Care Policy Proposal



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Every Students Succeeds Act



- In December 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law and replaced the No Child Left Behind Act.
- ESSA is a federal act that focuses on ensuring all students have access to equitable resources, along with high academic standards in order to drive their success in college and careers.
- ESSA reauthorized the McKinney-Vento Act in 2015 and made changes to the act impacting who are homeless, in foster care, or in migrant or military families.
- Full implementation of ESSA began in the 2017-2018 school year as required.
- Our current district policies need to be updated to reflect these changes that have already been implemented.

ESSA Created Separate Provisions for Foster Care

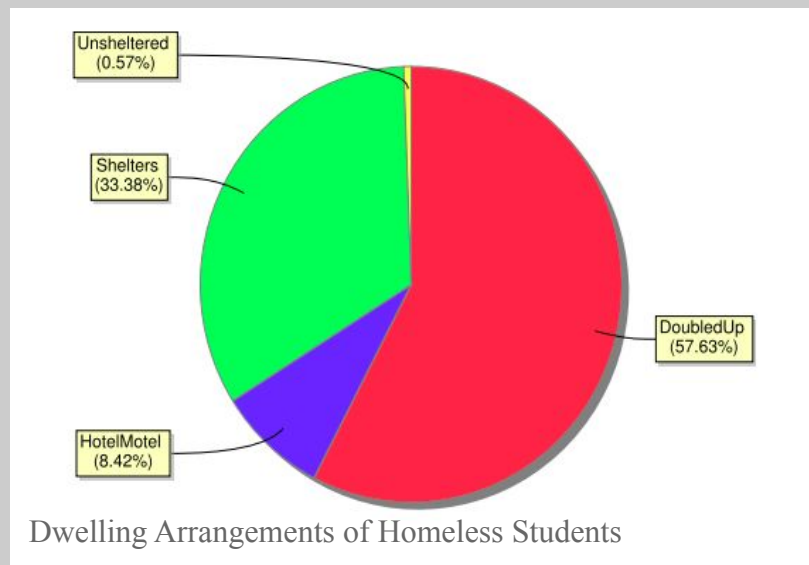


- One of the most important changes to note under the reauthorization of McKinney-Vento is that “students awaiting foster care” were removed from the provisions.
- Students in Foster Care now have their own rights under ESSA.
- A child in Foster Care is defined as one who is placed away from their parents and guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility for a period of 24 hours and beyond

Current District McKinney-Vento Data



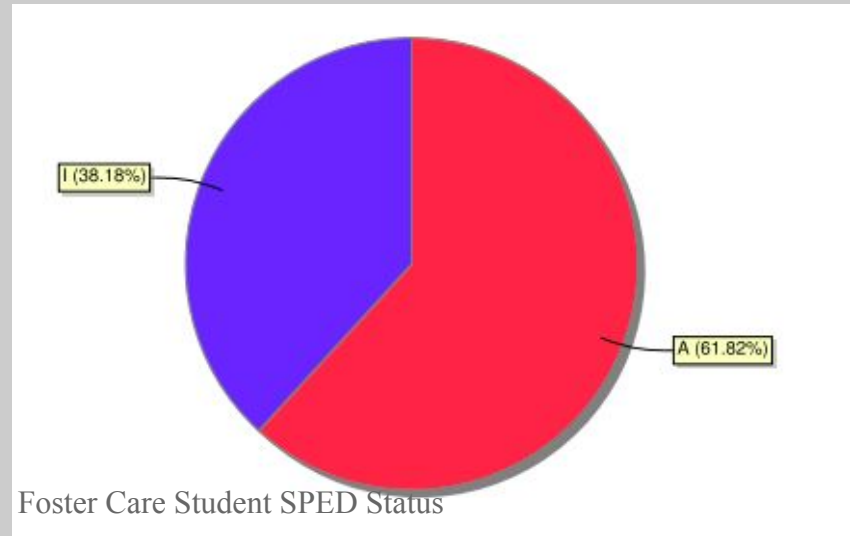
- Currently, there are 701 actively enrolled students identified as homeless in accordance with McKinney-Vento mandates.
- Of these 701 actively enrolled students, the majority of them (57.8%) are doubled up (residing with other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason).
- 140 homeless students are on IEPs.



Current District Foster Care Data



- Currently, there are 101 actively enrolled students that are in foster care
 - 26 are LPS students whose foster care placements are outside of Lowell
 - 68 are on IEPs
 - 23 are in out of district placements



Closing



- The nuances surrounding these guidelines are constantly evolving and are subject to ongoing changes.
- We're currently in the process of reviewing and making needed changes to our guidelines for supporting McKinney-Vento and Foster Care Students.

References

- <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mv/haa/McKinney-Vento.pdf>
- <https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Page/3028>
- Massachusetts DESE/DCF Guidance on Foster Care