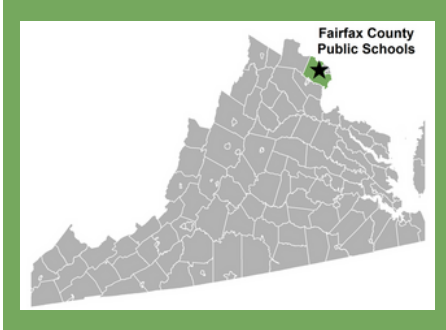


Fairfax County Public Schools



District

Fairfax County Public Schools

Location

Fairfax County, Virginia

Total Student Count

182,000

Funding Amount

ARP-Homeless I

- \$150,000

ARP-Homeless II

- \$903,829

Contact

Local Educational Agency Liaison (LEA)

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State Educational Agency Coordinator (SEA)

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<https://www.fcps.edu/>

Study Overview

The State and Local Implementation Studies of the American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) program, conducted by 2M Research, comprehensively examines and documents how SEAs and LEAs have used ARP-HCY funds to implement strategies to better identify and support children and youth experiencing homelessness.

As part of this study, a case study with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of various approaches in utilizing ARP-HCY funds. FCPS is located in the most populous county in Virginia and is one of the largest school divisions in the country. Within the district's student population, 33.4% are eligible for free and reduced lunch and 64% are students of color.¹

“*This funding has been the first time in my 24 years that we've been able to implement some of the things that we've had on our big wish list for a long time. It's given us opportunities for additional staffing—very specialized staffing to address very specialized needs of our students that we wanted to do for a long time.*”



80% increase in the number of students experiencing homelessness identified between the SY 2020-21 and SY 2022-23.



5-percentage point increase in the graduation rate* between the SY 2020-21 and SY 2022-23.



Staff experience and established relationships streamlined the distribution of funds.



Flexibility in the use of funds enhanced supports provided directly by the LEA and through community-based partnerships.



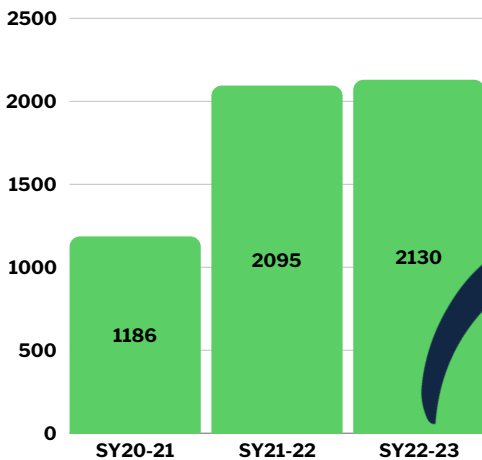
Increase in staff capacity allowed for more dedicated student support.

*adjusted 4-year cohort graduation rate

¹ Fairfax County Public Schools.(n.d.). <https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps>

Student Identification and Student Demographics

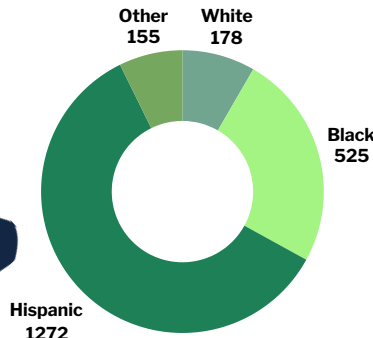
Count of Students Identified



Fairfax County Public Schools saw an 80% increase in students experiencing homelessness from SY 2020–21 to SY 2022–23. Identifying these students allowed the district to provide better support.

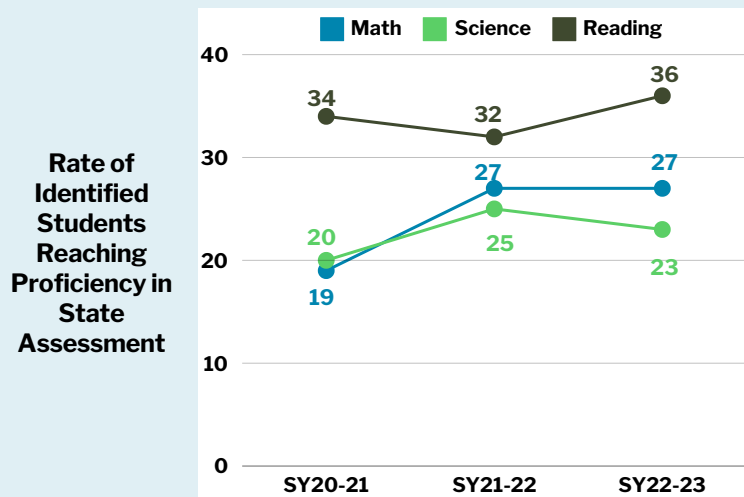
**Compared to a 25% national increase and 42% state increase in students experiencing homelessness from SY 2020-21 to SY 2022-23.*

Race of Students Identified in SY22-23



In SY 2022–23, 60% of students experiencing homelessness identified as Hispanic or Latino, 25% as Black, 8% as White, and 7% as a race or ethnicity not specified.

Academic Proficiency

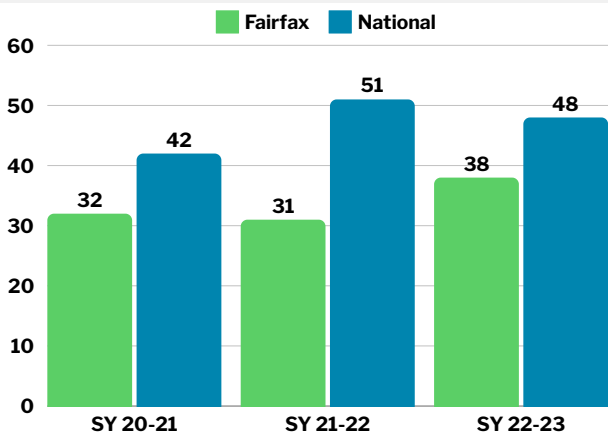


Rate of Identified Students Reaching Proficiency in State Assessment

Students experiencing homelessness saw significant progress in the proficiency status of their Mathematics, Science, and Reading/English language arts state assessments from SY 2020-21 to SY 2022-23.

Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic Absenteeism Rate (%)

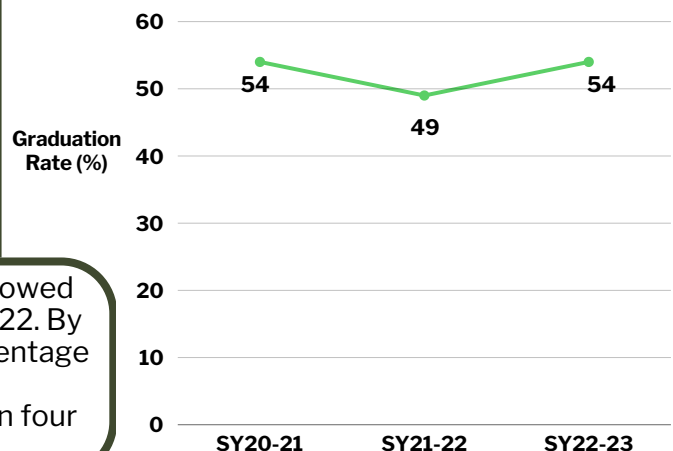


From SY 2020-21 to SY 2022-23, the rate of students experiencing homelessness who were chronically absent increased to 38%. FCPS consistently held a rate of chronic absenteeism below the national rate.

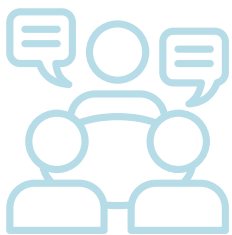
Students experiencing homelessness showed a decline in graduation rates in SY 2021–22. By SY 2022-2023, FCPS recorded a 5-percentage point increase in their rate of students experiencing homelessness graduating in four years.

Graduation

4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate



Effective Guidance and Established Relationships



- State provided guidance through monthly meetings, and the state coordinator was accessible and responsive
- Leveraged long-term relationships to collaborate with liaisons across the Northern Virginia region to consider best practices in utilizing the funds

“It’s [the State Coordinator’s Office] just been very supportive if we explain why we’re asking. If it wasn’t on that gigantic list of allowable expenses, or it wasn’t clear, then we asked the question.”

Enhancing Essential Support



- Allowed for additional support of students’ basic needs
- Increased transportation support to help students get to school-related events outside of typical school drop-off and pick-up times
- Supported additional hours for a dedicated transportation support staff member to help coordinate transportation needs

“Basic needs. If [students] don’t have food, they don’t have clothing, they don’t have transportation, they don’t have medicine, they don’t have healthcare, they are not ready to learn. We have to be able to help with that stuff.”

Fostering Community-Based Partnerships



- Boosted direct support to students
- Optimized the support which the district’s extensive network of established community-based partnerships was able to provide to those people in need across the county

“We partnered with our community healthcare organizations... so they don’t have to wait for medical care. If there’s a co-pay, we’ve used this money to pay for it. We’ve paid for dental care. We’ve had a lot of emergency care that we pay for. We’ve been able to use those funds for that, which is amazing.”

Increasing Capacity



- Enabled the hiring of new staff who could dedicate more time to supporting individual students
- Increased support for a staff member to support students experiencing homelessness with the transition from high school to college

“I think definitely having the dedicated time is a huge piece of it because I think the educators I’ve had the privilege of working with are all exceptionally hardworking, committed. They’re so invested in their kids, but they have the demands of their entire classrooms or their entire school building. I have a little bit of a different role in that I can focus on this kid in that moment.”

Support for Special Populations



- Utilized the funds to support populations with increased needs, including immigrant and migrant students

“I would say our [newcomer] students were at extreme disadvantage during COVID. Extreme. Whatever challenges they have with basic needs before COVID probably doubled during COVID. Food insecurity, housing insecurity, needing medical care, dental care, all of that. Basic needs assistance across the board.”