

## **2023: Students identified as experiencing homelessness attending BCPS English Language Learners identified as experiencing homelessness Major Increases in Poverty in BCPS, 2023-2024**

Following a request to BCPS made under the Public Information Act, the Network has received statistics on the number of BCPS students experiencing homelessness in grades K-12. As of 12/31/2023, the halfway mark of this school year, school staff identified 1989 students as experiencing homelessness. Of these, 599 students, or 30%, were also identified as English Language Learners (ELLs).

Homelessness is underreported, as many students and families of students do not identify themselves as homeless to school staff.

The table below summarizes data for Network partner schools and includes:

- # of students reported as experiencing homelessness
- # of ELLs experiencing homelessness
- # of students living in severe poverty (qualifying for Free/Reduced Price Meals, or FARMS)
- Percentage of student population qualifying for FARMS at each school, based on 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 data from the Maryland State Department of Education
- <https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/SchoolandCommunityNutrition/Documents/Free%20and%20Reduced%20Data/FARMSSY2022-2023.pdf>
- <https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/SchoolandCommunityNutrition/Pages/FreeReducedPriceMealStatistic.aspx>

An \*asterisk indicates that the data was suppressed for that school/category due to low numbers.

**Percentages of students qualifying for FARMS:** In 2023-2024, BCPS implemented CEP (Community Eligibility Provision), offering breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students. Data on poverty is calculated by each school system using Direct Certification categories that include students enrolled in Medicaid, participation in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), students who are in foster care, and those experiencing homelessness.

**Income Threshold:** The income threshold to qualify for FARMS remains 185% of the Federal Poverty Level guidelines, which for a family of four cannot exceed \$55,500 in 2023-2024: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-02-09/pdf/2023-02739.pdf>

According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, the income needed for basic expenses before taxes for a family of four in Baltimore County (2 working adults, 2 children), is now \$111,000 a year (<https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/24005>). The actual poverty levels are thus much higher, as many families make too much to qualify for FARMS, but not enough to make ends meet; the students in these families are not included in the statistics below.

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Reported Homeless</b>	<b>ELLs Reported Homeless</b>	<b>Students in School Qualifying for FARMS/Percentage, 2022-23 and 2023-2024</b>
Baltimore Highlands ES	21 students	*	2022-23: 523 students/100% 2023-24: 495 students/100%
Carney ES	*	*	2022-23: 507 students/ 97% 2023-24: 513 students/100%
Featherbed Lane ES	13 students	*	2022-23: 544 students/100% 2023-24: 539 students /100%
Halstead Academy	16 students	*	2022-23: 515 students/100% 2023-24: 472 students 100%
Mars Estates ES	*	*	2022-23: 316 students/100% 2023-24: 350 students/100%
Owings Mills ES	21 students	11 students	2022-23: 662 students/ 88% 2023-24: 659 students/ 91%
Padonia Int. ES	24 students	19 students	2022-23: 448 students/ 79% 2023-24: 476 students/ 83%
Pine Grove ES	15 students	*	2022-23: 235 students, 46% 2023-24: 294 students, 61%
Cockeysville MS	21 students	*	2022-23: 352 students/ 41% 2023-24: 492 students/ 56%
Dumbarton MS	25 students	13 students	2022-23: 341 students/ 31% 2023-24: 411 students/38%

Loch Raven Technical	19 students	*	2022-23: 696 students/ 89% 2023-24: 707 students/ 90%
Pine Grove MS	18 students	*	2022-23: 517 students/ 56% 2023-24: 633 students/ 74%
Stemmers Run MS	10 students	*	2022-23: 838 students/100%, 2023-24: 812 students/100%
Woodlawn MS	15 students	*	2022-23: 628 students/ 99% 2023-24: 563 students/100%
Dundalk HS	85 students	50 students	2022-23: 1977 students/ 90% 2023-24: 1,993 students/ 92%
Loch Raven HS	18 students	*	2022-23: 503 students/ 56% 2023-24: 683 students/ 79%
Parkville HS	132 students	95 students	2022-23: 1373 students, 62% 2023-24: 1,667 students, 82%
Owings Mills HS	53 students	42 students	2022-23: 788 students/ 65% 2023-24: 1,004 students/ 85%
Woodlawn HS	110 students	72 students	2022-23: 1670 students, 92% 2023-24: 1,817 students, 95%
Battle Monument (K-12)	*	*	2022-23: 52 students, 83% 2023-24: 52 students, 86%
Sheppard Pratt School, Glyndon	Not known	Not known	2022-23: 65 students, 36% 2023-24: not yet identified

<b>Total numbers for <u>21 Network schools</u></b>	<b>616 students</b> reported experiencing homelessness 12/31/2023	<b>302 students identified as ELLs</b> reported experiencing homelessness 12/31/2023	<b>2022-23: 13,550 students eligible for FARMS (severe poverty)</b> <b>2023-24: 14,632 students eligible for FARMS</b>
<b>Totals for <u>BCPS system</u></b>	<b>1989 students</b> reported experiencing homelessness 12/31/2023	<b>599 students identified as ELLs</b> reported experiencing homelessness 12/31/2023	<b>2022-23: 73,677 students eligible for FARMS, 66% of all students</b> <b>2023-24: 81,638 students eligible for FARMS, 74% of all students</b>

Comments:

- Homelessness is almost always correlated with poverty.
- English Language Learners (ELLs) are at a greater risk of experiencing homelessness. In Baltimore County, 30% of all students reported as experiencing homelessness are ELLs. In Network partner schools, the proportions are higher, especially in high schools. At Woodlawn HS, 65% of students identified as experiencing homelessness are ELLs and at Parkville High School, 71% of those identified as experiencing homelessness are ELLs. Overall, 51% of all ELLs identified as experiencing homelessness in BCPS attend Network partner schools.

There is extensive research on the devastating effects of homelessness on academic achievement and student well-being, including research on public schools in Maryland.

- About 50% of all students experiencing homelessness in Maryland were chronically absent from school (Source: “Spotlight on Students Experiencing Homelessness, Maryland State Board of Education, 2021, p. 15).
- High school students experiencing homelessness were 25% below non-homeless students in demonstrating proficiency in English Language Arts, and 19% below non-homeless students in demonstrating proficiency in Algebra I (“Spotlight on Students...” p. 14).

In the report by Bess A. Rose, “Adolescent Homelessness and Long-term Educational and Workforce Outcomes; New Evidence from the Maryland Longitudinal Data System,” 2020,

- Black students were more likely to experience homelessness than white students (7.2% versus 2.0%) ( p. 15).
- **Homelessness was a major risk factor for dropping out of school regardless of race.** The drop-out rate for Black students experiencing homelessness was 29%; it was 28% for white students and 26% for students of other race/ethnicity (p. 22).