

# HOMELESS STUDENTS IN BPS

- Needs of 200 Students (YTD)
- K-12
- All areas of town
- Majority BPS students

# HISTORICAL BPS INFORMATION

- Self Contained Transitional Classroom at Garfield
- 2001-02 Washington Elementary only—Woman's Shelter and Underpass Motel
- 2002– McKinney Vento Reauthorization Act
  - Does not allow segregation of Homeless Students
  - New job descriptions for Homeless Liaison
  - District wide—K-12 Program



# BPS Advocacy

Service to community benefits our students and the community

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS/COLLABORATIONS

- Mayor's Committee on Homelessness
  - 10 year city plan to end homelessness
  - Project Homeless Connect
  - Speaker's Bureau specifically targeting homeless children
- United Way Impact Council
  - "Promoting Financial Stability & Independence for Families & Seniors"

# Collaborations, cont.

- BARN—Billings Area Resource Network
  - Collaboration of local service agencies working to bring more resources to the Billings area as well as coordinating efforts
- RSVP--Retired Senior Volunteer Program
  - Community Advisory Group representing at risk and homeless families and youngsters

# Homeless Education Liaison Responsibilities

- Identify homeless children/youth
- Assist in enrollment & acquisition of school records, immunizations, birth certificates
- Make referrals to other agencies/services
- Inform parents/unaccompanied youth of their rights
- Distribute public notice of educational rights of homeless children/youth
- Mediate enrollment disputes
- Provide transportation services, if requested
- Coordinate/collaborate with the State Coordinator

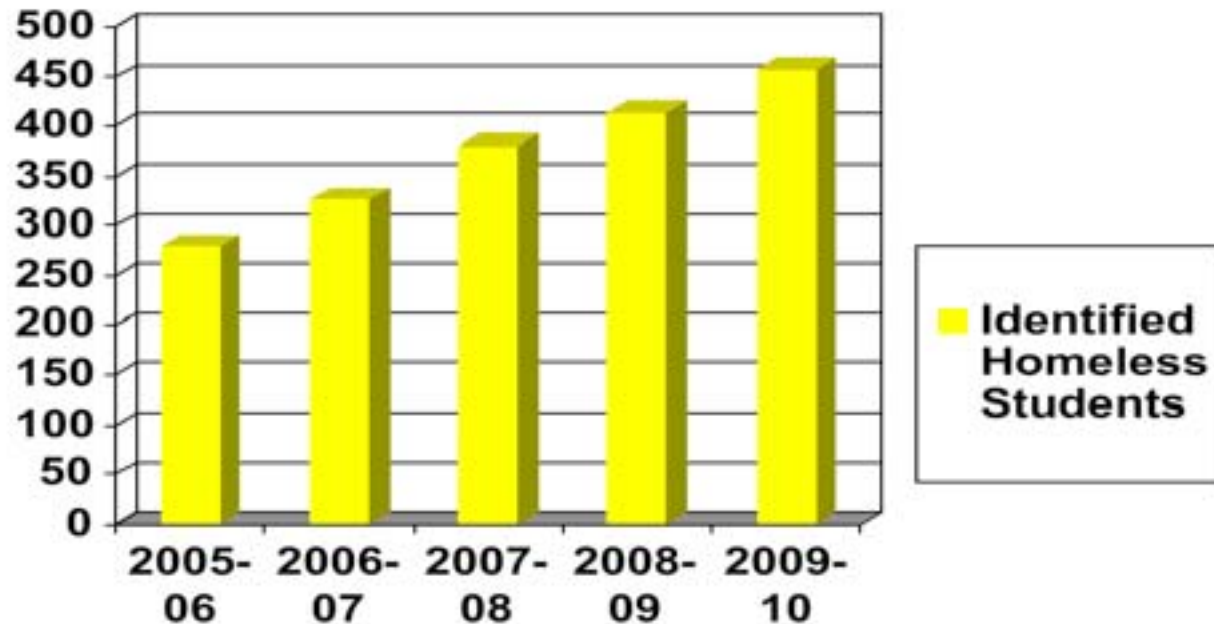
# Federal Definition of Homeless Children & Youth

- Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes those:
- Living in emergency/transitional shelters
- Living in trailer parks and camp grounds because they lack adequate living accommodations
- Doubled-up because of loss of housing or other similar situations

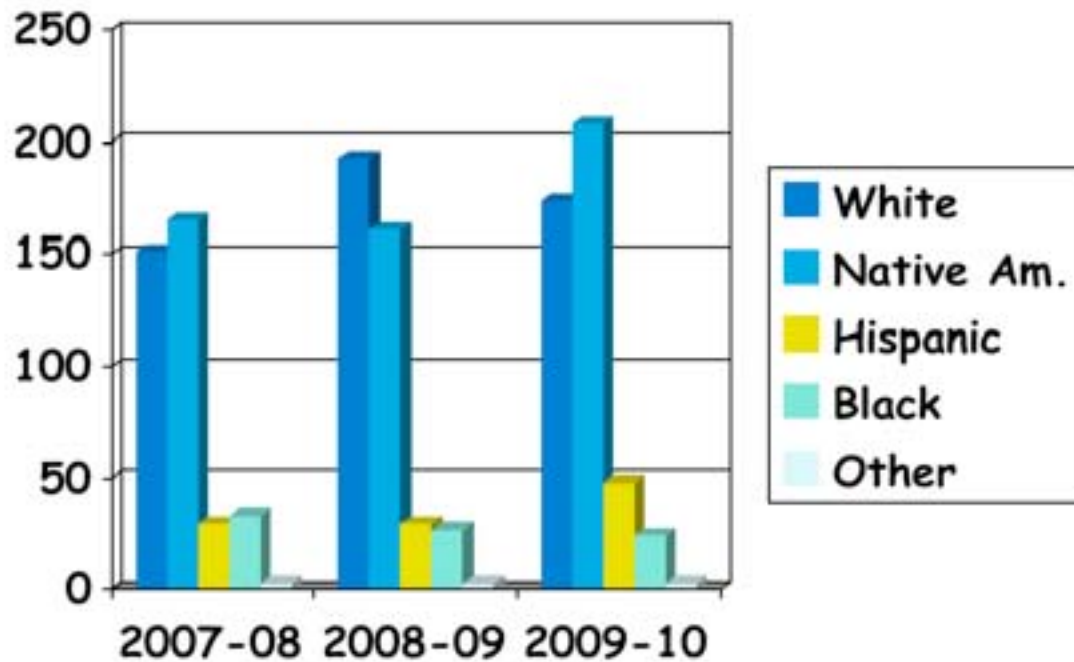
## Definition, Continued

- Living in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, parks, the streets or other inadequate accommodations
- Throwaway children (i.e. those whose parents or guardians will not permit them to live at home) if they live on the streets, in shelters, or in other transitional or inadequate accommodations  
(SERVE, 2003).

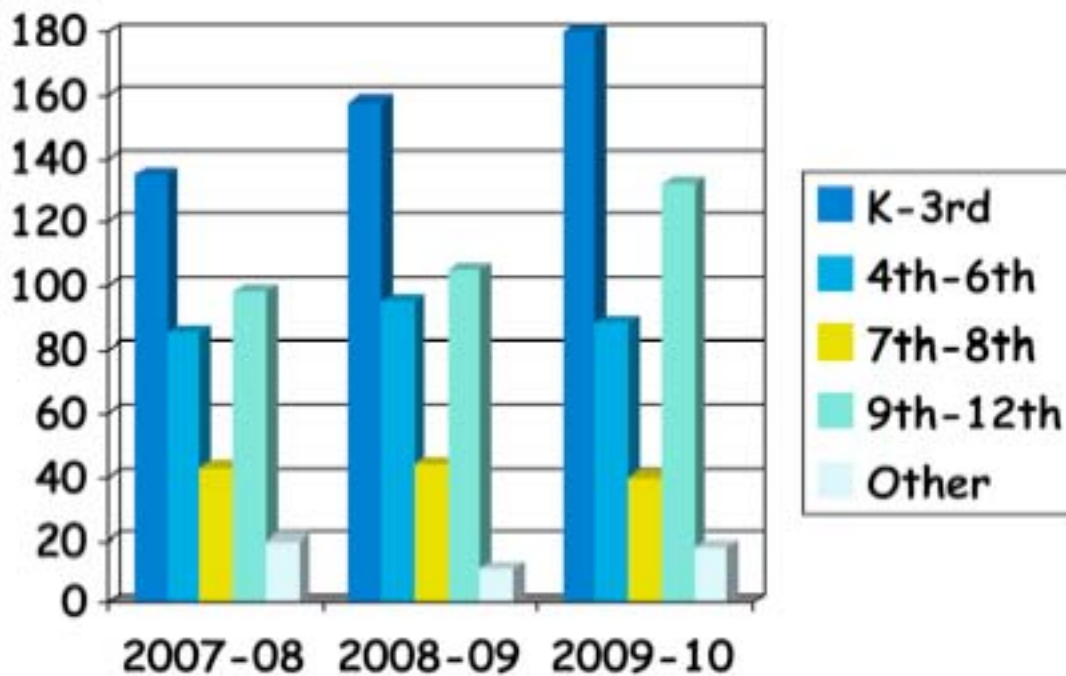
# Students Served by Homeless Grant



# Demographics: Ethnicity



# Demographics: Grade Level



# Student Rights

- Immediate Enrollment even without records
- School of Origin
  - Transportation Provided
- Entitled to same rights/privileges as housed peers

# Funding Use

- After School Programs
- Salary
- Backpacks/supplies
- Clothing
- Hygiene Items
- Class Fees
- Transportation Costs
- Summer book/activity bags
- Individual to each student

# Parting Thoughts

The child's classroom may be the only place where the child can experience quiet, interact with children his/her age and experience success

School is the most normal activity that most children experience collectively...it is much more than a learning environment. It is a place of safety, personal space, friendships, and support.” (Driver & Spady, n.d.)

# WHAT CAN WE DO?

If you only had a child for a day, a week, or a month;  
What would you want to leave with him/her?  
(SERVE, 2003)