

Statewide Initiative

Pennsylvania

Research for Action

Research for Action (RFA) is a Philadelphia-based, nonprofit education research organization committed to conducting education research that explores the complexities of education reform initiatives in Philadelphia. In 2018, they published Students Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania: Under-Identification and Inequitable Enrollment which found that both Pennsylvania and Philadelphia likely undercount the number of students experiencing homelessness. RFA also found that charter schools underserve students experiencing homelessness - whereas the districts in which charter students reside average 2.4% students experiencing homelessness, the charter school average only 1.3% compared to the district of residence. Based on this data, RFA recommends better training and identification tools, and ensuring charter school applicants include plans for identifying and serving McKinney-Vento students before they are approved.