

The logo for Richmond Public Schools (RPS) is displayed in white text on a dark blue background. The letters 'RPS' are in a large, bold, sans-serif font. To the right of 'RPS', the word 'RICHMOND' is written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. Below 'RICHMOND', the words 'PUBLIC SCHOOLS' are written in an even smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. The background features a dark blue horizontal band with a diagonal cutout on the right side, and a light blue diagonal band in the top right corner. In the bottom right corner, there are decorative geometric shapes in blue and orange.

RPS RICHMOND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



At its core, attendance is an ENGAGEMENT issue.
RPS Community Hub model:

- is designed to serve families and students from a person-centered approach
- meets people where they are based on their location and their needs
- Addresses attendance issues for students with 5-days of unexcused absences in the tiered intervention model

Hub Staffing Structure

Harry Hughes
Chief Schools Officer



Dr. Shadae Harris
Chief Engagement Officer



Dr. Erin Brown - Director
Family & Community Engagement



Angela Jones - Director
School Culture, Climate & Student Services



Matthew Stanley - Director
Advocacy & Outreach



Michael Liggins - Senior Coordinator
Regional Community Hubs



Nannette Bailey - Coordinator
West End/Northside - 7 Liaisons



Chasity Rodriguez - Coordinator
Southside - 10 Liaisons



Darryl Williams - Coordinator
East End - 7 Liaisons



Amelia Castañeda - Coordinator
Welcome Center & Family Advocacy



Grady Hart - Coordinator
Community Partnerships



Erika Schmale - Coordinator
Center for Families in Transition (C-FIT)

The Community Hub Model

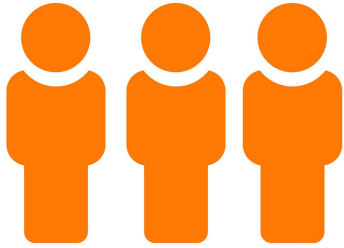
What does this look like during virtual learning?

- Family Support Line
- Videos
- Community Pop-ups
- Check-in calls
- Porch visits
- Attendance team
- Partnership database





1,189 students
across the division



78%
doubled-up



18%
motel

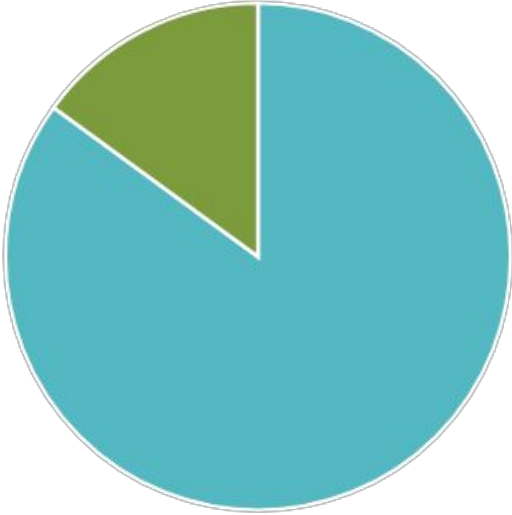


7%
in shelter

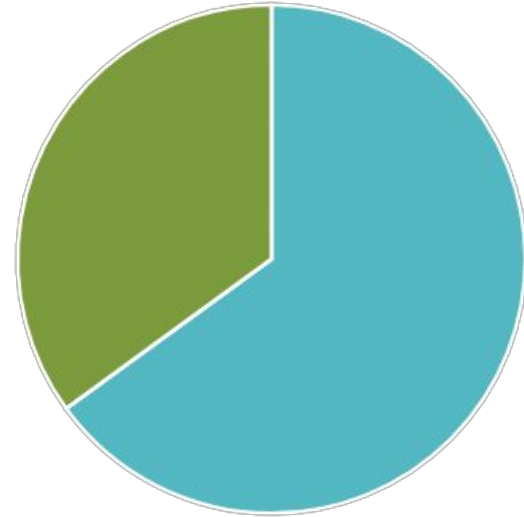


1%
car/street

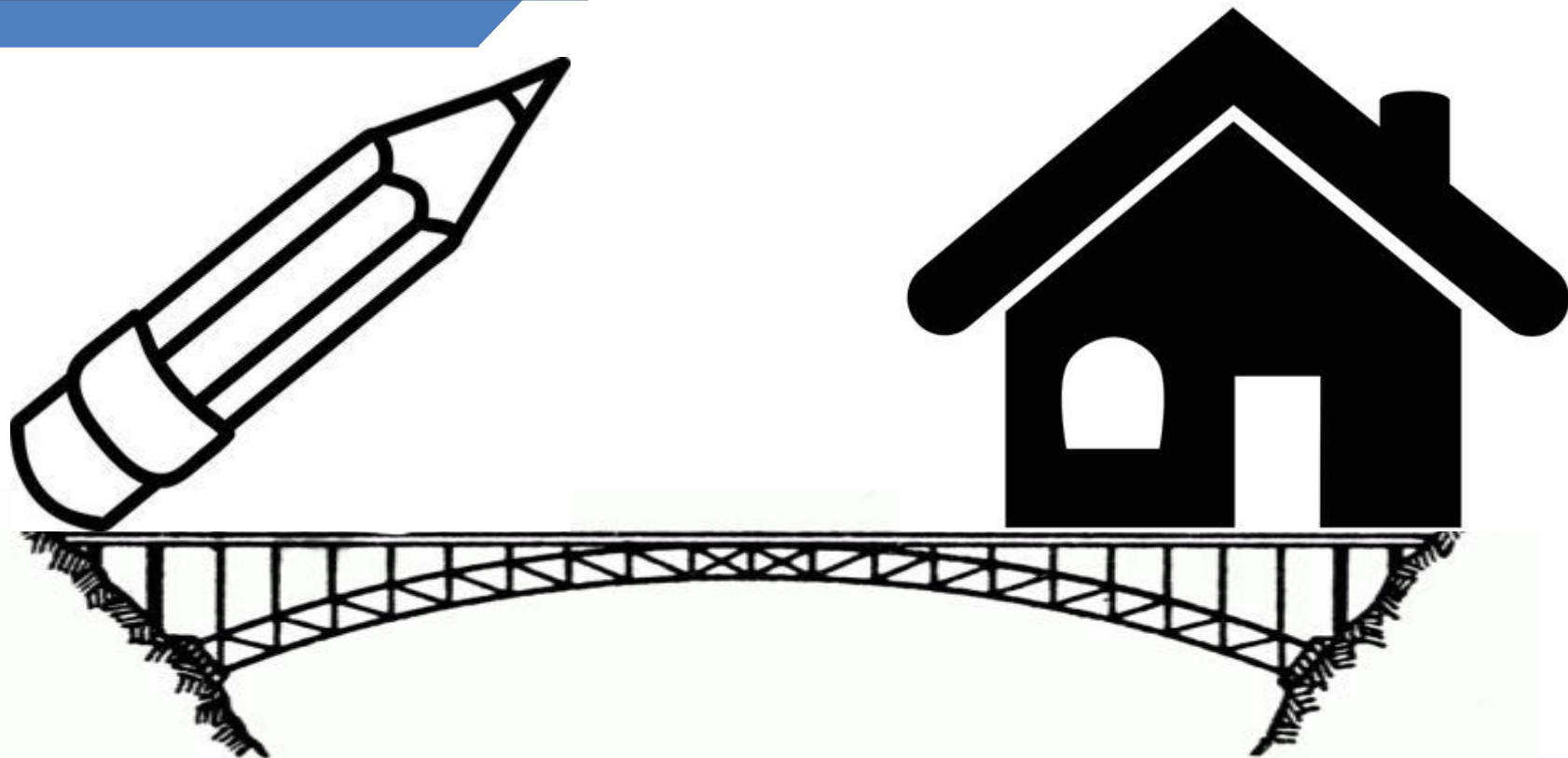
RPS students experiencing homelessness
are **twice** as likely to be
chronically absent than their peers.



14.8% of all RPS students
were chronically absent.



35% of homeless RPS students
were chronically absent.



Building School Capacity

Research indicates that relationship to the school is an indicator of school attendance for homeless students. If the school feels like a supportive place to the family or student they will likely attend more.

- Focus on building positive relationships with the school rather than positive relationships only with C-FIT
- C-FIT staff will coordinate and consult Family Liaisons, School Social Workers, and Counselors to ensure that staff in the schools have information needed to support students and families.
- Professional development for school staff
- Clear tagging and communication protocols with School C-FIT Contacts



Preventing Evictions

Partner with local nonprofit to refer families to rental assistance

Statewide Resources

- Guide to maintain stable housing / tenant legal rights: housing.vplc.org/
- Eviction Legal Helpline: 1-833-663-8428
- Rent & Mortgage Relief: dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp



Delivering basic needs items



Weekly grocery delivery to 150+ families since April 2020; delivery of basic needs items upon request

- Call all families experiencing homelessness to determine need and connect to resource
- Continue receiving updated contact info
- Ensure families have crucial resources that support stability
- Build relationship with family
- Engage community in meaningful ways

Connecting families back to housing

Partner with local nonprofit to provide housing search and move-in cost assistance

- Families are identified through data, self-referral, and school referral.
- Attendance is a factor for prioritization.
- [RPS housing guide](#)



Supporting HS Students



Staff dedicated to supporting high school students, especially unaccompanied youth and seniors.

- Regularly review attendance data
- Collaborate with school staff
- Connecting with parents to overcome attendance barriers and navigate community resources.
- Record case notes in student database to allow coordination with other school staff.

Erika Schmale

Center for Families in Transition (C-FIT)

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