

## Fact Sheet

### Housing and Education Survey with the Bridges Collaborative

The [\*Opportunity Starts at Home\*](#) campaign distributed an online survey featuring questions about the connection between housing affordability and educational outcomes. Respondents (N =19) were drawn from school districts and CMOs (charter management organizations) participating in The Bridges Collaborative, a national initiative powered by the Century Foundation to increase access to high quality integrated schools. Respondents were regionally diverse, with districts and CMOs in the northeast, midwest, west, and southern regions participating. Half of respondents were from moderate poverty (20-60% of students with Free/Reduced Lunch status) districts, while half were from higher poverty districts (60-100% FRL Status).

#### Survey Findings:

100% of respondents said that having stable, affordable housing was very important or extremely important when it comes to students' ability to succeed in school.

89% of respondents said it was “challenging” or “very challenging” for families in their district to find affordable housing.

Over two thirds (68%) of respondents said that affordability of rental housing was getting worse in their district, and not a single respondent said it was getting better.

84% of respondents said that COVID-19 had exacerbated housing issues within their district, mostly in the domains of mental health (39%) and social emotional development (33%).

In terms of specific housing challenges facing students, respondents cited the following issues:

- Students in temporary housing (shelters, ‘doubled up’ homelessness)
- Overcrowding, including multiple families in one unit
- Gentrification driving up housing costs
- Eviction
- Inattentive and predatory landlords
- Increased commutes from lower cost areas
- Lack of utilities and technology

These housing issues have also created school-specific challenges, including the following:

- High rates of mobility during the school year
- Decreased attendance and higher truancy rates
- Enrollment attrition due to moves to lower cost areas
- COVID-19 exposure based on overcrowding
- Distractions and disruptions in crowded units undermining academic performance
- Lower feelings of belonging and social-emotional development due to low attendance
- Diverting resources to immediate needs rather than educational needs
- Lower parental engagement rates due to long commutes

84% of respondents said that housing policies that promoted access to quality affordable housing would improve academic outcomes in their district “a lot” or a “a great deal”