

3 THINGS OREGON'S KIDS NEED YOU TO KNOW

(A VERY BRIEF GUIDE)

1

Oregon is first in the nation for unsheltered homeless families, and Oregon's Department of Education classified 22,000 K-12 students as homeless during the 2023-24 school year, half of whom did not attend school regularly.

Source: Oregon.gov

2

Our 4th graders ranked second to last in the US for math. 48% scored "below basic" in reading, worse than students in Washington and Idaho.

Source: OregonLive.com

3

Oregon ranks 3rd to last in the nation for youth mental health and had the most kids experiencing suicidal thoughts.

Source: MHANational.org

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Children who experience housing instability are more likely to suffer setbacks in their education and their mental health. Unfortunately, as the numbers show, Oregon's not doing so great in any of those categories. So how do we do better?

While its critical to elect effective leadership, real change also requires the hearts, minds and dedication of the people (just like you) in our communities:

- Learn more from the sources above. Find out how these issues in Oregon are often linked.
- Talk about these issues with your friends and neighbors; many people have opinions, but few are well informed.
- Fundraise or volunteer for organizations working to help homeless families, schools, and mental health in children in your community.