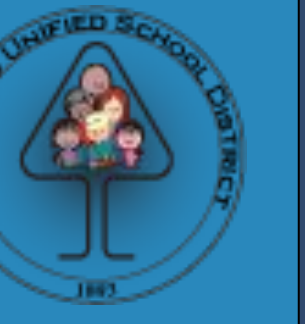




Measuring the Effectiveness of the McKinney-Vento Act in PAUSD



Louisa Keyani¹ and Lissette Moore-Guerra²
¹Palo Alto High School, ²Palo Alto Unified School District

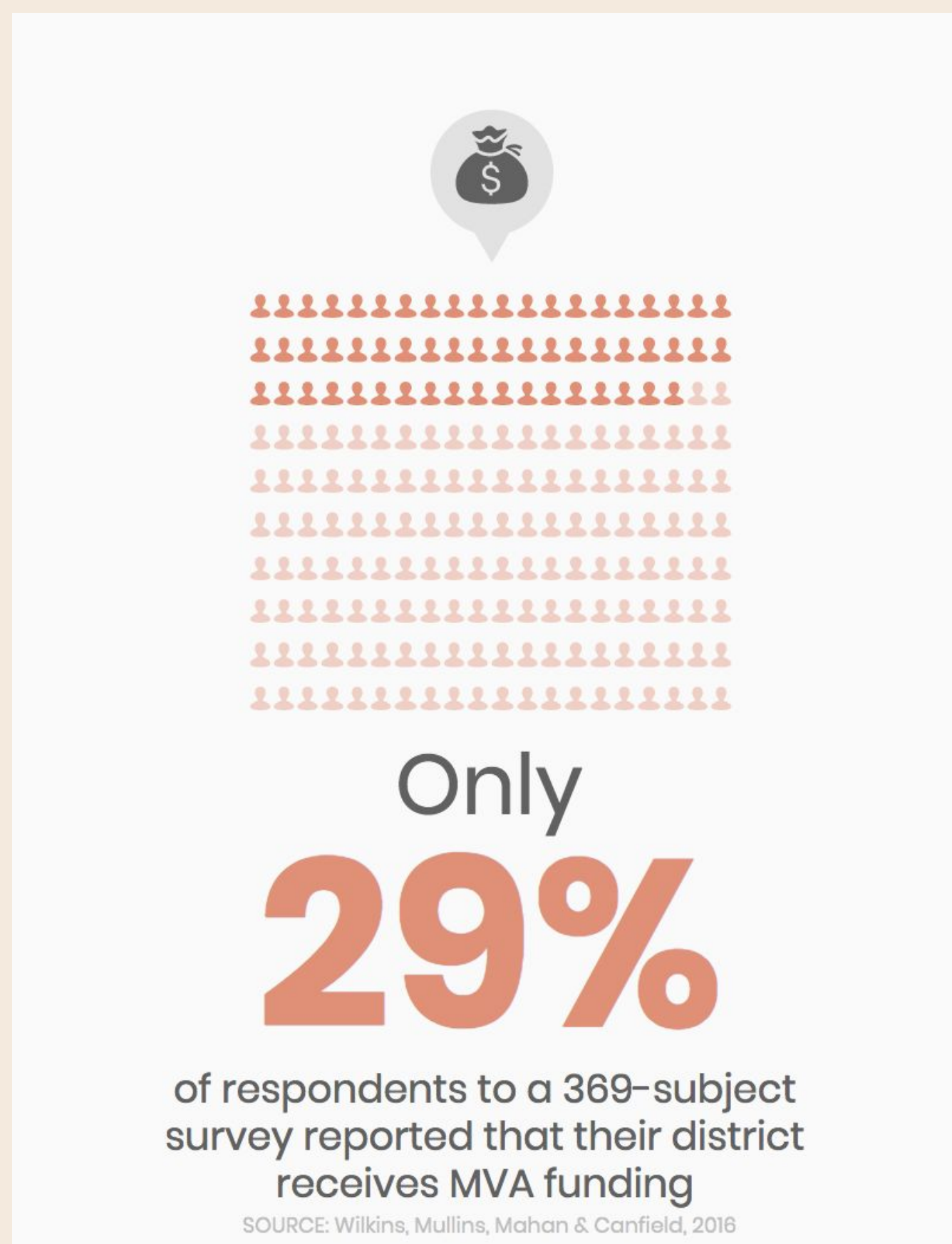
INTRODUCTION

The Issue

The McKinney-Vento Act, a piece of legislation created to provide students in homeless situations with an equal education to those who are not, is often ignored and students are not provided with the rights they have been granted by law.

Addressing the Issue

The effectiveness of the McKinney-Vento Act has not been researched thoroughly. To address this issue, I collected data from people who work with PAUSD students in homeless situations.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES



Background Research

First, I did significant background research on the McKinney-Vento Act, its implementation in schools, and overall effectiveness. I also researched how effective it is and the gaps in research that had been done.

Background research helped me determine my research question and create my methodologies



Interviews

Next, I interviewed two people who work directly with the McKinney-Vento Act on a daily basis - PAUSD's McKinney-Vento Liaison and the Homeless Youth Specialist for Santa Clara County. This helped me determine gaps in the MVA from their perspective.

Interviews helped me get detailed information from people who work directly with the MVA.



Survey

Finally, I surveyed 15 counselors in PAUSD about their experience with the McKinney-Vento Act, specifically the support they need from the district in regards to helping McKinney-Vento Act students.

The survey allowed me to collect data from a broader group about the effectiveness of the MVA

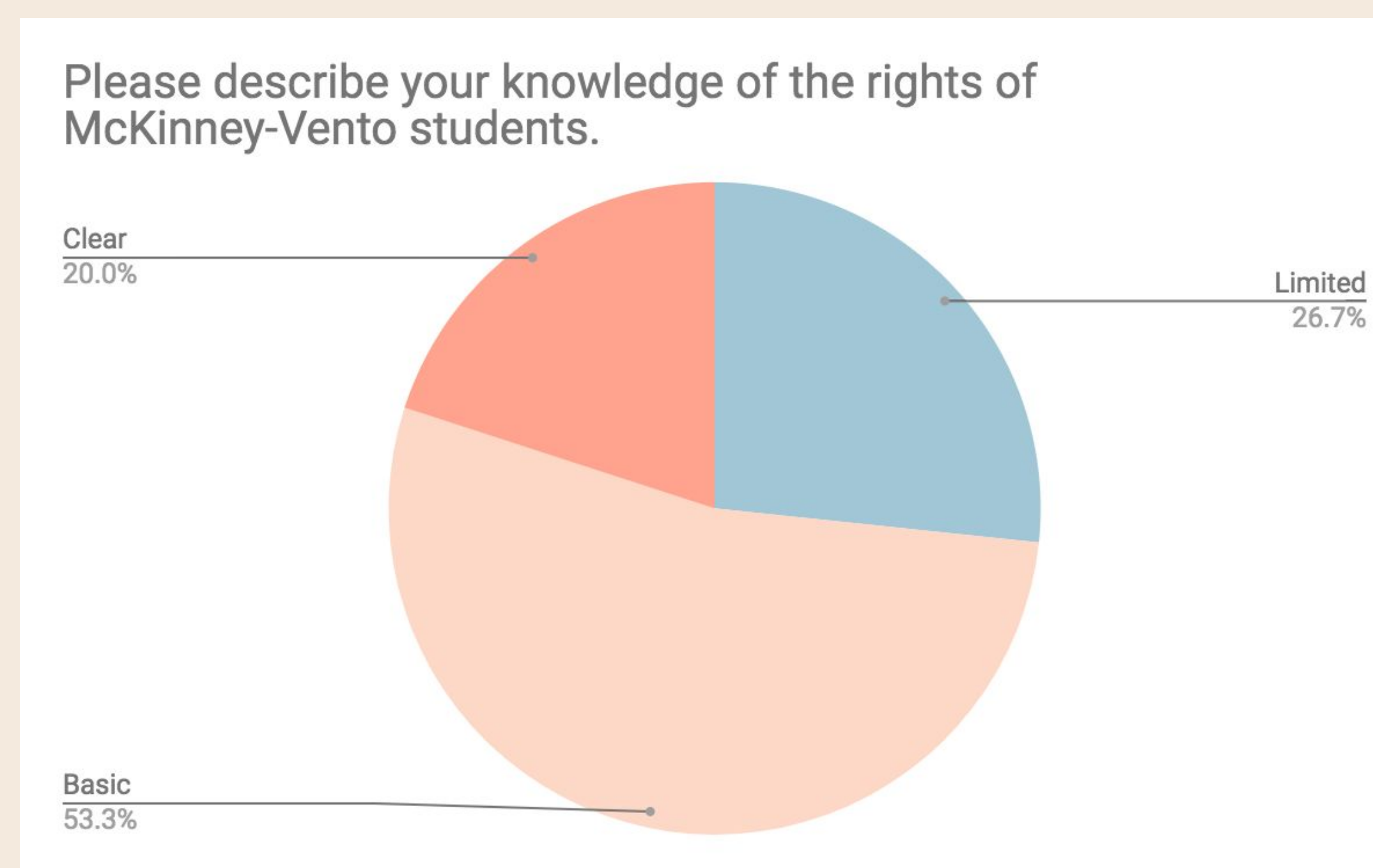
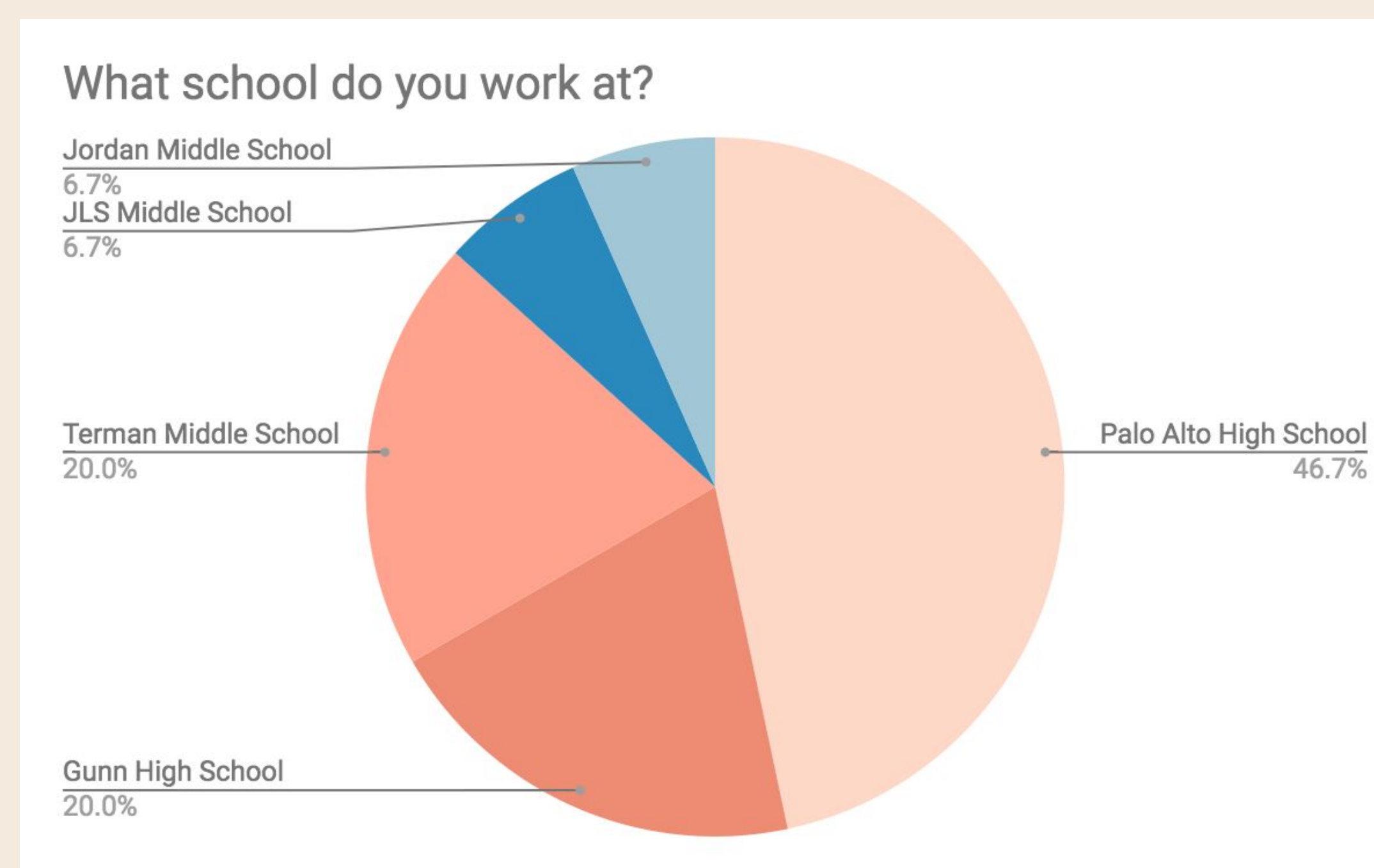
DATA AND RESULTS

The Interview

I interviewed PAUSD's McKinney-Vento liaison, who described her work with McKinney-Vento families as well as how she oversees the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act throughout PAUSD. For example, she put up a number of posters detailing the rights of McKinney-Vento students at various sites around Palo Alto in order to make students and families aware of their rights. The most significant thing I concluded after this interview was the **need for more McKinney-Vento Act training for counselors and/or the support of a counselor whose sole job is to assist families in homeless situations.**

The Survey

I surveyed 15 counselors from PAUSD to determine their knowledge of the McKinney-Vento Act and their experience with it.



FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

Results

The most important part of my findings was the last question of the survey. I coded the answers and different phrases were repeated a number of times.

08	Education	"Education on the act, clear written procedures."
03	Awareness of students	"More awareness of these students so that we may support them."
03	Housing	"Direct connections to housing information."
04	Communication	"More communication of services that can be provided."

Analysis & Next Steps

Limited knowledge

It is evident from the survey responses that counselors have limited knowledge of the MVA.

Need for support

In the survey, counselors stated that they need support to help students who are supported by the MVA.

Implement a program

Next school year, Lissette Moore-Guerra and other PAUSD officials will create a program for PAUSD counselors to learn more about the MVA and how they can help support their students effectively.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REFERENCES

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