

Homeless Rights for Students

Determination of homelessness will be made on a case- by- case basis by the homeless education department. We will use the definition given but also consider the relative performance of the living arrangements.

Your child has the right to...

- Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records
- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there
- Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students, including transportation and supplemental educational services (if available)
- Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on homeless status is prohibited
- Receive free meals through the Child Nutrition Program (CNP)

Your Homeless Liaison

Emily Counce

Colbert County Board of Education
Work: 256-386-8565 Ext. 1215

Fax: 256-381-9375

Email: ecounce@colbert.k12.al.us

Please contact for any questions you may have about our Homeless Program!

Superintendent: Mr. Chris Hand

Federal Programs Director:

Mrs. Katie Dalrymple



It is the official policy of the Colbert County School District that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, disability, sex, religion, creed, national origin, or age be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity, or employment.



**Colbert County
Schools
Education of
Home Children
and Youth**



Who is Homeless?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (Section 725) defines “homeless children and youth” (school age and younger) as: children and youth who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**, including children and youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (i.e. “doubled up”)
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, vehicles, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- “Couch surfing” due to instability

Homeless Facts

Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. For example, living in cars, hotels, parks, abandoned buildings, public spaces, bus stations, or any similar setting are considered homeless.

Unaccompanied Youth

The term unaccompanied youth includes a young person not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This would include runaways living in shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing; children and youth denied housing by families.



Support Agencies

Colbert County DHR

3105 George Wallace Blvd.
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661
256-314-6870

Colbert County Health Department

1000 S. Jackson Hwy
Sheffield, AL 35660
256-383-1231

Community Action Agency of NW AL

528 E. Kelsey Ave.
Muscle Shoals, AL
256-383-3832

Homeless Care Council of NW AL

118 E. Mobile St. Suite 309
Florence, AL 35630
256-349-2370

Salvation Army of the Shoals

1601 Huntsville Road
Florence, AL 35630
256-764-4432