



HED HIGHLIGHTS

Upcoming Events for Second Semester

February 2024

Our Parents Count (OPC)
Parent Workshop
ODB- Class Recruitment
Sneaker Shuffle Event

March 2024

Our Parents Count (OPC)
Parent Workshop
ODB- Class Starts
Sneaker Shuffle Event

April 2024

ODB- Classes
Chelesa Fearce
Scholarship Applications
Sneaker Shuffle Event
Our Parents Count (OPC)
Parent Workshop

May 2024

ODB – Graduation
Ceremony
Chelesa Fearce
Scholarship
Ceremony
Our Parents Count (OPC)
Parent Workshop
HED Senior Celebration
Day
Chelesa Fearce
Sholarship Ceremony

As we stay focused on the remainder of the 2023-2024

school year and continue to **“Maximizing Impact, Removing Barriers, Unleashing Academic Potential to Build a Better Tomorrow, Today.”** Our department would like to quickly acknowledge the Summer and First Semester HED Initiatives that our team and devoted partners accomplished.

Over the summer and during the first semester of school, our HED Team in partnerships with the global non-profit organization, Soles4Souls, and our community partnership with DELTA Global Equity, Diversity and Office of Inclusion and their awesome volunteers; we were able to host a series of “Sneaker Shuffle” Events. These events allowed our eligible HED students to experience a pop-up shoe give-a-way and receive new brand name shoes and socks, donated by Soles4Souls. During the months of June through November our HED team gave out approximately 400 hundred sneakers to our students!



During the month of November, the district observed and participated in our Annual “Wear Green and Grow” Initiative. This included real life scenarios for participants to choose life decisions including unexpected hardships that impact the families we serve. This brought awareness to the growing issue of families in transition.

Thank you to all the staff, schools, and departments that participated.

As December came in with colder temperatures, our HED Team once again had another successful Annual Holiday Sponsorship “Cards for Caring & More.” This year’s theme was “Fit for the Holidays.” Donations were received from our district community partners, DELTA, Georgia Power and Keller Williams Atlanta Partners. Our department was able to gift our students Nike Hoodies, Smart Watches and \$25.00 gift cards from various department stores. Each of our parents were gifted with a BlendJet Blender and a Wash & Wear Gain Laundry kit. Thank you to all our district personnel, community volunteers, and donators, for a very successful Holiday event!



Another exciting event in December we celebrated was the Orange Duffel Bag (ODB) Fall Class Graduation. Participating HED Seniors, completed a 12-week after school coaching program designed and tailored to build upon academic learning for at-risk high school students. This program assist them in creating self-driven education and life plans; that will empower them to achieve a high school diploma and further their post-secondary education. ODB also provides them tools to aid with their future success; and to offer program graduates college and career readiness events and college bound experiences.



Who is considered Homeless?

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the term “homeless children and youths” means individuals who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence** and includes children and youths:

- who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- 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;
- who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- who are migratory children who live in one of the above circumstances.

Unaccompanied Youth (UHY)

- A student is considered an unaccompanied homeless youth if he or she is under the age of 18, experiencing homelessness, and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. Unaccompanied homeless youth are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Children’s Rights Under McKinney-Vento Act

Students have the right to:

- Attend either the local school or the school of origin;
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin;
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records normally required for enrollment, such as birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization records.

RIGHTS of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Identified students have the right to:

- ✓ **Immediate Enrollment** even without the required enrollment documentation
- ✓ **Transportation** to and from their school of origin
- ✓ **Comparable Services** including free school meals, transportation to gifted/talented programs, career and technical education and Title I
- ✓ **Access to Services** for which they are eligible for, including Special Education, Head Start, and early learning interventions
- ✓ **Barrier Removal** to ensure full access and participation in school sponsored programs and activities
- ✓ **Dispute Resolution** if the family, guardian, or unaccompanied youth chooses to dispute a district decision about identification, enrollment, or school selection
- ✓ **UHY Protections** including enrollment without guardianship documentation
- ✓ **Appointment of Homeless Liaison** who has the time and capacity to identify, support, and advocate for students experiencing homelessness.

CONTACT INFORMATION

HOMELESS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

2260 Old Rex Morrow Rd.
Suite D
Morrow, Ga. 30260

Office: 770-473-3250

Email:

HED@clayton.k12.ga.us

Scan to See Webpage:



To learn more about homeless children and youth and the resources that are available through government and other recognized non-profit national organizations, please click the links below:

<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/>

<https://nche.ed.gov/>

<https://naehcy.org/>