# COLBERT COUNTY SCHOOLS
# PLAN FOR THE
# EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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9/17/26
Date

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9/17/26
Date

Plan Approved By (Person or Entity)

9/12/26
Date



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## Introduction

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act, signed into law on July 22, 1987 and reauthorized in December 2016, provides comprehensive federal emergency and long-term assistance for homeless persons. Title X, Subtitle C of the Every Student Succeeds Act, Education of Homeless Children and Youth, establishes the provisions to assure that homeless children and youth have access to a free appropriate public education, including a public preschool education that would be provided to children of the residents of the state and are consistent with state school attendance laws. It further provides that residency requirements as a component of compulsory school attendance laws, regulations, practices or procedures, be reviewed and steps undertaken to assure these laws do not prohibit children and youths from school attendance. Homelessness alone is not sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream of the school environment. Homeless children and youths should have access to the education and other services that such children and youths need to ensure that such children and youths have an opportunity to meet the same challenging state student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.
The Colbert County Schools Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth is based on the guidelines established by the State Department of Education as outlined in the Alabama Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. This plan is designed to ensure that all services are administered in compliance with The Act and the State Plan.

<u>The enrollment of homeless children shall not be denied or delayed due to any of the following barriers</u>:

- Lack of birth certificate
- Lack of school records or transcripts
- Lack of immunization or health records
- Lack of proof of residency
- Lack of transportation
- Guardianship or custody requirements

A temporary social security number can be obtained by contacting the Colbert County Board of Education office. Homeless students have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if they do not have the required documents. Assistance will be provided to help parents obtain these necessary documents.

# COLBERT COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM PLAN
# FOR THE
# EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## I. Goal of the System Plan

The goal of the Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth at Colbert County School System is to provide a framework to assure that equal educational access shall be provided for homeless children and youths, in compliance with the State Plan and with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2002.

## II. A. Definition

Homeless children and youths are those who:

1. Lack a fixed, regular and adequate residence; or
2. Have a primary nighttime residence that is:

a. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled up); are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

b. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of Section 103(a)(2)(C);

c. children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

d. Migratory children (as such term is defined in Section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purpose of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through (c).

## B. Collection of Data

1. Colbert County School System shall collect data as requested by the State Office of Homeless Children and Youth. The data will be inclusive of elements such as the nature and extent of problems of access to public schools, educational programs and services, and difficulties identifying the special needs of homeless children and youths.
2. In collecting these data, the Department of Education shall utilize local agencies and civic and community organizations those are most likely to have knowledge of homeless children and youths.

## C. Educational Placement

1. Services provided to homeless children and youth will be comparable to those offered to other students in the school, including educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria. Educational services will include, but will not be limited to, programs for the disadvantaged, programs for the handicapped, programs for students with limited-English proficiency, programs in career/technical education, and programs for the academically gifted, Title I program, and school meal programs.

2. Each Colbert County School will form a team to determine the needs of each individual homeless child and youth and to recommend services and education programs appropriate to meet the identified needs.
3. The team shall be composed of the principal or designees, the counselor (where applicable), grade appropriate, and Title I or special education teachers as appropriate.
4. Parents or guardians and the students shall be given the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process regarding education planning for the homeless student.
5. When the school team deems it appropriate, representatives of local community agencies (Department of Human Resources, mental health, juvenile court, etc.) shall be involved in the educational planning.
6. The school team shall determine the needs of each individual homeless child and youth recommend services and educational programs appropriate to meet the identified needs.

## D. School Records

1. The personal records of homeless children and youth will be maintained in the same manner as those of other students.
2. Records will be maintained in a manner consistent with Section 438, Protection of the Rights and Privacy of Parents and Students, of the General Education Provisions Act.
3. If a homeless child or youth moves to another location, records shall be transferred in a timely manner to the new school.

## E. Resolving Disputes Regarding Placement of Homeless Students

1. Homeless children and youth are entitled to the same rights and protections, including due process, afforded to other children and youth.
2. Parents and guardians of homeless children and youth who are dissatisfied with the decision regarding school assignment are entitled to appeal the decision the local board of education
3. In the case that a dispute cannot be resolved, the parties involved will immediately notify (to avoid any delay in the enrollment of a homeless child) the State Department of Education, Office of Homeless Children and Youth,
wherein the dispute will be resolved through its federal program's complaint procedure.

## F. Compliance

Colbert County School System will comply with the requirements of the Alabama Plan for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth.

## G. Assessment

Homeless students will participate in state assessments as all other students. Assessments of homeless students are to be included in school district accountability when students have been enrolled in a school for a full academic year. However, school districts are not required to disaggregate the assessment results of homeless students.

## H. Services Provided to Homeless

Colbert County School System will provide services to every homeless child or youth that are comparable to services offered to other students in the school. Colbert County School System will set aside a certain percentage of Title I, Part A funds to help provide services to identified homeless students. Each year the Homeless Liaison will apply for grant funds through a competitive process with the Alabama State Department of Education. Such services include, but are not limited to, tutoring, cost of field trips, class t-shirts, classroom supplies, clothing, transportation, eye glasses, dental work, etc. Each school maintains a list of homeless students for their school. A verbal or written request for services is made to the Homeless Liaison. All strategies used will be focused on supporting student's development and resilience by fostering their personal strengths while minimizing feelings of 'otherness" compare to fellow classmates.

# COLBERT COUNTY SCHOOLS

## McKINNEY-VENTO RESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE

**2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR**

**The answers below help Colbert County Schools determine whether your child(ren) may qualify for educational rights and services under the McKinney-Vento Act.** Please complete this form and return it to your child's school.

### 1. STUDENT / FAMILY INFORMATION

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

### 2. CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT

**Where is the student currently staying? Check all that apply.**

- ☐ In a shelter or transitional housing program
- ☐ In a motel, hotel, or similar temporary lodging
- ☐ In a vehicle, campground, or other place not meant for regular sleeping
- ☐ In an abandoned building, public space, or similar location
- ☐ Sharing housing with another family/household because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- ☐ Staying with friends, relatives, or another person because there is no fixed, regular, and adequate place to live
- ☐ Other temporary/inadequate living arrangement: _____
- ☐ None of the above; student has a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

### 3. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

**Is the student living in any situation described above without a parent or guardian?** ☐ Yes ☐ No *If yes, the student may be considered an unaccompanied youth. Please contact the school liaison.*

### 4. SCHOOL OF ORIGIN (IF APPLICABLE) | 5. REQUESTED SUPPORTS & SERVICES

**If the student has attended a school in Colbert County Schools within the last 3 years, please provide:**

School Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Last Grade Completed: _____ Last Date Attended: _____

**Please check any supports you would like your child to receive if eligible:**

- ☐ Transportation to the school of origin
- ☐ Educational services and school supplies
- ☐ Meal assistance
- ☐ Clothing
- ☐ Other: _____

### 6. FAMILY / STUDENT CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the school district will use this information to determine eligibility for services under the McKinney-Vento Act and may request additional information to confirm eligibility.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

**Student Signature (if unaccompanied youth):** _____ **Date:** _____

### PARENT/GUARDIAN: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- Enroll in school immediately, even without a permanent address or normally required records.
- Attend the school of origin or the local school, as applicable.
- Receive transportation to the school of origin when eligible.
- Receive access to meals, school supplies, and other educational services.

**For more information, contact the Colbert County Schools McKinney-Vento Liaison at (256) 383-1800.**

### SCHOOL / DISTRICT USE ONLY

McKinney-Vento Liaison: _____

Date Received: _____

Eligibility Determination: ☐ Eligible ☐ Not Eligible ☐ Pending – Additional Information Needed

Date Determined: _____

Notes: _____

_____

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** Information provided on this form is confidential and will be used only to determine eligibility for services under the McKinney-Vento Act. Information will not be shared outside the school district without consent, except as required by law.



Reviewed September 2026

Colbert County Schools
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DISPUTE FORM

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Student's Name: _____ SSN/SN_____ Grade_____

Current Address_____

(E-911 Address/ Street Address)

_____ _____ _____

City State Zip Code

Current Telephone Number: _____

***Complainant Information***

Name_____ Relationship to the Student _____

Current Address_____

Telephone: _____

Note: Student information regarding address, telephone number, information protected by *Everyday School Records Act* can be released only to parent, guardian, the student, or a person specifically designed as a representative of the parent or guardian.

Name of school that complainant chooses student to be immediately enrolled in and/or transported to/from until dispute is resolved: _____

Is this the *school of origin*? _____
If not, from which school was the student transferred? _____

Reason for the complaint:

_____

_____

_____

_____ _____

Complainant signature Date

School Use Only

Principal's Action on the Complaint

Taken within _____ school day(s) after receiving notice of the complaint.

Date central office contact person was notified of the dispute: _____

Action taken by the principal to resolve the dispute: _____

Was the dispute resolved? _____

***Fax this form to Brooklyn Bigbee, Central Office, on the day of the complaint.***

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT DISPUTE FORM

Student's Name _____ SSN/SN _____

School Name _____ Grade _____

**District Action on Complaint**

**Taken within _____ school days after receiving notice of the complaint. Was the complaint resolved at the district level? _____ yes _____ no**

**If the dispute was resolved at the district level, describe the action taken by the county homeless liaison to resolve the dispute to the satisfaction of the complainant:**

_____

_____

_____

**_____If the dispute was not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, did the county homeless liaison convene a meeting of the interested parties to attempt resolution of the dispute?**

**_____yes _____no**

**If yes when and where did the meeting take place? Describe the outcome of the meeting.**

_____

_____

_____

**If no, will a meeting be held for resolution purposes? When? Where?**

_____

**If a resolution cannot be derived at the district level, the county homeless liaison should assist the complainant in contacting service organizations to provide technical assistance to the complainant. Did the county homeless liaison assist the complainant in the manner? _____ yes _____ no**

**Name of service organization contacted for assistance _____**

**Was the dispute resolved? _____ Date _____**

**Describe the resolution. _____**

_____

_____ _____

**Complainant Signature** **Homeless Liaison**

_____

**Federal Programs Director**