

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH PLAN

CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018-19

The term “unaccompanied youth” includes a youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian (McKinney-Vento Act). These youth may have been denied housing by their families, left home voluntarily, or been abandoned by their parents or guardians.

Unaccompanied Youth include youth in homeless situations and have the same rights as other students experiencing homelessness. Specifically, they have the right to

- Remain in their school of origin or enroll in the school where they are temporarily residing.
- Transportation to and from the school of origin.
- Immediately enroll in a school serving the area in which they are currently living even if they don't have the typically required documents or a parent or guardian to authorize their enrollment.
- Equal access to programs and services.

Unaccompanied youth will be referred to the District Homeless Liaison, who is responsible for

- Attempting to identify an adult in the youth's life who can act as a caregiver.
- Informing unaccompanied youth of their rights to transportation and assisting youth in accessing transportation.
- Providing unaccompanied youth with notice of their right to appeal school or school district decisions and ensuring that youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes.
- Serving as the youth's advocate during the dispute resolution process. The youth shall remain in the selected school while the dispute is being resolved.
- Informing school personnel of the specific needs of runaway and homeless unaccompanied youth.
- Referring youth to federally-financed youth shelters, the local social service agency, and other programs available.