

# STUDENT POVERTY

*This Fact Sheet provides three rankings of poverty:*

1. *South Carolina school districts by poverty index.*
2. *Schools in Greenville County Schools by poverty index.*
3. *Schools in Greenville County Schools by number of homeless students.*

## PERCENT IN POVERTY SOUTH CAROLINA DISTRICTS

In 2019, 19.2% of the children ages 5 to 17 in South Carolina lived in poverty – the 8<sup>th</sup> highest poverty rate for this age group among the 50 states. (*U.S. Census Bureau*) In 2021, the federal poverty guideline for a family of four is \$26,500. (*U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services*)

As shown to the right, the South Carolina Department of Education uses a different measure of poverty for school districts and schools. By this measure 61% of students in public schools in the state in school year 2019-20 lived in poverty. More than half of the 81 districts in the state had a poverty index above 70%, and 94% of districts had a rate at or above 50%.

### Measuring Poverty

The South Carolina Department of Education's measure of poverty is the poverty index. It is the percentage of students who are transient, in foster care, homeless, or have been Medicaid-eligible or qualified for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) services within the last three years. (*S.C. Education Oversight Commission*)

**Table 1: Poverty Index by School District in South Carolina**

School Year 2019-20

Pov. Level	School District	Pov. Index	Pov. Level	School District	Pov. Index	
<b>90 - 99</b>	ALLENDALE	95.0		FLORENCE 05	70.9	
	HAMPTON 01	93.0		SPARTANBURG 03	70.9	
	DILLON 04	92.1		LEXINGTON 03	70.8	
	BAMBERG 02	91.8		FLORENCE 02	70.3	
	HAMPTON 02	91.2				
	FLORENCE 04	90.7	<b>60 - 69</b>	ABBEVILLE	69.4	
	CLARENDON 01	90.6		GEORGETOWN	68.1	
	BARNWELL 19	90.4		FLORENCE 01	67.5	
	LEE	90.2		YORK 01	66.9	
		SPARTANBURG 06		66.8		
<b>80 - 89</b>	WILLIAMSBURG	89.9		ANDERSON 05	66.1	
	MARION	89.7		OCONEE	65.8	
	FAIRFIELD	87.6		SPARTANBURG 04	65.7	
	FLORENCE 03	87.2		ANDERSON 02	64.5	
	CLARENDON 02	85.4		HORRY	64.3	
	MARLBORO	85.3		EDGEFIELD	64.2	
	ORANGEBURG	84.8		AIKEN	63.5	
	COLLETON	83.4		GREENWOOD 52	62.9	
	MCCORMICK	82.7		CLARENDON 03	61.9	
	JASPER	81.9		YORK 03	61.8	
	LEXINGTON 04	80.4		KERSHAW	61.4	
	LAURENS 56	80.0		ANDERSON 04	60.5	
	<b>70 - 79</b>	CHESTER	78.4	<b>50 - 59</b>	PICKENS	59.8
UNION		78.1	SPARTANBURG 01		58.9	
DARLINGTON		78.0	SPARTANBURG 02		57.1	
CALHOUN		77.9	BEAUFORT		56.7	
BAMBERG 01		77.7	BERKELEY		56.6	
BARNWELL 45		77.4	<b>GREENVILLE</b>		<b>55.8</b>	
GREENWOOD 51		77.1	RICHLAND 02		55.1	
SALUDA		77.1	SPARTANBURG 05		53.9	
BARNWELL 29		76.7	LANCASTER		53.2	
RICHLAND 01		75.6	CHARTER INST ERSKINE		52.5	
LEXINGTON 02		75.4	CHARLESTON		50.9	
CHESTERFIELD		74.3	DORCHESTER 02		50.9	
SUMTER		74.2	ANDERSON 01		50.5	
LAURENS 55		74.0				
GREENWOOD 50		73.9	<b>0 - 49</b>		SC PUBLIC CHARTER	47.9
CHEROKEE		73.6			LEXINGTON 05	45.0
DORCHESTER 04		73.3			LEXINGTON 01	44.8
ANDERSON 03		72.6			YORK 02	34.8
SPARTANBURG 07		72.1			YORK 04	20.1
DILLON 03	71.5					
NEWBERRY	71.3	<b>STATEWIDE</b>		<b>61.1</b>		

# PERCENT IN POVERTY GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Table 2 lists the 2019-20 poverty index for each elementary, middle and high school in Greenville County Schools from highest to lowest. The overall poverty index for the school district was 55.8.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2019, 15.1% of children under 18 in Greenville County lived in poverty. Of children ages 5 to 17, the rate was 15.8%. (*U.S. Census Bureau*)

**Table 2: Poverty Index by School in Greenville County Schools**

*School Year 2019-20*

Poverty Level	Elementary Schools	Poverty Index	Middle Schools	Poverty Index	High Schools	Poverty Index
<b>90-99</b>	HOLLIS ACADEMY*	94.0	TANGLEWOOD MIDDLE*	90.0		
	CHERRYDALE ELEM.*	92.0				
	GROVE ELEM.*	90.9				
	THOMAS E. KERNS ELEM.*	90.7				
<b>80-89</b>	WELCOME ELEM.*	89.6	LAKEVIEW MIDDLE*	88.2	CAROLINA ACADEMY	85.8
	ALEXANDER ELEM.*	89.4	BEREA MIDDLE*	85.5		
	SUE CLEVELAND ELEM.*	87.6				
	BEREA ELEM.*	86.2				
	MONAVIEW ELEM.*	84.2				
	ARMSTRONG ELEM.*	83.7				
	WESTCLIFFE ELEM.*	81.9				
	E. NORTH STREET ACAD.*	80.5				
<b>70-79</b>	BROOK GLENN ELEM.	79.3	WOODMONT MIDDLE	73.4	BEREA HIGH	79.7
	DUNCAN CHAPEL ELEM.*	79.3	GREER MIDDLE	70.8	SOUTHSIDE HIGH	76.1
	ROBERT E. CASHION ELEM.*	78.2				
	CHANDLER CREEK ELEM.*	76.9				
	SLATER MARIETTA ELEM.	76.9				
	FOUNTAIN INN ELEM.	76.1				
	HERITAGE ELEM.	74.7				
	CRESTVIEW ELEM.	72.3				
	LAKE FOREST ELEM.	72.1				
	<b>60-69</b>	ELLEN WOODSIDE ELEM.	67.0	NORTHWEST MIDDLE	68.3	GREER HIGH
GREENBRIER ELEM.		65.6	BRYSON MIDDLE	63.9		
A.J. WHITTENBURG ELEM.		65.5	HUGHES ACADEMY	61.1		
MITCHELL ROAD ELEM.		63.5	SEVIER MIDDLE	60.4		

\*2020-21 Title I Schools

Poverty Level	Elementary Schools	Poverty Index	Middle Schools	Poverty Index	High Schools	Poverty Index
	MAULDIN ELEM.	62.3				
	TAYLORS ELEM.	61.2				
	BRYSON ELEM.	60.7				
<b>50-59</b>	SIMPSONVILLE ELEM.	59.0	NORTHWOOD MIDDLE	52.9	TRAVELERS REST HIGH	59.8
	GATEWAY ELEM.	57.5	LEAGUE ACADEMY	50.2	WOODMONT HIGH	53.4
	SKYLAND ELEM.	56.6			GREENVILLE HIGH ACAD	52.9
	BLYTHE ACADEMY	55.1				
	TIGERVILLE ELEM.	50.6				
<b>40-49</b>	SUMMIT DRIVE ELEM.	49.9	GREENVILLE MID. ACAD.	49.7	HILLCREST HIGH	46.4
	MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEM.	49.7	PHINNIZE J. FISHER MID.	48.7	WADE HAMPTON HIGH	45.1
	BETHEL ELEM.	48.0	BECK ACADEMY	47.7	BLUE RIDGE HIGH	43.2
	FORK SHOALS SCHOOL	47.8	HILLCREST MIDDLE	47.7		
	PLAIN ELEM.	46.3	BLUE RIDGE MIDDLE	46.1		
	SARA COLLINS ELEM.	46.2	STERLING SCHOOL	43.3		
	BRUSHY CREEK ELEM.	46.1	MAULDIN MIDDLE	42.8		
	WOODLAND ELEM.	43.9	RALPH CHANDLER MID.	40.5		
	PARIS ELEM.	43.6				
	STERLING SCHOOL	43.3				
<b>0 - 39</b>	RUDOLPH GORDON SCHL	33.5	RUDOLPH GORDON SCHL	33.5	EASTSIDE HIGH	38.2
	PELHAM ROAD ELEM.	29.7	RIVERSIDE MIDDLE	32.2	J. L. MANN HIGH ACAD.	36.7
	BELL'S CROSSING ELEM.	29.5	LANGSTON CHARTER MID	11.8	MAULDIN HIGH	34.6
	BUENA VISTA ELEM.	29.5			RIVERSIDE HIGH	25.7
	STONE ACADEMY	29.1				
	MONARCH ELEM.	25.0				
	OAKVIEW ELEM.	22.6				
	AUGUSTA CIRCLE ELEM.	12.3				

Source: "2020 Poverty Index," SC School Report Card. (online: <https://screportcards.com>).

# HOMELESSNESS

# GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

More than 800 enrolled students in Greenville County Schools were homeless in 2020-21. This equals 1.1% of the total number of enrolled students. This is below the average of the previous three years of just over 1,100 students but may be an aberration due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Table 3 lists, for each school in Greenville County Schools, the number of homeless in 2020-21

and an average for the prior three years. (*Greenville County Schools*)

Using the most recent data, there were 12,545 homeless students in South Carolina in 2018-19. This was 1.6% of the total number of public school students in the state and was a 6.6% increase from 2016-17. (*National Center for Homeless Education*)

**Table 3: Number of Homeless Students by School in Greenville County Schools**

*School Year 2020-21 and Average for Three Previous Years*

School Name	Avg. for 3 prior years	2020-21
Monaview Elem.	13	43
Welcome Elem.	15	42
Blythe Elem.	80	27
Hollis Elem.	24	26
Lake Forest Elem.	31	26
Tanglewood Middle	27	24
Southside High	15	23
Lakeview Middle	16	21
Berea High	21	20
Mauldin High	17	20
Bryson Middle	14	18
Carolina High	26	18
East North Street Elem.	19	18
Sara Collins Elem.	13	17
Wade Hampton High	27	17
JL Mann High	11	16
Armstrong Elem.	7	15
Greenville High	16	15
AJ Whittenberg Elem.	17	14
Ralph Chandler Middle	13	14
Beck Middle	8	13
Robert E Cashion Elem.	16	13
Blue Ridge High	6	12

School Name	Avg. for 3 prior years	2020-21
Greer Middle	12	12
Mauldin Middle	20	12
Berea Middle	12	11
Grove Elem.	22	11
Mitchell Road Elem.	10	11
Bryson Elem.	7	10
Cherrydale Elem.	19	10
Hillcrest Middle	13	10
Sevier Middle	9	10
Northwood Middle	14	9
Riverside Middle	15	9
Blue Ridge Middle	7	8
Chandler Creek Elem.	13	8
Duncan Chapel Elem.	11	8
Hillcrest High	14	8
Hughes Middle	24	8
Plain Elem.	16	8
Simpsonville Elem.	14	8
Thomas E Kerns Elem.	7	8
Travelers Rest High	17	8
Bells Crossing Elem.	4	7
Greer High	6	7
League Middle	10	7

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Avg. for 3 prior years</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
Slater Marietta Elem.	21	7
Brushy Creek Elem.	4	6
Buena Vista Elem.	11	6
Crestview Elem.	7	6
Gateway Elem.	13	6
Heritage Elem.	4	6
Northwest Middle	16	6
Taylor's Elem.	9	6
Woodland Elem.	9	6
Alexander Elem.	12	5
Berea Elem.	10	5
Mauldin Elementary	14	5
Westcliffe Elem.	26	5
Bethel Elem.	7	4
Eastside High	11	4
Fork Shoals Elem.	6	4
Greenville Middle	15	4
Mountain View Elem.	3	4
Overbook CDC	8	4
Phinnize J. Fisher Middle	7	4
Skyland Elem.	32	4
Summit Drive Elem.	9	4
Brook Glenn Elem.	12	3
Ellen Woodside Elem.	3	3
Fountain Inn Elem.	8	3
Riverside High	10	3
Sterling School	9	3
Woodmont High	9	3
Woodmont Middle	13	3
Augusta Circle Elem.	2	2
Monarch Elem.	4	2
Pelham Road Elem.	5	2
Rudolph Gordon Elem.	8	2
Greenbrier Elem.	8	1
Paris Elem.	2	1
Stone Elem.	8	1
Tigerville Elem.	6	1
Washington Center	0	1
Langston Charter Middle	0	0
Oakview Elem.	3	0
Sue Cleveland Elem.	7	0
<b>Greenville Co. Schools</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>825</b>

Source: Homeless Education Liaison Office, Greenville Co. Schools