

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 2021, 19.6% of the children ages 5 to 17 in South Carolina lived in poverty - the 10th highest poverty rate for this age group among the 50 states. The U.S. rate was 16.5%. (*U.S. Census Bureau*) In 2021, the federal poverty guideline for a family of four was \$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 62% of students in public schools in the state in school year 2022-23 lived in poverty (using the 45-day headcount). More than half of the 76 districts in the state had a poverty index above 70%, and 93% of districts had a rate 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 2022-23 from 45-Day Headcount

Pov. Level	School District	Pov. Index	Pov. Level	School District	Pov. Index
90 - 99	Lee	94.8	60 - 69	Spartanburg 04	69.8
	Dillon 04	92.6		Anderson 03	69.7
	Allendale	91.7		Georgetown	68.6
	Williamsburg	90.2		Anderson 05	68.0
	Florence 03	90.1		York 01	67.8
80 - 89	Marion	89.0	Oconee	66.5	
	McCormick	87.1	Dorchester 04	65.8	
	Colleton	86.7	Greenwood 52	64.3	
	Orangeburg	86.1	York 03	64.1	
	Marlboro	86.1	Edgefield	63.2	
	Fairfield	85.7	Pickens	63.2	
	Hampton	84.0	Horry	62.9	
	Barnwell 48	83.8	Kershaw	62.8	
	Clarendon 06	81.8	Aiken	62.3	
	Bamberg 03	81.3	Anderson 02	61.6	
	Lexington 04	81.0	Spartanburg 02	60.8	
	Laurens 56	81.0	Anderson 04	60.1	
	Calhoun	81.0	50 - 59	Spartanburg 01	59.3
	Darlington	80.0		Beaufort	59.2
	70 - 79	Chester		79.0	Richland 02
Barnwell 45		78.7		Charter Institute Erskine	57.8
Saluda		78.4		Spartanburg 05	57.2
Lexington 02		78.3	Greenville	55.9	
Union		78.2	Berkeley	55.3	
Laurens 55		78.1	Dorchester 02	54.1	
Jasper		77.6	Limestone Charter	51.6	
Sumter		77.5	Anderson 01	51.2	
Cherokee		76.7	Lancaster	51.1	
Greenwood 51		76.3	SC Public Charter Dist.	50.8	
0 - 49	Dillon 03	76.1	Charleston	48.4	
	Greenwood 50	75.9	Lexington 01	46.5	
	Richland 01	75.7	Lexington 05	45.7	
	Chesterfield	75.0	York 02	33.8	
	Florence 05	74.1	York 04	20.8	
	Newberry	73.3	STATEWIDE	61.5	
	Spartanburg 07	72.5			
	Spartanburg 03	72.3			
	Florence 01	72.2			
	Lexington 03	71.1			
	Florence 02	70.7			
	Abbeville	70.3			
	Spartanburg 06	70.1			

PERCENT IN POVERTY GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Table 2 lists the poverty index from the 2022-23, 45-day headcount for each elementary, middle and high school in Greenville County Schools from highest to lowest. The overall poverty index for the school district was 55.9.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2021, 14.2% of children under 18 in Greenville County lived in poverty. Of children ages 5 to 17, the rate was 13.5%. (*U.S. Census Bureau*)

Table 2: Poverty Index by School in Greenville County Schools

School Year 2022-23 from 45-Day Headcount

Poverty Level	Elementary Schools	Poverty Index	Middle Schools	Poverty Index	High Schools	Poverty Index
90-99	Thomas E. Kerns Elem*	91.1	Tanglewood Middle*	90.1		
	Hollis Academy*	90.8				
	Welcome Elem*	90.3				
80-89	Cherrydale Elem*	89.1	Lakeview Middle*	89.1	Carolina Academy (High)	88.9
	Alexander Elem*	88.2	Berea Middle*	85.7	Berea High	81.4
	Grove Elem*	87.9				
	Berea Elem*	85.5				
	Westcliffe Elem*	82.9				
	Sue Cleveland Elem*	81.6				
	Monaview Elem*	81.1				
70-79	East North St. Academy*	79.0			Southside High	79.2
	Robert E. Cashion Elem.*	78.0				
	Duncan Chapel Elem*	77.5				
	Slater Marietta Elem	76.5				
	Armstrong Elem*	76.3				
	Chandler Creek Elem*	75.2				
	Heritage Elem	74.7				
	Brook Glenn Elem	71.6				
	Lake Forest Elem	70.1				
60-69	Crestview Elem	69.9	Woodmont Middle	68.9	Greer High	67.6
	Fountain Inn Elem	69.5	Greer Middle	68.0	Travelers Rest High	60.5
	Ellen Woodside Elem	64.0	Northwest Middle	66.3		
	A J Whittenburg Elem	63.8	Bryson Middle	66.3		
	Mauldin Elem	61.8				

*2022-23 Title I Schools

Poverty Level	Elementary Schools	Poverty Index	Middle Schools	Poverty Index	High Schools	Poverty Index
	Mitchell Road Elem	61.0				
	Bryson Elem	60.7				
50-59	Greenbrier Elem	59.0	Hughes Academy	58.7	Woodmont High	55.5
	Taylor's Elem	58.2	Sevier Middle	55.9	Greenville High Academy	54.3
	Simpsonville Elem	57.1	Greenville Middle Acad.	53.3	Fountain Inn High	52.1
	Gateway Elem	52.8	Northwood Middle	52.3		
	Blythe Academy	52.2	Beck Academy	51.3		
	Skyland Elem	51.8	Phinnize J Fisher Middle	50.4		
	Fork Shoals Elem	51.5				
40-49	Mountain View Elem	48.4	League Academy	48.4	Wade Hampton High	49.4
	Plain Elem	48.3	Mauldin Middle	48.1	Hillcrest High	46.8
	Tigerville Elem	48.1	Blue Ridge Middle	47.7	Blue Ridge High	45.8
	Paris Elem	47.4	Ralph Chandler Middle	45.8	Eastside High	42.1
	Summit Drive Elem	46.8	Hillcrest Middle	45.7	J L Mann High Academy	40.8
	Brushy Creek Elem	46.8				
	Bethel Elem	45.7				
	Sara Collins Elem	43.3				
	Woodland Elem	41.0				
0 - 39	Sterling Elem (PK-8)	35.1	Riverside Middle	33.0	Mauldin High	37.0
	Rudolph Gordon School (K-8)	33.7	Langston Charter Middle	12.2	Riverside High	30.2
	Buena Vista Elem	32.4				
	Pelham Road Elem	30.1				
	Bells Crossing Elem	29.8				
	Stone Academy	29.4				
	Oakview Elem	25.6				
	Monarch Elem.	24.5				
	Augusta Circle Elem	11.3				

Source: 45-Day Active Student Headcount, SC Dept. of Education. (<https://ed.sc.gov/data/other/student-counts/active-student-headcounts/>)

HOMELESSNESS

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Nearly 1,300 enrolled students in Greenville County Schools were homeless in 2021-22. This equals 1.7% of the total number of enrolled students. Of these, 74% were doubled up, 17% were in a hotel, 7% were sheltered, and 1% unsheltered. Table 3 lists, for each school in Greenville County Schools, the number of homeless in 2021-22 and an average for the prior three years. *(Greenville County Schools)*

The three-year average for the district is lower in part due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as there were 825 homeless students in 2020-21.

Using the most recent data, there were 11,986 homeless students in South Carolina in 2020-21. This was 1.6% of the total number of public school students in the state. *(National Center for Homeless Education)*

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

School Year 2021-22 and Average for Three Previous Years

School Name	Avg. for 3 prior years	2021-22
Blythe Elem.	56	59
Monaview Elem.	24	56
Welcome Elem.	16	49
Riverside Middle	12	45
Southside High	16	41
Lake Forest Elem.	31	39
Tanglewood Middle	26	36
Woodmont High	6	35
Wade Hampton High	28	33
Mauldin Middle	22	30
Slater Marietta Elem.	18	30
Hollis Elem.	24	29
Robert E Cashion Elem.	15	28
Carolina High	26	26
JL Mann High	12	25
Lakeview Middle	17	25
Chandler Creek Elem.	11	24
Sara Collins Elem.	14	23
Ralph Chandler Middle	11	21
Sevier Middle	8	21
Thomas E Kerns Elem.	5	21
Plain Elem.	15	20
Berea Elem.	9	18

School Name	Avg. for 3 prior years	2021-22
East North Street Elem.	18	18
Hillcrest Middle	14	18
Northwood Middle	14	18
Berea High	21	17
Gateway Elem.	11	17
Greenville High	12	17
Hillcrest High	10	17
Hughes Middle	20	17
Grove Elem.	20	16
AJ Whittenberg Elem.	18	15
Cherrydale Elem.	12	15
Greenville Middle	13	15
Alexander Elem.	8	14
Taylors Elem.	10	14
Northwest Middle	14	13
Berea Middle	8	12
Woodland Elem.	8	12
Mauldin High	20	11
Pelham Road Elem.	5	11
Simpsonville Elem.	16	11
Eastside High	7	10
Greer High	5	10
Mauldin Elementary	12	10

School Name	Avg. for 3 prior years	2021-22
Phinnize J. Fisher Middle	6	10
Westcliffe Elem.	20	10
Blue Ridge Middle	8	9
Bryson Middle	14	9
League Middle	9	9
Summit Drive Elem.	9	9
Greer Middle	12	8
Travelers Rest High	17	8
Duncan Chapel Elem.	13	7
Mitchell Road Elem.	9	7
Riverside High	10	7
Rudolph Gordon Elem.	8	7
Blue Ridge High	7	6
Oakview Elem.	2	6
Woodmont Middle	13	6
Beck Middle	9	5
Bells Crossing Elem.	5	5
Brook Glenn Elem.	11	5
Brushy Creek Elem.	5	5
Bryson Elem.	8	5
Buena Vista Elem.	10	5
Overbook CDC	7	5
Stone Elem.	5	5
Bethel Elem.	6	4
Fountain Inn Elem.	7	4
Greenbrier Elem.	7	4
Heritage Elem.	6	4
Monarch Elem.	4	4
Paris Elem.	1	4
Skyland Elem.	17	4
Sue Cleveland Elem.	4	4
Armstrong Elem.	10	3
Augusta Circle Elem.	2	3
Crestview Elem.	7	3
Ellen Woodside Elem.	2	3
Fork Shoals Elem.	6	3
Fountain Inn High	NA	2
Tigerville Elem.	5	2
Mountain View Elem.	3	1
Langston Charter Middle	0	0
Sterling School	8	0
Greenville Co. Schools	1,030	1,272

Source: Homeless Education Liaison Office, Greenville Co. Schools