
district information

From Jill Rudd <Jill.Rudd@taylor.k12.fl.us>

Date Thu 8/14/2025 12:20 PM

To district.everyone <district.everyone@taylor.k12.fl.us>

Dear Taylor County Team:

I hope this year proves to be one of your best years working for Taylor County School District! There is important contact information that I would like to share with you. Under the McKinney-Vento Act for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, school districts must appoint a local homeless liaison to fulfill the obligations outlined in the Act and to educate school staff on these responsibilities. Below, you will find the contact information for the homeless education program liaison at the Taylor County School district:

District Homeless Liaison

Melissa Cephus

318 N Clark St

Perry, FL 32347

850-838-2500 ext. 5201

386-243-9359

The duties of the liaison include ensuring that:

- (i) homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- (ii) homeless children and youths enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools of that district;
- (iii) homeless families, children, and youths receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including Head Start and preschool programs administered by the local educational agency, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services;
- (iv) the parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
- (v) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated where such children

and youths receive services under this Act, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;
(vi) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act; and
(vii) the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin (the school the student attended when he became homeless or last school attended) and is assisted in accessing transportation to the selected school.

Last year, our district identified 203 homeless students, mostly through the efforts of school staff. This is up from 158 the year before. We encourage you to visit the Homeless Education Program website for further information. Also, Melissa Cephus, Homeless Liaison, will be following up with you in the near future and providing technical assistance and the mandatory training for school staff. Melissa will also provide you with brochures and posters for public notice of the educational rights of homeless students. These should be displayed in areas at your school where families and students frequent such as the registrar's office, main office, etc.

If you need further information, please contact Ms. Cephus. Information related to the Title IX: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program is also located on the Taylor County School District website, <https://www.taylor.k12.fl.us/homelesseducation>, this information can be found under the Students and Parents tab.

District School Social Worker

Rhonda Brooks
318 N Clark St
Perry, FL
32347
850-838-2500 ext. 5206

District Child Find/School Social Worker:

Betsy Stephens
318 N Clark St
Perry, FL
32347
850-838-2500 ext. 5208

We look forward to working together to create an inclusive and supportive school community, where every student can thrive and succeed. Let's make this school year one of growth, learning, and meaningful connections!

Jill Rudd
Director of Instruction