

HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE
Making Alabama's Education Laws Benefit Everyone

A Report to the Governor and the Alabama Legislature

September 30, 2026

Submitted to the Governor
Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation—Education
House Ways and Means Education Committee
Legislative Services Agency
Finance Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Helping Families Initiative (HFI) is a district attorney–school–community crime prevention partnership that intervenes without arrest before attendance and behavior problems draw children and families into the juvenile or adult justice system. HFI combines early family intervention, and when necessary, structured assessment, service coordination, and accountability to address the underlying causes of unexcused absences and disruptive behavior.

During the 2025–2026 school year, HFI reported serving 85,974 students, 58,753 families, and 87,657 parents and guardians through 20 district attorney jurisdictions. HFI operated in 594 schools across 52 public school systems, plus Pickens Academy. The participating public systems enrolled 318,945 students—44.65% of Alabama's reported public-school enrollment.

Measure	Reported result
Students served directly	85,974
Families served	58,753
Parents and guardians served	87,657
Schools served	594
District attorney jurisdictions	20
Public school systems	52

THE VALUE PROPOSITION

When considering HFI's impact on the total student population of participating school systems (318,945 students), the \$3.3 million appropriation equals approximately \$10 per student. Documented local support added about 61 cents for every state dollar.

HFI also made substantial progress in statewide accountability. Its web-based Case Management System (CMS), standardized Workplan, common data elements, training, and fidelity-review process now support a more consistent model for identifying families, intervening, assessing needs, coordinating services, and documenting results.

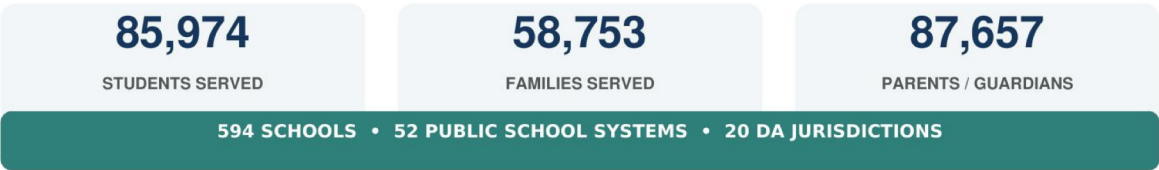
The 2026-2027 school year will see further expansion of the Helping Families Initiative with the addition of three new judicial circuits and accompanying school systems (Circuit 6: Tuscaloosa County and Tuscaloosa City; Circuit 12: Coffee County, Pike County, Elba, Enterprise, and Troy; and, Circuit 31 Colbert County, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia). These 11 new school systems have a student enrollment of over 52,000 students. In addition, Washington County Schools has been added to Circuit 1 and Jefferson County Schools (one high school feeder pattern) has been added to Circuit 10-Jefferson County Division.

The next step is to pair these reach and activity measures with verified student outcomes—especially changes in attendance, chronic absenteeism, and other serious violations of codes of student conduct. Other indirect benefits may accrue in the areas of academic growth, academic achievement, chronic absenteeism, college and career readiness and graduation rates as well. That evidence will allow future reports to demonstrate not only how many people HFI reaches, but also the measurable difference the intervention makes.

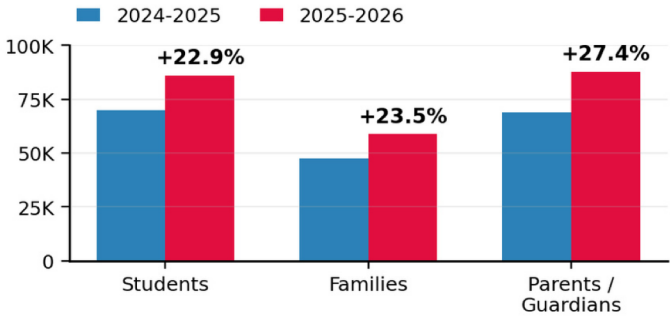
HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE

Early intervention for Alabama students. Support for families. Stronger communities.

2026 LEGISLATIVE IMPACT SNAPSHOT | Alabama



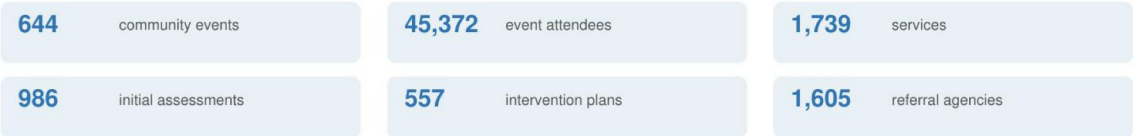
MORE ALABAMA FAMILIES ARE BEING REACHED



HOW HFI WORKS

- 1 **Identify**
Attendance, behavior or family concerns
- 2 **Engage**
Students and families directly
- 3 **Assess**
Underlying family needs and barriers
- 4 **Connect**
Schools, DAs and community resources
- 5 **Follow**
Intervention plans and case progress

2025-2026: INTERVENTION IN ACTION



WHY THIS INVESTMENT MATTERS

HFI is designed to intervene before school attendance or behavioral problems deepen. Local teams bring district attorneys, schools, families, and community providers together around one student and one family.

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALABAMA

Continued state investment can sustain and expand an established early-intervention network while strengthening the outcome measurement legislators expect. Service counts demonstrate substantial reach; continued evaluation should document how intervention affects attendance, behavior, family functioning and justice-system involvement.

EARLIER INTERVENTION • COORDINATED SUPPORT • STRONGER ACCOUNTABILITY

Helping Families Initiative | hfialabama.com | 2026 Legislative Impact Snapshot

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	4
AUTHORIZATION.....	4
PARTICIPATING SERVICE AREAS AND SCHOOL SYSTEMS.....	5
2025–2026 PARTICIPATING-SYSTEM ENROLLMENT.....	7
FUNDING AND PUBLIC VALUE	8
State Funding.....	8
Documented Local Support.....	8
Value Indicators.....	8
Highlights — HFI Morgan County Statistics.....	9
Highlights — Mobile County Statistics	10
2025–2026 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	11
Progress Since the 2024 ACES Evaluation	11
HFI Workplan.....	12
HFI Case Management System	12
QUANTITATIVE RESULTS	13
CONCLUSION.....	14
EXHIBITS	15
A. Number of Students Served	15
B. Number of Families Served	16
C. Number of Parents/Guardians Served.....	17
D. Number of Schools Served	18
E. Number of Individualized Intervention Plans Initiated	19
F. Number of Initial Family Assessments completed.	20
G. Number of Reassessments.	21
H. Number of Closed Assessments.....	22
I. Number of Inter Agency Team Meetings	23
J. Number of Interagency Cases Addressed.....	24
K. Number of Referral Agencies	25
L. Number of Services Provided	26
M. Number of Students Utilizing Services.....	27
N. Number of Agencies Shared with Students	28
O. Number of Community Involvement Events.....	29
P. Attendance at Community Involvement Events	30
Q. Letter from District Attorney Scott Anderson	31
R. Mobile County Public Schools Impact Report	32
S. Mobile County District Attorney Press Release	37

INTRODUCTION

This report responds to the FY2026 reporting requirement for the Helping Families Initiative. It describes HFI's service area, funding, statewide operating model, and reported program activity for the 2025–2026 school year. Specifically, Exhibits A through P address the reporting data elements as required by the Alabama Act 2026-380, Education Trust Fund Budget for FY2027.

HFI connects students and families with existing school and community resources to improve attendance, behavior, and academic engagement before children and families become involved in the adult or juvenile justice systems.

AUTHORIZATION

Alabama's compulsory school attendance requirements are codified at Alabama Code 1975, § 16-28-1 et seq. Parents and guardians are responsible for a child's enrollment, attendance, and conduct. Violations may result in fines, costs, or up to 90 days of hard labor. Under § 16-28-12, principals and superintendents must report suspected violations to the district attorney within 10 days. An intentional failure to report is a Class C misdemeanor. The District Attorneys are directed to vigorously enforce the attendance law.

PARTICIPATING SERVICE AREAS AND SCHOOL SYSTEMS

During 2025–2026, HFI operated through 20 district attorney jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions included 52 public school systems plus Pickens Academy.

The 52 public systems had a combined enrollment of 318,945 students.

For 2026–2027, HFI is expanding into Circuits 6, 12, and 31, bringing planned coverage to 23 district attorney jurisdictions spanning 22 numbered judicial circuits. The roster below reflects the current planned service areas.

Table 1 Participating School Systems

Circuit / service area	Planned participating educational entities
1	Clarke County; Thomasville City; Washington County
4	Dallas County; Perry County; Wilcox County; Selma City
6	Tuscaloosa County; Tuscaloosa City
7	Anniston City; Calhoun County; Cleburne County; Oxford City Schools
8	Decatur City; Morgan County; Hartselle City
10—Birmingham	Birmingham City; Jefferson County; Tarrant City
10—Bessemer	Bessemer City; Midfield City
12	Coffee County; Pike County; Elba City; Enterprise City; Troy City
13	Chickasaw City; Mobile County; ACCEL Charter; Satsuma City
15	Montgomery County
16	Etowah County
19	Autauga County; Chilton County; Elmore County; Tallassee City
24	Pickens County; Fayette County; Lamar County; Pickens Academy
25	Marion County; Winston County; Winfield City; Haleyville City
26	Russell County; Phenix City
27	Marshall County; Albertville City; Guntersville City
31	Tuscumbia City; Muscle Shoals City; Sheffield City; Colbert County
32	Cullman City; Cullman County
34	Franklin County; Russellville City
35	Conecuh County
37	Lee County; Auburn City; Opelika City
40	Clay County; Coosa County
41	Blount County; Oneonta City

Circuit 1

Clarke County, Thomasville City, Washington County

Circuit 4

Dallas County, Perry County, Wilcox County, Selma City

Circuit 6

Tuscaloosa County, Tuscaloosa City

Circuit 7

Anniston City, Calhoun County, Cleburne County, Oxford City Schools

Circuit 8

Decatur City, Morgan County, Hartselle City

Circuit 10 - Birmingham Div.

Birmingham City, Jefferson County, Tarrant City

Circuit 10 - Bessemer Div.

Bessemer City¹, Midfield City

Circuit 12

Coffee County, Pike County, Elba City, Enterprise City, Troy City

Circuit 13

Chickasaw City, Mobile County, Mobile Charter, Satsuma²

Circuit 15

Montgomery County

Circuit 16

Etowah County

Circuit 19

Autauga County, Chilton County, Elmore County, Tallassee City

Circuit 24

Pickens County, Fayette County, Lamar County, Pickens Academy,

Circuit 25

Marion County, Winston County, Winfield City, Haleyville City

Circuit 26

Russell County, Phenix City

Circuit 27

Marshall County, Albertville City, Guntersville City

Circuit 31

Tuscumbia City, Muscle Shoals City, Sheffield City, Colbert County

Circuit 32

Cullman City, Cullman County

Circuit 34

Franklin County, Russellville City

Circuit 35

Conecuh County

Circuit 37

Lee County, Auburn City, Opelika City

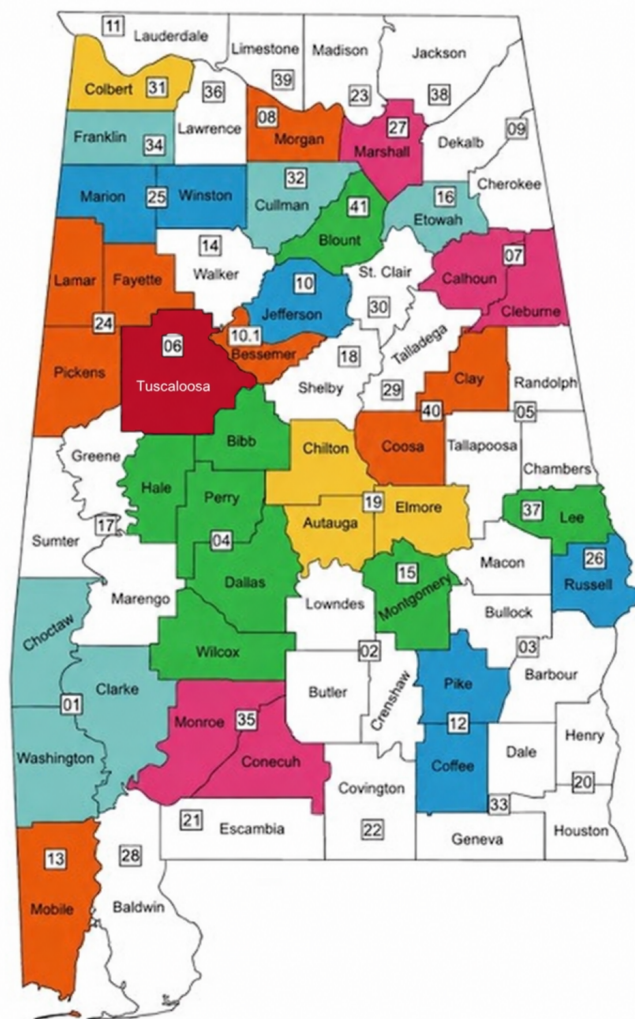
Circuit 40

Clay County, Coosa County

Circuit 41

Blount County, Oneonta City

*Figure 1 Planned 2026-2027 HFI
Judicial Circuit Coverage*



¹ Partial Year data only

² Partial Year data only

2025–2026 PARTICIPATING-SYSTEM ENROLLMENT

The table below reports enrollment for the 52 public school systems in the 2025–2026 service area. Pickens Academy is listed as an additional educational entity but is excluded from the 318,945 public-system enrollment total because enrollment was not reported in the source table.

Circuit	School system	K–12	PK	Total	Circuit	School system	K–12	PK	Total
1	Clarke County	1,952	76	2,028	19	Tallassee City	1,427	79	1,506
1	Thomasville City	964	49	1,013	24	Pickens County	2,122	60	2,182
4	Dallas County	2,048	83	2,131	24	Fayette County	2,180	91	2,271
4	Perry County	740	33	773	24	Lamar County	2,037	56	2,093
4	Wilcox County	1,021	71	1,092	24	Pickens Academy			
4	Selma City	2,149	88	2,237	25	Marion County	3,203	94	3,297
7	Anniston City	1,630	90	1,720	25	Winston County	2,183	86	2,269
7	Calhoun County	7,761	240	8,001	25	Winfield City	1,157	36	1,193
7	Cleburne County	2,383	108	2,491	25	Haleyville City	1,488	38	1,526
7	Oxford City Schools	3,856	161	4,017	26	Russell County	3,701	127	3,828
8	Decatur City	8,461	313	8,774	26	Phenix City	6,736	218	6,954
8	Morgan County	7,162	280	7,442	27	Marshall County	6,106	194	6,300
8	Hartselle City	3,505	175	3,680	27	Albertville City	5,559	126	5,685
10	Birmingham City	19,525	748	20,273	27	Guntersville City	1,682	69	1,751
10	Jefferson County	33,500	945	34,445	32	Cullman City	3,118	104	3,222
10	Tarrant City	1,106	15	1,121	32	Cullman County	9,588	323	9,911
10.1	Bessemer City ³	2,826	124	2,950	34	Franklin County	3,325	133	3,458
10.1	Midfield City	903	30	933	34	Russellville City	2,503	56	2,559
13	Chickasaw City	3,577	76	3,653	35	Conecuh County	1,187	71	1,258
13	Mobile County	47,352	1,522	48,874	37	Lee County	8,607	358	8,965
13	ACCEL Charter	953	*	953	37	Auburn City	9,394	*	9,394
13	Satsuma City	1,505	36	1,541	37	Opelika City	5,324	103	5,427
15	Montgomery County	25,306	639	25,945	40	Clay County	1,695	*	1,695
16	Etowah County	8,218	255	8,473	40	Coosa County	789	*	789
19	Autauga County	8,533	142	8,675	41	Blount County	7,302	229	7,531
19	Chilton County	7,523	316	7,839	41	Oneonta City	1,395	*	1,395
19	Elmore County	11,245	167	11,412					
GRAND TOTAL—52 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS									318,945

Source: enrollment figures reproduced from the supplied draft. An asterisk denotes no separate PK figure in the source table.

³ Partial Year Data Only

FUNDING AND PUBLIC VALUE

State Funding

Act 2025-270 appropriated \$3.3 million for HFI in FY2026. It also mandates that no more than 15% of the appropriation may be used for indirect, overhead, administrative, training, or support expenses.

Documented Local Support

Participating school systems and local governments reported \$2,022,149 in local support. This local participation demonstrates community commitment and extends the reach of the state appropriation.

Table 2 Local Funding by School System

Judicial circuit	School system / source	Local funds
1	Clarke County	\$5,000
1	Thomasville City	\$5,000
7	Anniston City	36,667
7	Calhoun County	55,000
7	Cleburne County	10,000
7	Oxford City	20,000
10 Birmingham	Birmingham City	\$549,000
10 Bessemer	Tarrant City	\$87,965
10	Jefferson County	\$111,024
13	Chickasaw City	\$13,005
13	Mobile County	\$663,000
13	ACCEL	\$14,450
15	Montgomery County Schools	\$80,000
15	City of Montgomery	\$125,000
15	Montgomery Co. Commission	\$100,000
19	Autauga County	\$36,000
19	Chilton County	\$36,816
19	Elmore County	\$36,000
19	Tallassee City	\$36,000
25	Marion County	\$22,000
25	Winston County	\$8,680
37	Lee County Commission	\$75,000
37	Lee County Other	\$19,025
TOTAL		\$2,144,632

Value Indicators

Measure	Reported result
State appropriation	\$3,300,000
Documented local support	\$2,143,816
Local support per state dollar	\$0.61
Combined documented funding	\$5,443,816
State support per student directly and indirectly served	\$10.34⁴
Combined funding per student directly served	\$17.07
Participating-system share of statewide enrollment	44.65%
Students served as a share of participating-system enrollment	26.96%

⁴ Based on student population of participating school systems.

Highlights — HFI Morgan County Statistics

Petitions for Truancy and Adult Violations of the Parent Responsibility Act and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (12 years old and under) are beginning to fall significantly.

The District Attorney Office in the 8th Circuit of Alabama (Morgan County) reports that **Truancy Petitions in the Circuit are down 67.25% from their base year**. This District Attorney Office also reports **Violations of the Parent Responsibility Act and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (12-year-old and under) is down 71.35 %** during the same period.

See letter from District Attorney Scott Anderson, 8th Judicial Circuit of Alabama in Exhibits.

Helping Families Initiative
Morgan County - 8th Judicial Circuit
JUVENILE COURT CASES⁵
Truancy Cases

Table 3 Juvenile Court Truancy Reductions

School Year Calendar	Number of JU Court Cases	% (+/-) over the base year
* 2023 (7/1/22 to 6/30/23)	687	N/A
2024 (7/1/23 to 6/30/24)	619	- 9.90%
2025 (7/1/24 to 6/30/25)	421	- 38.72%
2026 (7/1/25 to 6/30/26)	225	- 67.25%

* Comparison

11/1/23 - Decatur City Schools started with HFI.

10/1/24 - Morgan County Schools started with HFI.

11/1/24 - Hartselle City Schools started with HFI.

Helping Families Initiative
Morgan County - 8th Judicial Circuit
JUVENILE COURT CASES⁶
Adult-Violation Parent Responsibility Act Cases
(Adult Contributory Cases, 12 years old & under)

Table 4 Juvenile Court Adult Case Reductions

School Year Calendar	Number of JU Court Cases	% (+/-) over the base year
* 2023 (7/1/22 to 6/30/23)	164	N/A
2024 (7/1/23 to 6/30/24)	138	- 15.86%
2025 (7/1/24 to 6/30/25)	115	- 29.88%
2026 (7/1/25 to 6/30/26)	47	- 71.35%

* Comparison

11/1/23 - Decatur City Schools started with HFI.

10/1/24 - Morgan County Schools started with HFI.

11/1/24 - Hartselle City Schools started with HFI.

⁵ September 18, 2026

State Judicial Information System (SJIS)

⁶ September 18, 2026

State Judicial Information System (SJIS)

Highlights — Mobile County Statistics

The District Attorney's Office in Circuit 13 (Mobile County) reports violations of the Parent Responsibility Act and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (12 years old and under) etc. are **down 37.62% from the previous year**. In addition, Chronic Absenteeism saw a **59.49% reduction** from the base year.

Helping Families Initiative
Mobile County - 13th Judicial Circuit
Adult-Violation Parent Responsibility Act Cases
(Adult Contributory Cases, 12 years old & under), etc.

School Year Calendar	Number of JU Court Cases	% (+/-) over the base year
2025 7/1/24 to 6/30/25)	412	N/A
2026 (7/1/25 to 6/30/26)	257	-37.62%

Helping Families Initiative
Mobile County - 13th Judicial Circuit
TRUANT STUDENTS

The data in the 13th Circuit of Alabama (Mobile Jurisdiction) reports that the Number of Truant Students in the Circuit are down 65.54% from the base year of 2023.

Table 5 Truancy Cases

TRUANCY

School Year Calendar	Number Truant Students	% (+/-) over the base year
2023 (7/1/22 to 6/30/23)	18,722	N/A
2026 (7/1/25 to 6/30/26)	6,451	-65.54%

Helping Families Initiative
Mobile County - 13th Judicial Circuit
CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

The 13th Circuit also reports that the Number of Chronically Absent Students is down 59.49% during the same period.

Table 6 Chronic Absenteeism

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

School Year Calendar	Number of Chronically Absent Students	% (+/-) over the base year
* 2023 (7/1/22 to 6/30/23)	17,767	N/A
2026 (7/1/25 to 6/30/26)	7,197	59.49%

2025–2026 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, HFI reported that it was building the infrastructure needed for more consistent statewide operation. In 2026, that infrastructure is operational. The Case Management System (CMS), standardized Workplan, Collaborative Implementation Agreement, statewide training, common data elements, and fidelity-review process now provide a more consistent model for identifying families, assessing needs, coordinating services, monitoring activity, and documenting results.

Progress Since the 2024 ACES Evaluation

ACES recommendation / finding	HFI action since 2024	Status
Upgrade the case-management system	A statewide web-based CMS is operational. Participating Alabama school systems use PowerSchool to maintain attendance and behavior records; the HFI CMS automatically receives those records and refreshes the data daily. The system maintains communications, case status, assessments, IIPs, referrals, follow-up, and closure in a single student/family record.	ADDRESSED
Develop standard operating procedures and consistent operations	The HFI Workplan v1.1 and CMS User Guide v3.0 establish a common statewide workflow from referral through closure, define required data elements, and require local review and approval of implementation procedures.	ADDRESSED
Strengthen participant tracking and monitoring	Individual student records retain attendance and behavior histories and case activity. The CMS tracks case status, follow-up tasks, incomplete assessments, and service utilization.	ADDRESSED
Establish quality-control and fidelity measures	The Workplan defines required case elements, random/as-needed and quarterly case review, review by Case Officers, Team Leaders, and the State Support Team, documentation of findings in the CMS, and assignment/tracking of corrective actions.	ADDRESSED
Improve family assessment, intervention planning, referrals, and follow-up	NCFAS-G intake, reassessment, and closure are built into the CMS. IIP goals can be tied to assessed needs; IAT meetings, attendees, cases, referrals, follow-up dates, and service utilization can be documented and reported.	ADDRESSED
Establish performance measures aligned with intended outcomes	The Workplan specifies output and outcome measures, including attendance improvement, reduced unexcused absences, reduced behavior incidents and suspensions, family engagement, service connections, and improvement on reassessment/closure.	ADDRESSED
Strengthen training and retraining	HFI combines onboarding and recurring statewide training with the CMS User Guide, Workplan, State Support Team oversight, case review, and corrective-action processes. The 2026 Summer Conference included dedicated Workplan and CMS training.	SUBSTANTIALLY ADDRESSED
Develop a universal attendance and behavior code	A single statewide code remains outside HFI's unilateral authority. HFI has instead standardized documentation and the intervention process after locally established attendance/behavior triggers, preserving local policy while improving statewide consistency.	OUTSIDE HFI AUTHORITY
Strengthen financial accountability	Financial reporting and circuit-level budgeting have improved, and legislative limits now constrain administrative/support spending. Final FY2026 documentation is still needed before claiming every ACES financial recommendation has been fully satisfied.	PARTIAL / VERIFY
Conduct an independent impact evaluation	The CMS now supplies the standardized individual-level data infrastructure that ACES found missing. A rigorous independent impact evaluation remains an appropriate next step; implementation of the CMS itself should not be characterized as a completed impact evaluation.	NEXT STEP

HFI Workplan

The Workplan turns HFI's service model into a defined operating process. Referral, parent contact, assessment, the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale for General Services (NCFAS-G), the Individualized Intervention Plan (IIP), Interagency Team (IAT) coordination, service referral, monitoring, reassessment, and closure are defined as parts of a common workflow. The Workplan also identifies required CMS data, program measures, data-quality controls, reporting expectations, and fidelity review.

All participating HFI circuits have adopted the Workplan and received initial onboarding training. Training will continue during FY2027. HFI is also working to secure adoption of the Collaborative Implementation Agreement by all participating district attorneys and school systems.

HFI Case Management System

The web-based HFI CMS receives daily attendance and behavior data from the Alabama State Department of Education. This automated exchange reduces clerical data entry and allows case officers to focus on students and families. The system also supports family communications by email, text message, and printed letter and stores assessments, IIPs, IAT activity, referrals, follow-up, and closure records.

Together, the CMS, its User Guide, and the HFI Workplan establish a common statewide workflow from referral through closure. They improve the consistency, accuracy, and comparability of case records across participating service areas and provide the foundation for stronger outcome measurement.

QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

As required by the statutory requirement that the Helping Families Initiative shall file a report no later than September 30, 2026, regarding the number of students served by each LEA, the Helping Families Initiative presents the quantitative data for the current school year.

The following statewide totals are reported from the HFI CMS. They document reach and implementation activity. They should not, by themselves, be interpreted as evidence that HFI caused changes in attendance or behavior.

Table 7 Quantitative Results by Measure and Services

Measure	Result	Measure	Result
Students served directly	85,974	Interagency Team meetings	152
Families served	58,753	Cases addressed in IAT meetings	267
Parents and guardians served	87,657	Referral agencies	1,605
Schools served	594	Services provided	1,739
Individualized Intervention Plans	557	Students utilizing services	373
Initial family assessments completed	986	Referral agencies shared with students	1,337
Family reassessments	40	Community involvement events	644
Closure assessments	295	Attendance at community events	45,372

Of the 744,354 students in grades PK-12 during the 2025-2026 school year, the Helping Families Initiative served school districts with a total enrollment of 318,945 — or 42.85% of the state's enrollment.

During the 2025-2026 school year, the Helping Families Initiative served 85,974 students — compared to serving 70,218 students during the 2024-2025 school year. The reported data show broad statewide engagement: 594 schools, 644 community events with reported attendance of 45,372, and 1,739 services provided. Future reports should add before-and-after outcomes for students receiving direct intervention and define whether every count represents unique people, events, agencies, or service transactions. Exhibits A through P display the number of students and families served by the Helping Families Initiative for each school system. In addition, HFI activities and program processes are also displayed to show the depth and breadth of the HFI program. These exhibits present the data for school systems in each of the 20 participating judicial circuits.

It is important to note that HFI served 22.44% more students in 2025-26 than in 2024-2025.

CONCLUSION

HFI began 23 years ago with a simple observation: a student appearing repeatedly on the radar because of school attendance or behavior problems may be showing us a symptom of something much larger happening within the family.

Instead of asking only, “What law has been violated?” HFI also asks, “What is happening to this child and family — and can we change the trajectory before the problem becomes a criminal case?” The Helping Families Initiative is the catalyst for educational programs, law enforcement institutions, and community organizations, professionals, and institutions necessary to answer that question.

HFI brings a structured framework for organizing them around earlier intervention, strengthened substantially by the development of new management tools and emerging technologies.

The HFI Workplan is central to that improvement. It converts HFI's core intervention model into a common workflow, defines required case elements and review responsibilities, and still allows locals to approve implementation procedures suited to their schools and communities.

The Helping Families Initiative has proven to be a successful model for fighting crime and enhancing educational benefits. **Evidence of this success is found in the increased number of district attorneys who have embraced the program and the commitment of local communities to invest in HFI.**

Continued legislative support would preserve this statewide infrastructure and allow HFI to complete the transition from measuring activity to demonstrating outcomes. Verified attendance, behavior, and family-functioning results—paired with clear definitions and per-system detail—would make the strongest case for HFI's long-term public value.

EXHIBITS

A. Number of Students Served

of Students Served by School System

Total	85,974
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System Code	System Name	# of Students Served
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	807
198	Thomasville City	375
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	1,405
053	Perry County	506
191	Selma City	1,592
066	Wilcox County	764
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	1,150
008	Calhoun County	3,976
015	Cleburne County	749
181	Oxford City	2,028
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	3,024
156	Hartselle City	392
052	Morgan County	423
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	9,240
197	Tarrant City	451
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	568
171	Midfield City	492
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	45
800	MAEF Public Charter	318
049	Mobile County**	7,769
187	Saraland City	13
196	Satsuma City	38
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	18,828
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	1,397
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	2,675
011	Chilton County	3,124

System Code	System Name	# of Students Served
026	Elmore County	3,540
195	Tallassee City	649
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	626
038	Lamar County	53
054	Pickens County	82
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	359
047	Marion County	711
204	Winfield City	196
067	Winston County	794
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	3,076
057	Russell County	1,416
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	633
154	Guntersville City	262
048	Marshall County	131
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	569
022	Cullman County	2,238
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	1,186
189	Russellville City	496
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	579
050	Monroe County	64
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	1,318
041	Lee County	847
179	Opelika City	371
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	351
019	Coosa County	476
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County	2,625
178	Oneonta City	178

B. Number of Families Served**# of Families Served by School System**

Total	58,753
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System Code	System Name	# of Families Served
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	603
198	Thomasville City	278
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	1,000
053	Perry County	372
191	Selma City	1,101
066	Wilcox County	570
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	814
008	Calhoun County	2,749
015	Cleburne County	582
181	Oxford City	1,441
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	2,174
156	Hartselle City	318
052	Morgan County	364
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	6,898
197	Tarrant City	335
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	471
171	Midfield City	364
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	33
800	MAEF Public Charter	155
049	Mobile County**	1,901
187	Saraland City	12
196	Satsuma City	32
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	12,324
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	1,104
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	1,972
011	Chilton County	2,456

System Code	System Name	# of Families Served
026	Elmore County	2,629
195	Tallassee City	477
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	475
038	Lamar County	47
054	Pickens County	70
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	285
047	Marion County	537
204	Winfield City	155
067	Winston County	603
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	2,233
057	Russell County	1,017
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	536
154	Guntersville City	207
048	Marshall County	101
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	446
022	Cullman County	1,869
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	889
189	Russellville City	396
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	431
050	Monroe County	59
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	1,065
041	Lee County	748
179	Opelika City	353
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	291
019	Coosa County	342
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County Board	1,926
178	Oneonta City	143

C. Number of Parents/Guardians Served

of Parents/Guardians Served by School System

Total		87,657
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System Code	System Name	# of Guardians Served
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	838
198	Thomasville City	399
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	1,319
053	Perry County	327
191	Selma City	1,513
066	Wilcox County	608
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	1,102
008	Calhoun County	4,595
015	Cleburne County	951
181	Oxford City	2,337
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	3,662
156	Hartselle City	525
052	Morgan County	581
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	8,928
197	Tarrant City	520
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	583
171	Midfield City	431
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	44
800	MAEF Public Charter	184
049	Mobile County**	2,769
187	Saraland City	21
196	Satsuma City	49
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	17,527
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	1,855
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	3,170
011	Chilton County	4,242

System Code	System Name	# of Guardians Served
026	Elmore County	4,163
195	Tallassee City	751
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	724
038	Lamar County	67
054	Pickens County	78
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	489
047	Marion County	759
204	Winfield City	265
067	Winston County	820
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	3,260
057	Russell County	1,628
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	837
154	Guntersville City	349
048	Marshall County	162
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	802
022	Cullman County	2,850
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	1,333
189	Russellville City	628
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	527
050	Monroe County	67
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	1,811
041	Lee County	1,222
179	Opelika City	465
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	413
019	Coosa County	474
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County Board of Education	3,420
178	Oneonta City	213

D. Number of Schools Served

of School Codes by School System

Total		593
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System Code	System Name	# of School Codes
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	7
198	Thomasville City	3
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	11
053	Perry County	2
191	Selma City	10
066	Wilcox County	4
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	5
008	Calhoun County	18
015	Cleburne County	7
181	Oxford City	6
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	18
156	Hartselle City	6
052	Morgan County	16
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	45
197	Tarrant City	3
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	7
171	Midfield City	3
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	3
800	MAEF Public Charter	2
049	Mobile County**	88
187	Saraland City	4
196	Satsuma City	2
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	52
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	21
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	13
011	Chilton County	12

System Code	System Name	# of School Codes
026	Elmore County	16
195	Tallassee City	3
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	6
038	Lamar County	4
054	Pickens County	6
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	3
047	Marion County	11
204	Winfield City	3
067	Winston County	9
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	11
057	Russell County	7
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	8
154	Guntersville City	4
048	Marshall County	13
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	5
022	Cullman County	29
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	9
189	Russellville City	4
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	7
050	Monroe County	7
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	14
041	Lee County	14
179	Opelika City	9
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	4
019	Coosa County	2
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County Board of Education	14
178	Oneonta City	3

E. Number of Individualized Intervention Plans Initiated

of IIP Initiated by School System

Total		557
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System Code	System Name	# of IIP Initiated
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	12
198	Thomasville City	6
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	4
053	Perry County	0
191	Selma City	48
066	Wilcox County	0
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	2
008	Calhoun County	2
015	Cleburne County	7
181	Oxford City	6
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	4
156	Hartselle City	18
052	Morgan County	19
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	80
197	Tarrant City	4
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	0
171	Midfield City	0
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	0
800	MAEF Public Charter	0
049	Mobile County**	17
187	Saraland City	0
196	Satsuma City	1
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	108
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	4
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	16
011	Chilton County	33

System Code	System Name	# of IIP Initiated
026	Elmore County	1
195	Tallassee City	5
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	3
038	Lamar County	0
054	Pickens County	1
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	0
047	Marion County	3
204	Winfield City	0
067	Winston County	1
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	22
057	Russell County	31
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	16
154	Guntersville City	8
048	Marshall County	36
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	2
022	Cullman County	10
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	0
189	Russellville City	5
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	0
050	Monroe County	0
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	1
041	Lee County	6
179	Opelika City	4
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	0
019	Coosa County	0
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County Board of Education	10
178	Oneonta City	1

F. Number of Initial Family Assessments completed.**# of Initial Assessments by School System**

Total		986
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System Code	System Name	# of Initial Assessments
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	6
198	Thomasville City	0
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	5
053	Perry County	1
191	Selma City	67
066	Wilcox County	1
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	5
008	Calhoun County	12
015	Cleburne County	6
181	Oxford City	16
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	29
156	Hartselle City	23
052	Morgan County	23
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	109
197	Tarrant City	4
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	3
171	Midfield City	6
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	0
800	MAEF Public Charter	2
049	Mobile County**	67
187	Saraland City	0
196	Satsuma City	1
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	233
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	7
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	29
011	Chilton County	69

System Code	System Name	# of Initial Assessments
026	Elmore County	12
195	Tallassee City	21
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	2
038	Lamar County	1
054	Pickens County	1
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	0
047	Marion County	2
204	Winfield City	0
067	Winston County	2
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	19
057	Russell County	46
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	25
154	Guntersville City	11
048	Marshall County	38
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	3
022	Cullman County	13
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	2
189	Russellville City	9
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	2
050	Monroe County	0
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	2
041	Lee County	8
179	Opelika City	8
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	0
019	Coosa County	0
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County Board of Education	21
178	Oneonta City	14

G. Number of Reassessments.

of Reassessments by School System

Total		40
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System Code	System Name	# of Reassessments
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	0
198	Thomasville City	0
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	0
053	Perry County	0
191	Selma City	2
066	Wilcox County	0
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	0
008	Calhoun County	0
015	Cleburne County	0
181	Oxford City	0
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	1
156	Hartselle City	4
052	Morgan County	5
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	4
197	Tarrant City	0
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	2
171	Midfield City	0
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	0
800	MAEF Public Charter	0
049	Mobile County**	5
187	Saraland City	0
196	Satsuma City	0
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	4
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	0
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	0
011	Chilton County	3

System Code	System Name	# of Reassessments
026	Elmore County	0
195	Tallassee City	0
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	0
038	Lamar County	0
054	Pickens County	0
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	0
047	Marion County	0
204	Winfield City	0
067	Winston County	0
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	3
057	Russell County	7
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	0
154	Guntersville City	0
048	Marshall County	0
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	0
022	Cullman County	s
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	0
189	Russellville City	0
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	0
050	Monroe County	0
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	0
041	Lee County	0
179	Opelika City	0
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	0
019	Coosa County	0
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County Board of Education	0
178	Oneonta City	0

H. Number of Closed Assessments

of Closure Assessments by School System

Total		295
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System Code	System Name	# of Closure Assessments
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	2
198	Thomasville City	1
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	0
053	Perry County	0
191	Selma City	6
066	Wilcox County	1
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	1
008	Calhoun County	5
015	Cleburne County	1
181	Oxford City	3
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	10
156	Hartselle City	9
052	Morgan County	7
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	0
197	Tarrant City	0
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	0
171	Midfield City	0
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	0
800	MAEF Public Charter	0
049	Mobile County**	14
187	Saraland City	0
196	Satsuma City	0
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	30
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	0
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	35
011	Chilton County	62

System Code	System Name	# of Closure Assessments
026	Elmore County	10
195	Tallassee City	21
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	1
038	Lamar County	1
054	Pickens County	1
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	0
047	Marion County	1
204	Winfield City	0
067	Winston County	1
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	13
057	Russell County	22
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	3
154	Guntersville City	0
048	Marshall County	19
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	1
022	Cullman County	9
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	0
189	Russellville City	2
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	0
050	Monroe County	0
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	0
041	Lee County	0
179	Opelika City	0
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	1
019	Coosa County	0
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County Board of Education	2
178	Oneonta City	0

I. Number of Inter Agency Team Meetings

of InterAgency Team Meetings by School System

Total		152
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System Code	System Name	# of IAT Meetings
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	0
198	Thomasville City	0
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	0
053	Perry County	0
191	Selma City	2
066	Wilcox County	0
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	0
008	Calhoun County	1
015	Cleburne County	2
181	Oxford City	1
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	4
156	Hartselle City	5
052	Morgan County	6
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	2
197	Tarrant City	0
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	1
171	Midfield City	1
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	1
800	MAEF Public Charter	0
049	Mobile County**	9
187	Saraland City	1
196	Satsuma City	1
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	62
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	1
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	6
011	Chilton County	3

System Code	System Name	# of IAT Meetings
026	Elmore County	5
195	Tallassee City	0
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	1
038	Lamar County	1
054	Pickens County	0
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	0
047	Marion County	2
204	Winfield City	0
067	Winston County	2
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	4
057	Russell County	8
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	2
154	Guntersville City	1
048	Marshall County	5
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	2
022	Cullman County	3
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	0
189	Russellville City	0
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	0
050	Monroe County	0
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	0
041	Lee County	1
179	Opelika City	0
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	0
019	Coosa County	0
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County Board of Education	5
178	Oneonta City	1

J. Number of Interagency Cases Addressed

of IAT Cases Addressed by School System

Total		267
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System Code	System Name	# of IAT Cases Addressed during meetings
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	0
198	Thomasville City	0
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	0
053	Perry County	0
191	Selma City	2
066	Wilcox County	0
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	0
008	Calhoun County	4
015	Cleburne County	2
181	Oxford City	1
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	4
156	Hartselle City	8
052	Morgan County	10
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	10
197	Tarrant City	0
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	2
171	Midfield City	2
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	0
800	MAEF Public Charter	0
049	Mobile County**	4
187	Saraland City	1
196	Satsuma City	1
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	137
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	1
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	6
011	Chilton County	8

System Code	System Name	# of IAT Cases Addressed during meetings
026	Elmore County	6
195	Tallapoosa City	0
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	1
038	Lamar County	1
054	Pickens County	0
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	0
047	Marion County	3
204	Winfield City	0
067	Winston County	3
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	4
057	Russell County	15
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	6
154	Guntersville City	4
048	Marshall County	3
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	4
022	Cullman County	6
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	0
189	Russellville City	0
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	0
050	Monroe County	0
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	0
041	Lee County	2
179	Opelika City	0
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	0
019	Coosa County	0
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County Board of Education	5
178	Oneonta City	1

K. Number of Referral Agencies

of Referral Agencies by School System

Total		1,605
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System Code	System Name	# of Referral Agencies
Circuit 1		34
013	Clarke County	
198	Thomasville City	
Circuit 4		51
024	Dallas County	
053	Perry County	
191	Selma City	
066	Wilcox County	
Circuit 7		94
105	Anniston City	
008	Calhoun County	
015	Cleburne County	
181	Oxford City	
Circuit 8		177
127	Decatur City	
156	Hartselle City	
052	Morgan County	
Circuit 10		231
114	Birmingham City	
197	Tarrant City	
Circuit 10.1		11
113	Bessemer City	
171	Midfield City	
Circuit 13		48
121	Chickasaw City	
800	MAEF Public Charter	
049	Mobile County**	
187	Saraland City	
196	Satsuma City	
Circuit 15		48
051	Montgomery County	
Circuit 16		52
028	Etowah County	
Circuit 19		140
001	Autauga County	
011	Chilton County	

System Code	System Name	# of Referral Agencies
026	Elmore County	
195	Tallassee City	
Circuit 24		23
029	Fayette County	
038	Lamar County	
054	Pickens County	
Circuit 25		84
155	Haleyville City	
047	Marion County	
204	Winfield City	
067	Winston County	
Circuit 26		132
184	Phenix City	
057	Russell County	
Circuit 27		153
101	Albertville City	
154	Guntersville City	
048	Marshall County	
Circuit 32		44
125	Cullman City	
022	Cullman County	
Circuit 34		31
030	Franklin County	
189	Russellville City	
Circuit 35		13
018	Conecuh County	
050	Monroe County	
Circuit 37		157
110	Auburn City	
041	Lee County	
179	Opelika City	
Circuit 40		41
014	Clay County	
019	Coosa County	
Circuit 41		41
005	Blount County Board of Education	
178	Oneonta City	

L. Number of Services Provided

of Services Provided to Students Total by School System

Total		1,739
System Code	System Name	# of Services Provided to Students Total
Circuit 1		
013	Clarke County	16
198	Thomasville City	7
Circuit 4		
024	Dallas County	12
053	Perry County	0
191	Selma City	102
066	Wilcox County	1
Circuit 7		
105	Anniston City	5
008	Calhoun County	4
015	Cleburne County	12
181	Oxford City	9
Circuit 8		
127	Decatur City	45
156	Hartselle City	154
052	Morgan County	90
Circuit 10		
114	Birmingham City	276
197	Tarrant City	7
Circuit 10.1		
113	Bessemer City	0
171	Midfield City	8
Circuit 13		
121	Chickasaw City	3
800	MAEF Public Charter	0
049	Mobile County**	27
187	Saraland City	0
196	Satsuma City	1
Circuit 15		
051	Montgomery County	192
Circuit 16		
028	Etowah County	11
Circuit 19		
001	Autauga County	47
011	Chilton County	117
026	Elmore County	77
195	Tallasse City	25
Circuit 24		
029	Fayette County	7
038	Lamar County	0
054	Pickens County	0
Circuit 25		
155	Haleyville City	1
047	Marion County	14
204	Winfield City	5
067	Winston County	1
Circuit 26		
184	Phenix City	54
057	Russell County	145
Circuit 27		
101	Albertville City	44
154	Guntersville City	55
048	Marshall County	75
Circuit 32		
125	Cullman City	5
022	Cullman County	23
Circuit 34		
030	Franklin County	0
189	Russellville City	3
Circuit 35		
018	Conecuh County	12
050	Monroe County	0
Circuit 37		
110	Auburn City	2
041	Lee County	7
179	Opelika City	3
Circuit 40		
014	Clay County	2
019	Coosa County	2
Circuit 41		
005	Blount County Board of Education	21
178	Oneonta City	10

Q. Letter from District Attorney Scott Anderson**Helping Families Initiative**

Morgan County Courthouse
302 Lee Street, N.E.
Post Office Box 1727
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Office (256) 351-4804
Office (256) 351-4809
Office (256) 351-4806

www.morgancountyda.com

**SCOTT ANDERSON**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA
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September 22, 2026

Mr. John Tyson
President and CEO
Helping Families Initiative
3800 Airport Boulevard, Suite 303
Mobile, Alabama 36608

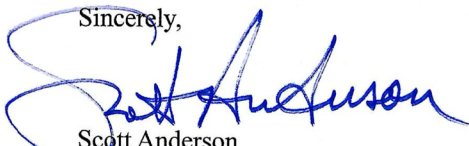
Dear Mr. Tyson,

I am excited to be writing you with positive results from the 8th Judicial Circuit's, Helping Families Initiative (HFI) program.

Our Circuit began HFI in July, 2023. After three years of working the program, we requested the Juvenile Court numbers from the Circuit Clerk's Office. The results prove that this crime-preventive program is effective. It directly impacts the students and families which we serve. It also impacts the Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation Office, and the Juvenile Clerk's Office by reducing the number of yearly cases. By HFI partnering with each school district in Morgan County, the Chronic Absenteeism rate has reduced significantly. The success of our program is largely due to our team which consists of school Administrators, Principals, Teachers, Counselors, SRO's, school personnel, local agencies and services working together. The success of HFI benefits every resident in Morgan County.

I am proud to provide you with the Morgan County Juvenile Court case numbers from 2023 to 2026. Our office is committed to the continued success of HFI to benefit our school systems, the students and their families.

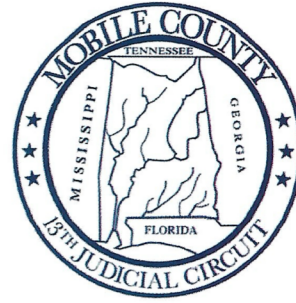
Sincerely,



Scott Anderson
District Attorney



R. Mobile County Public Schools Impact Report



MOBILE COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

IMPACT REPORT

*Helping Families Initiative
2025-2026 School Year*

Mobile County District Attorney
Keith Blackwood
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Impact of HFI

	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	2024- 2025	2025- 2026	HFI's Impact
Truant Students	18,722	11,834	9,284	6,431	31% Decrease
Chronically Absent Students	17,767	9,734	7,433	7,197	3% Decrease

- The 2025-2026 school year ended with 6,431 truant students which was a 31% decrease from the previous year.
- **Overall, the number of truant students has decreased by 66% since the partnership with HFI began.**
- The number of chronically absent students decreased 3% this year to 7,197 students which was an overall decrease of 59% since 22-23.
- The number of unexcused absences decreased 28% from 226,584 to 163,530.
- The number of excuses (parent and doctor's excuses) submitted for absences increased 5% from 233,125 to 245,039.

Strategy

Services

- Provided case management services through home and school visits to conduct assessments
- Assessed the needs of the student/ families to create a case plan
- Provided referrals to community agency resources and MCPSS resources
- Assisted families with resources and referrals for the following concerns:
 - Mental health, crisis situations and counseling
 - Basic needs, food insecurity, clothing and household necessities
 - Employment and job related concerns
 - Transportation
 - IEP, 504 plans and Chronic Ailment Forms
- Provided Early Warning Truancy Sessions and acted as liaison with schools in coordinated effort to maintain accurate attendance. Assisted students/ families in rescheduling EWT sessions

Interagency Team

HFI worked collaboratively with 18 different community agencies and partnerships at our Interagency Team meetings. MCPSS attendance workers and social workers attended our IAT meetings where we staffed our most difficult cases to provide creative solutions to student/ family concerns. The following agencies attended IAT:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • Big Brothers Big Sisters | • Prism United |
| • Strickland Youth Center | • Mobile County DHR |
| • Child Advocacy Center | • MCPSS Social Services |
| • Franklin Primary | • Drug Education Council |
| • Gulf Coast Family Center | • MPD Family Intervention Team |
| • Penelope House | • Family Promise |
| • Lifelines Family Counseling | • Under His Wings |
| • ACCEL Academy | • SW AL Partnership for Training and Unemployment (SWAPTE) |
| • Mobile Area Education Foundation | • MCPSS Attendance Officers |
| • Chickasaw City Schools | |
| • Boys and Girls Club | |

Strategy

Collaboration with MCPSS

Our case officers collaborated with the following departments to address parent's concerns and resolve issues:

- MCPSS social workers
- MCPSS attendance officers
- Principals
- Attendance clerks
- School counselors
- Transportation Department
- AltaPointe in-house therapists
- Special Education Services
- School LEA
- Registrars
- Teachers
- Coaches
- School nurses
- Resource officers

Implementation

Early Warning Truancy Sessions

- HFI held 28 sessions for 3,563 people in 2025-2026 which was down 24% from the previous year
- The number of EWT sessions needed to accomodate students was down 30% overall from HFI's first year
- Provided Spanish translation for approximately 60 families during the sessions

Referrals

- MCPSS referred 7,769 students to HFI after they met the 5 unexcused absence threshold. The number of students meeting the threshold was down **55%** since HFI began its partnership in 2022-2023.
 - HFI reviewed every Early Warning Truancy letter to ensure that each student receiving a letter met the criteria. **7,657** letters were sent out to families with **285** of those addressing behavioral concerns.

Fast Facts

- HFI assisted **22,518** students from **16,765** families with referrals, resources and support to resolve behavioral and attendance issues
- HFI provided referrals for families to over 35 area agencies.
- Provided Spanish translation services and case management for over 75 families.
- Our office provided **325** presentations at **22** elementary and middle schools on bullying, internet safety, drugs, and vaping.
 - Vaping incidents decreased 40% from 911 in 24-25 to 548 incidents.
 - Bullying/Harassment incidents decreased 28% from 483 incidents in 24-25 to 347 incidents.
- In addition, HFI Case Officers participated in 17 Open House Events, 14 Meet the Teacher Events and 7 Parent Days.

S. Mobile County District Attorney Press Release



MOBILE COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Mobile County Sees Continued Decrease in Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism

• Press Release (<https://mobileda.org/category/press-release/>) • Back to Media Center (</mcda/media-center>)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2026

MOBILE, Alabama – As students across Mobile County return to the classroom for a new school year this week, Mobile County District Attorney Keith Blackwood announced continued progress in reducing truancy and chronic absenteeism across Mobile County Public Schools.

During the 2025-2026 school year, Mobile County saw an additional 31% decrease in truancy and 3% decrease in chronic absenteeism from the previous school year.

Those latest numbers build on several years of progress since District Attorney Keith Blackwood reinstated the Helping Families Initiative (HFI) upon taking office. Since that time, truancy in Mobile County has decreased 66%, while chronic absenteeism has decreased 59%.

“Those numbers represent thousands of days that students are back where they belong—in the classroom,” said District Attorney Keith Blackwood. “We brought the Helping Families Initiative back because we know that getting kids to school is one of the most effective things we can do to put them on a path toward success and keep them out of the juvenile justice system.”

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The Helping Families Initiative brings together the District Attorney's Office, local schools and community partners to identify attendance problems early and work directly with students and families before those issues result in a referral to the juvenile justice system.

Rather than waiting until a student's absenteeism reaches a crisis point, HFI focuses on identifying the underlying barriers keeping a child from school and connecting families with the accountability, intervention and resources necessary to get students back in the classroom.

"Attendance problems rarely begin in a courtroom, and our goal is to make sure they never have to end there," Blackwood said. "When we intervene early, we have an opportunity to change the trajectory of a child's life. A 66% reduction in truancy tells us this approach is working, but it also reminds us that we have to keep at it."

As the 2026-2027 school year begins, the District Attorney's Office is encouraging parents, students and the entire community to make consistent school attendance a priority.

"Showing up matters," Blackwood said. "It matters academically, it matters socially, and it matters for the future of our community. As our students begin a new school year, our message to families is simple: **Every Day Counts.**"

The Mobile County District Attorney's Office will continue working alongside Mobile County Public Schools and community partners throughout the school year to identify students early, support families and keep Mobile County students in school and on a path toward success.

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