

VOICES for Alabama's Children presents

Advocating for Alabama's Children





OUR MISSION

To ensure the well-being of Alabama's children through research, public awareness and advocacy.

RESEARCH

What gets measured, gets changed

PUBLIC AWARENESS

***Educate Alabamians on
the issues facing our children***



School's Out, Look Out! ...for Summer Learning Loss.

SUMMERMATTERS

Risk! Summer Learning Loss is the decline of academic knowledge and skills over the course of a summer vacation.

Fact #1: Summer Learning Loss is a real and measurable phenomenon. It is not just a myth.

Fact #2: In Alabama, summer learning loss is a major concern for parents and educators. It is a statewide issue.

Fact #3: Summer Learning Loss is a preventable phenomenon. It can be reduced by providing students with learning opportunities during the summer months.

Fact #4: Summer Learning Loss is a major barrier to academic achievement for many students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds.



School's Out, Look Out! ...for Summer Learning Loss

Summer Learning Loss is the decline of academic knowledge and skills over the course of a summer vacation. It is a real and measurable phenomenon. It is not just a myth. Summer Learning Loss is a major concern for parents and educators. It is a statewide issue. Summer Learning Loss is a preventable phenomenon. It can be reduced by providing students with learning opportunities during the summer months. Summer Learning Loss is a major barrier to academic achievement for many students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds.

Not just about academics
Children learn through play. Summer learning loss can affect a child's social skills and self-esteem. It can also affect a child's ability to learn in school. Summer Learning Loss is a real and measurable phenomenon. It is not just a myth. Summer Learning Loss is a major concern for parents and educators. It is a statewide issue. Summer Learning Loss is a preventable phenomenon. It can be reduced by providing students with learning opportunities during the summer months. Summer Learning Loss is a major barrier to academic achievement for many students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds.



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Summer Progress Can Help

Summer Progress Can Help reduce the amount of learning loss that occurs over the summer months. It can be achieved by providing students with learning opportunities during the summer months. Summer Progress Can Help is a real and measurable phenomenon. It is not just a myth. Summer Progress Can Help is a major concern for parents and educators. It is a statewide issue. Summer Progress Can Help is a preventable phenomenon. It can be reduced by providing students with learning opportunities during the summer months. Summer Progress Can Help is a major barrier to academic achievement for many students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds.

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Reading on Grade Level by the End of Third Grade Matters



Reading on grade level is critical to school success!

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OWN THE FACTS:

Research shows that children who are not "ready to read" by the end of third grade will have a 90% chance of dropping out of school by the end of high school.

Children who do not read on grade level by the end of third grade are more likely to have lower earnings and higher unemployment rates.

Children who do not read on grade level by the end of third grade are more likely to have lower health status and higher rates of chronic disease.

Children who do not read on grade level by the end of third grade are more likely to have lower civic participation and lower rates of volunteering.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Talk with your child's teacher about reading progress.
- Help your child develop a reading habit by reading together every day.
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Commit to ONE thing you will do to help all children read on grade level by the end of third grade.

ATTENDANCE COUNTS!

An educational campaign brought to you by VOICES for Alabama's Children



There is an unquestionable link between school attendance and school achievement.

FROM DAY ONE. BE THERE

For every child to have an equal opportunity to succeed, it is imperative to be on time.



October is the 4th deadliest month of the year for teenage motor vehicle fatalities!



Research shows that over 90% of teens admit to doing multiple tasks while driving, such as talking on phones, eating, playing loud music, and interacting with friends in the car. They also admit these tasks are distracting.

During this session, students are on the road - going to ball games, school, and more.

Motor vehicle accidents are the second leading cause of death for our teens in the U.S.

ADVOCACY

Give children a voice at the statehouse

Our Impact Through Collaboration

Establishment and funding of Alabama's Children's Health Insurance Program (ALL Kids), has provided access to health care for an average of 63,800 children a year children since 1998. Alabama now has one of the lowest uninsured child rates in the nation.

Increased access to high-quality, voluntary pre-k for more than 1,800 Alabama four-year-olds in this year alone.

Establishment of a Statewide Child Death Review Process resulted in a 22% decline in preventable child deaths.

Alabama Healthy Food Access Campaign:
***A Look at Healthy
Food Financing***



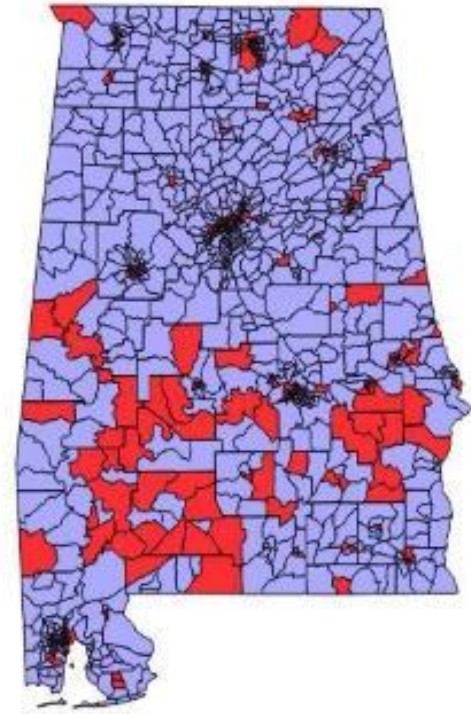
[Healthy Food Access for All by The Food Trust: http://thefoodtrust.org/](http://thefoodtrust.org/)

Why It Matters In Alabama

- **156** communities in Alabama have been designated by the USDA as “food deserts”
- **More than, One Million** Alabamians live in areas with limited access to healthy foods through grocery stores and other healthy food retail outlets and **245,000** of which are children.
- **Nearly 40%** of Alabama’s children, ages 10-17 are obese or overweight



Food Deserts in Alabama



Food Access Policy Campaigns: A National & Regional Perspective



A Collaborative Response

THE RESULT



American
Heart
Association

TAKING ACTION TO PREVENT OBESITY

Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation



Influencing public policy through advocacy is an essential strategy to reducing childhood obesity.



OUR TARGETS

1

Improving the nutritional quality of snack foods and beverages in schools

2

Reducing consumption of sugary beverages

3

Protecting children from unhealthy food and beverage marketing

4

Increasing access to affordable healthy foods

5

Increasing access to parks, playgrounds, walking paths, bike lanes and other opportunities to be physically active

6

Helping youth-serving programs increase children's physical activity levels





FOOD ACCESS

Target: Increase access
to affordable foods in
Corner Stores & Grocery
Stores (HFFI/CS)*



*Healthy Food Financing Initiatives/Cornerstore Initiatives

HFFI/CS Policy Bottom Lines

- Healthy Food Financing Initiatives
 - *One time appropriations (at least \$5 million) for HFFI in underserved areas*



- Cornerstore Initiatives
 - *One time appropriations (at least \$1 million) for healthy corner stores / food outlets in neighborhoods and near schools in underserved areas*

VFHKs Food Access Funded Campaigns

Mississippi:

- The Partnership for a Healthy MS
- HFFI

North Carolina:

- NC Alliance For Health
- HFFI/CS

Tennessee:

- TN Obesity Taskforce
- HFFI

Alabama:

- VOICES for Alabama's Children
- HFFI



Alabama's Campaign

- Full-time Campaign Manager
- Team of consultants
- AL Healthy Food Access Task Force
- Garnered media attention
- Polling data
- Mapping report



How You Can Make An Impact

- **Serve on the Planning Committee**
- **Sign a Letter of Support**
- **Share Personal Stories**
- **Share Social Media**
- **Community & Organizational Presentations**
- **Invite Your Network**



Contact Us

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