

## *Agency Collaborations*

Amethyst  
CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence  
Communities in Schools  
COHHIO Youth Empowerment Program  
Columbus Coalition for the Homeless  
Homeless Families Foundation  
Huckleberry House  
Kaleidoscope Youth Center  
Southeast, Inc.  
Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio  
YWCA Family Center

## *District Collaboration*

Project Connect coordinates services within Columbus City Schools through the Department of Adult and Community Education and collaborates with all Franklin County School Districts.

## *Operating Funds*

Operating funds are made available through a grant from the Ohio Department of Education and the Columbus City Schools Title I allocation.

**ACE is part of the  
University System of Ohio.**



## **Columbus City Schools Mission Statement:**

“Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.”  
Gene T. Harris, Ph.D.,  
Superintendent/CEO

Columbus City Schools does not discriminate because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or handicap with regard to admission, access, treatment or employment. This policy is applicable in all district programs and activities.



*Education of Children Experiencing Homelessness*



***Adult & Community Education***

***Columbus City Schools***



**2323 Lexington Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43211  
[www.cpsadulthood.org](http://www.cpsadulthood.org)**

## *What is Project Connect?*

Project Connect ensures the educational rights for children and youth experiencing homelessness as outlined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.



## *Program Services*

Project Connect works with several agencies and surrounding school districts to provide assistance with:

- ◆ School selection and enrollment
- ◆ After school tutoring and homework assistance
- ◆ Book bags and school supplies for students
- ◆ Coordination of school transportation
- ◆ Assistance with obtaining necessary documents such as birth certificates, school records, and medical records
- ◆ Dispute Resolution

## *Who is Homeless?*

The term “homeless children and youth” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence.

It includes those who are:

- ◆ sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of home, economic hardship, or similar reason
- ◆ living in motels or hotels
- ◆ staying in trailer parks or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- ◆ living in emergency or transitional shelters
- ◆ abandoned in hospitals
- ◆ awaiting foster care placement
- ◆ living on their own such as youth who have run away or have been put out of their home.

## *Advocacy*

Advocacy and community awareness are pivotal components of Project Connect’s work. Educating school personnel and others about the complex needs of families experiencing homelessness is essential to providing quality services.



## *Program Coordination*

Project Connect staff determine a family’s eligibility for services. The staff consults with parents, schools, community agencies, and surrounding school districts. Project Connect ensures that homeless students in grades Pre-K through 12 have full and equal opportunity to succeed, as specified in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

