

Perry County



Lead Agency	Perry County Schools
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 900
Physical Address	200 West Monroe
City	Marion
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Superintendent	John Heard
Director	Marcia Smiley
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Coordinator	Marcia Smiley
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Asst. Coordinator	Tammera Billingsley
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Year Program Started	2008
Number of Families Served in 2009/2010	29
Number of Children Served in 2009/2010	30
Number in the 4-Year-Old Program 2009/2010	20
Number in the 3-Year-Old Program 2009/2010	10
Number of Coordinators	1
Number of Parent Educators	2
Number of Areas(Neighborhoods) Served	2
Areas Served	Cities of Uniontown and Marion
Number of Schools Served	2
Schools Served	Albert Turner Sr. Elementary (Marion) and Uniontown Elementary (Uniontown)

Program Overview

The Perry County School System is a public school system that serves over 2,000 students in the cities of Marion and Uniontown. Our mission and goals, with the collaborative support of the community, is to prepare life-long learners who will shape the future. We will promote learning by providing a strong foundation of experiences leading to the acquisition and application of a diverse body of knowledge and skills. In a safe and supportive environment, we will develop responsible citizens who contribute to our democratic society. Our school district includes four schools, all of which are Title I schools.

Approximately, forty-nine percent (49%) of the children in Perry County are classified as in poverty according to Kids Count data. Approximately, forty-one percent (41%) of our students come from single parent homes. Perry County is one of only two systems in the state of Alabama that qualifies for Provision Two, which allows all children to eat lunch for free.

The Hippy Program for the second year serves students living in Marion and Uniontown city limits which is within twenty miles apart and attending the Perry County School System. During this second year, our school system is serving thirty (30) three and four year old children; fifteen (15) students in Marion and fifteen (15) students in Uniontown. We have one part-time HIPPY Coordinator and two Home Visitors.

Funding Sources	Alabama Legislature
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HIPPY Success Story from Perry County

Asst. Coordinator, Tammera Billingsley



The HIPPY program in Perry County, Alabama has really made a major impact on the lives of many families. HIPPY has really opened the eyes of parents because they now realize they can teach their own children. I am really enjoying the program; I smile when I see parents as well as children so eager to learn. Many things have impressed me while working with the HIPPY program. I have heard numerous stories from parents who were not aware of their child's level of academic performance (i.e. a child's strengths and weaknesses as the child's performance relates to the educational standards.

While doing this job, I have encountered many situations where the parents try to help the children as well as help themselves learn basic skills. This program has really made a difference in all my parent's lives. However, there is one family who has gone above and beyond to ensure the academic success of the children as well as the success of HIPPY. The Tobin family consists of a single, young mother and her seven children. Two of the children (Alvyia and Shantres) are enrolled in the 2009/2010 HIPPY Program and

one of the students (Lelani) was enrolled in the 2008/2009 HIPPY program. Prior to the implementation of the HIPPY program in Perry County, Ms. Tobin's life was in a shamble. She had really given up on any possibilities of her being able to effectively impact her children's education due to her past education background. Ms. Tobin dropped out of school in the 8th grade. As a single parent, and now a part of the HIPPY program, Ms. Tobin noticed early on in the program that she can positively impact her children's present and future education. she has shared numerous things about wanting to finish school because of the positive impact HIPPY has had on her. Ms. Tobin has been so impressed with HIPPY that she has redirected her personal think about her future education. Case in point, Ms. Tobin is so inspired that she is considering going back to get her GED (General Educational Development). After obtaining her GED, Ms. Tobin aspires to become a teacher one day. As a result of doing the HIPPY activities with her children, she feels that she can do it with other children as well. The HIPPY program has really taught Ms. Tobin how to teach her children. In the past, she never had the patience nor drive to want to help them, but now it is different. **Thank you HIPPY! THANK YOU HIPPY for opening doors people thought would always remain closed.**