



ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS

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POVERTY SIMULATION

INTERACTIVE IN-SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FOR
EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL STAFF

More than a quarter of Alabama's
children live in poverty.

www.AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/PovSim

PovSim@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org



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76% of all school lunches
served in Alabama in 2015
were free or reduced.



Alabama's schools are on the front lines in the battle against poverty.

Alabama has the sixth highest poverty rate in the nation. You see the face of poverty in your schools each and every day. But do you really know what it's like for a child struggling to focus at school while worrying if she will have food to eat when she gets home? Do you understand the challenges your students and their families face?

We know poverty impacts student achievement. These students often struggle to afford basic supplies or field trips and lack access to tutoring and extracurricular activities that deepen learning. Caring teachers and a high-quality education may be their last hope to escape the stifling cycle of poverty. Are you prepared to fight this battle? Is your staff?

A **Poverty Simulation** offers a sobering glimpse into the day-to-day realities of families living in poverty. In 2.5 hours, you experience a month in poverty, taking on the identity of a family facing the complex challenges of a limited income. You will confront the chaos, fear and frustration that can accompany everyday tasks such as seeing a doctor or cashing a check.

The simulation culminates in a guided debriefing session, engaging participants in the difficult, honest conversations necessary to not only build awareness and empathy but also to foster improvements in the way we work with and for our neediest students.

A Poverty Simulation can:

- ◆ **CHALLENGE** stereotypes.
- ◆ **CHANGE** attitudes.
- ◆ **SHIFT** perspectives.
- ◆ **SPARK** critical conversations.
- ◆ **INFLUENCE** policy.



What you need to know

AASB brings the Poverty Simulation to you, guiding your teachers and staff through the experience and facilitating the group debriefing session. We recommend awarding 2.5 professional development credit hours for the simulation.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 30-80 participants
- Approximately 20 volunteers
- Large room (at least 3,000 square feet)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Select participants and volunteers
- Provide suitable venue and furniture
- Facility setup and breakdown

WHAT WE DO:

- Distribute and collect simulation materials
- Lead the simulation
- Facilitate the group debriefing

COST: \$900 per session plus facilitator mileage and travel expenses

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I think every employee should go through a Poverty Simulation before stepping foot in the classroom. We need to walk in the shoes of someone else in order to have empathy and a better understanding of the background of our student population.

Casey Partain
Child Nutrition Program Supervisor
Marshall County Schools