FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 6, 2014

PUBLIC REVIEW OF 2014 ALABAMA SCIENCE COURSE OF STUDY DRAFT BEGINS
Feedback invaluable as ALSDE seeks to maintain highest level of rigor for students

Montgomery, Ala. – The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is asking for public input specifically related to the draft 2014 Alabama Course of Study: Science, which includes Alabama’s College- and Career-Ready Standards in science, in an effort to maintain the highest level of rigor and challenge for the state’s K-12 public school students. January 5 through January 30, 2015, the public can visit the 2014 Science Course of Study Draft Review page and offer feedback on content and standards for Science.

The 2014 Alabama Course of Study: Science provides the framework for the K-12 science education program in Alabama’s public schools. Content standards are minimum and required (Code of Alabama, 1975, §16-35-4). They are fundamental and specific, but not exhaustive. When developing a local curriculum, each school system may include additional content standards that focus on local resources and needs.

The goal of the review is to engage the general public, parents, educators, business and industry and civic leaders in a general review of science content, and standards and to increase awareness. When reviewing content and standards, participants are asked to enter demographic information. Review participants can select Appropriate as Written if they are satisfied with the standard, or Needs to be Changed if they would like to see a standard modified. If Needs to be Changed is selected, participants will be able to provide suggestions for rewriting or changing the standard.

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Participants may review the entire document, standards and narratives by grade level/subject, by grade band, or by science domain (Physical Science, Life Science, or Earth or Space Science).

At the conclusion of the public review, the feedback generated will be reviewed by the state Science Course of Study committee. The Science Course of Study committee will then recommend the revised science course of study to Dr. Bice, State Superintendent, who will then make a recommendation to the Alabama State Board of Education in the spring of 2015.

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