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THE ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ENCOURAGES LEGISLATORS: “EXAMINE THE STANDARDS FOR YOURSELF”
Alabama’s College- and Career-Ready Standards (ACCRS)
Once Again Up for Public Review

Montgomery, AL – The beginning of Alabama’s Legislative Session often brings about a renewed interest in education policy and education standards. With that in mind, and in an effort to be completely transparent and amenable to the concerns of parents, educators, law and policy makers, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) invites legislators and the public to EXAMINE THE STANDARDS FOR YOURSELF.

Annually, the ALSDE posts on line for public consumption, review, and feedback the Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards (ACCRS) for English/Language Arts and Mathematics—the goals for what students should know by the end of the school year.

Anyone can visit the Standards Review Homepage on the ALSDE website and review the standards for each grade from Kindergarten through the 12th grade. Those visiting the Standard Review page can review each standard one by one, choose whether they agree or disagree with the standard, and, if they disagree, leave feedback as to why they disagree on a particular standard. The standards are currently posted and will remain up and open for feedback through Monday, March 14, 2016.

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“Of course, we encourage everyone who is concerned about the content of our English/Language Arts and Mathematics standards to get involved,” said Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education. Because our state lawmakers are so inundated with information—some of which is accurate, some of which is not—we wanted to make a special appeal for lawmakers to see the standards for themselves and not have to rely on anything other than facts when making important decisions about the future of education in Alabama.”

Bice said the standard review process is important because it gives anyone with any opposition to any standard an open forum to voice his/her specific objection. More importantly, it gives those who may not know what the standards are a clear opportunity to review and become familiar with the content.

Bice said many legislators have school-aged children or grandchildren. This allows them an opportunity to review standards down to an exact grade level and see for themselves what is being taught and expected of Alabama students.

At the conclusion of the public review, the feedback generated will go to the state English/Language Arts and Mathematics Course of Study (COS) teams. The comments that will be considered for action by the teams are those of academic substance that are tied specifically to a standard. The COS teams may then provide recommendations to the Alabama State Board of Education.

Implementation of the ACCRS began in 2012 and this has charted a course forward for Alabama’s students to learn with a greater emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving and a deeper understanding of concepts and how they apply to real-life scenarios. Relying less on simple memorization techniques and filling out worksheets, the ACCRS better prepare Alabama students for the real-life expectations of colleges and universities as well as business and industry.

The ACCRS are the result of a state-led initiative, and the standards were developed by practicing educators and educational entities incorporating the best and highest quality of existing state, national, and international standards.

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