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OCTOBER IS ALABAMA’S STATEWIDE PARENT VISITATION MONTH
This year’s theme is Homes and School Partnerships: Breaking Barriers to Learning

Montgomery, Ala. – Schools across Alabama will raise awareness throughout October about the importance of parental engagement and the key role parents play in their child’s education as part of Statewide Parent Visitation Month. This year’s theme is Homes and School Partnerships: Breaking Barriers to Learning.

Over 30 years of research have proven parent engagement is one of the largest determining factors related to school success. When parents are engaged in their children’s education in positive ways, children achieve higher grades and test scores, have better attendance at school, complete more homework, demonstrate more positive attitudes and behavior, graduate at higher rates, and have greater enrollment in higher education.

“Parent Visitation Month is a time for local school systems to make that extra effort to invite parents to visit their local school and learn how they can become partners in their child's education,” said State Superintendent of Education Michael Sentance. “Parent engagement meetings and activities provide excellent opportunities for teachers and administrators to become familiar with students’ parents and to solicit sustained, year-round parental and family engagement.”

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Among the goals of Alabama’s Statewide Parent Visitation Month are:

- To have a unified/coordinated event.
- To serve as a catalyst for year-round parental and family engagement.
- To seek parental input at the school level.
- To raise awareness of state initiatives, such as the Statewide Accountability System and Alabama’s PLAN 2020.
- To allow local schools and school systems to highlight their own successful programs and initiatives, such as technology and career tech opportunities, reading and math achievement, arts in the schools, and after-school programs.
- To have parents visit schools, feel welcome while there, witness firsthand what schools offer their children, and leave feeling that they have contributed to the school as well as gained from their experience.

Schools can find resources for use at the ALSDE’s Instructional Services Web page. Included in the resources is the Guide for Schools that contains information and suggestions for local parent events and activities.

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