FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2015

CONTACT: Communication
334-242-9950
comm@alsde.edu

OCTOBER IS ALABAMA’S STATEWIDE PARENT VISITATION MONTH
This year’s theme is “Homes and Schools: Cultivating Positive Relationships”

Montgomery, Ala. – Over thirty 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.

October is the time of year when the Alabama State Department of Education celebrates Statewide Parent Visitation Month. Schools are encouraged to invite parents to visit and learn how they can become partners in their child’s education. This year’s theme is *Homes and Schools: Cultivating Positive Relationships.*

“The most important benefit of parent engagement is better educated, more informed parents who have a direct impact on children and their success in school,” said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tommy Bice. “Alabama’s Statewide Parent Visitation Month is an excellent way to establish partnerships with parents that can be sustained throughout the school year.”

-more-
OCTOBER IS ALABAMA’S STATEWIDE PARENT VISITATION MONTH

This year’s theme is “Homes and Schools: Cultivating Positive Relationships”

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, arts in the schools, reading and math achievement, 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.

An example of the work taking place in schools across the state this month to engage parents is “Bring Your Parent to School Day,” hosted by Oxmoor Valley Elementary School, Birmingham City School System, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Oct. 15. Principal Melvin Love said this is the perfect opportunity for parents to go “back to school.”

Parents will get the chance to follow their child's schedule, see what instruction looks like in a 21st century classroom, sit in on small-group instruction in the classroom, eat breakfast or lunch with their child, and see students engaged in learning.

“They will even will get a chance to participate in the some of the lessons,” Love said.

Other activities planned for Statewide Parent Visitation Month in Birmingham City Schools include a PTA-hosted parent engagement meeting at Princeton Elementary School and “Network Night” at Carver High School. A partnership between CHS and the Birmingham Education Foundation, the Carver High School event will provide an opportunity for students, parents, and community stakeholders to gather and discuss issues and solutions in advancing education and the district.

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

###