



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



Michael Sentance  
 State Superintendent  
 of Education

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 07, 2016**

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**STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION APPOINTS COOPER AND  
 WHITE TO KEY STATE DEPARTMENT POSITIONS**

*Dr. Barbara Cooper to Serve as Deputy State Superintendent of Teaching and Learning  
 and Chief Academic Officer; Chasidy White to Serve as Director of Strategic Initiatives*

**Montgomery, Ala.** – Alabama State Superintendent of Education Michael Sentance has announced the hiring of two additional seasoned educators in pivotal roles at the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE).

Dr. Barbara Cooper, Deputy Superintendent of Huntsville City Schools, will come on board as Deputy State Superintendent of Teaching and Learning and Chief Academic Officer starting December 1, 2016. Prior to becoming the deputy superintendent in Huntsville in 2011, Dr. Cooper served as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, chief equity and engagement officer, as well as director of family engagement and community outreach for the Aurora Public School System in Aurora, Colorado. With experience in areas from school administration and budget analysis to curriculum implementation and pre-kindergarten establishment, Dr. Cooper brings a wealth of academic, leadership, and policy experience to the department. Dr. Cooper holds a bachelor’s degree in Education (summa cum laude) from Western Illinois University, as well as a master’s degree in administration, supervision and curriculum development (magna cum laude), and a Ph.D. in Education Leadership and Innovation, both from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Mrs. Chasidy White, a distinguished educator and education policy expert from Brookwood Middle School in Vance, Ala., (Tuscaloosa County) will serve as the Director of Strategic Initiatives. In this role she will work with the state superintendent and ALSDE leadership to lead the identification, development, and statewide implementation of research-based initiatives. She will also represent the ALSDE before policymakers, constituents and the general public to build support for initiatives. Mrs. White has taught World History for more than 12 years. During her tenure, Mrs. White has researched and developed education policy and curriculum across the globe including experiences in Japan, Indonesia, Rwanda, China, South Korea, and Greece. Mrs. White serves on the Governor’s Teacher Cabinet for Education Policy, and was named the District 4 Alabama Teacher of the Year in 2014. Mrs. White has a bachelor’s degree in secondary education comprehensive social studies from The University of Alabama and a master’s degree in secondary education history from the University of West Alabama.

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Page 2

November 07, 2016

Sentance said he is grateful for the willingness of these two educators to join the effort to improve schools in Alabama. He said, “Dr. Cooper and Ms. White both share several common traits – a keen intellect, a profound dedication to public education and a sincere commitment to all children. I am looking forward to their efforts here.”

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