FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2016

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

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO HIGHLIGHT STATE’S DIGITAL STORY AS PART OF DIGITAL LEARNING WEEK

Montgomery, AL - The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is celebrating Digital Learning Week from February 15-19, 2016, by showcasing ways to use contemporary tools to ensure Alabama students are college- and career-ready.

The state has been a trailblazer in using technology for the purpose of advancing education. Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide (ACCESS) provides strong tools used for the advancement of digital learning and expands the ways technology is used in the classroom.

The ALSDE, in partnership with the Alliance for Excellent Education, is once again participating in the Digital Learning Day campaign, which will be held on February 17. This national campaign is designed to celebrate innovative teaching and highlight practices that make learning more personalized and engaging for students and to explore how digital learning can provide all students with the opportunities they deserve — to build the skills needed to succeed in college, a career, and life.

Through this work and by hosting a Digital Learning Week from February 15-19, 2016, Alabama strives to build momentum for a wave of innovation that changes policies, shifts attitudes, and supports wide-scale adoption of these promising instructional practices.

“We are taking advantage of every possible resource to make sure our students are well-versed in the language of digital learning. High schools across the state have been equipped with tools to give each student the opportunity to have a digital learning experience,” said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tommy Bice.

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Superintendent Bice continued: “Online learning has advanced in ways that allow students to demonstrate competency in subject matters, practice for exams, receive assistance with homework, and have a virtual seat in the classroom beside students on the other side of our state.”

Virtual field trips will be offered by the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, The Helen Keller Foundation, NASA, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Professional development opportunities for teachers include trainings from NASA.

All education stakeholders — districts, schools, teachers, students, librarians, parents, and business and community partners — are encouraged to register to support and participate in Digital Learning Week. No matter the approach, no matter the grade level, no matter the subject or geographic location, no matter a teacher’s specific comfort level with using technology, this campaign will challenge education professionals and policymakers at all levels to start a conversation, make a proclamation, improve a lesson, and/or create a plan.

To learn more about Digital Learning Month, contact the ALSDE Educational Technology Section at 334-242-9594.

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