



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



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**ALABAMA’S REMEDIATION RATE DECREASES FIVE PERCENT**  
*Since the Implementation of PLAN 2020, the Number of Students Taking Remedial Courses in Alabama Colleges and Universities Inches Downward*

**Montgomery, Ala.** – A recent report by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) shows that Alabama high school graduates’ remedial coursework rates are down a full five percent in 2015 (30 percent), compared to 2011 (35 percent). Remedial coursework are classes that some students must take in order to build up math, reading, or English skills before they are allowed to take regular college courses.

A major component of the State Board of Education’s PLAN 2020 initiative is to increase the number of students who leave high school fully prepared to enter college without the need for remediation and/or enter the workforce with an industry-recognized credential.

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tommy Bice said the mantra “Every Child a Graduate – Every Graduate Prepared” has been his goal during his administration and he firmly believes Alabama is on track to realize that possibility.

“This new data from ACHE confirms that our three-part plan of PLAN 2020—increase the graduation rate, assure students are college- and career-ready, and decrease the remediation rate—is coming together and moving in a positive trajectory as planned,” Bice said. “It is now our challenge to stay the course as we make adjustments to accelerate the progress.”

While fully acknowledging that Alabama has much more to do to fulfil the goal of PLAN 2020, Bice said ACHE’s report is further confirmation that the state is heading in the right direction. The fact that Alabama’s graduation rate has reached 89 percent, combined with evidence that more of the students going to college are prepared for college-level coursework, shows the alignment of the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards (a part of PLAN 2020) to the expectation of colleges and universities has positive outcomes. In 2011 the remediation rate was 35 percent. By 2012 the remediation rate declined to 33 percent. Over 2013-14 it reduced to 32 percent – rounding out 2015 at 30 percent.

“Remedial rates tend to fluctuate over time. We know there is no one silver bullet ‘fix’ to education. Rather, it takes a combination of critical thinking and problem solving, a deeper understanding of concepts, innovative leaders, and inventive and rigorous instructional opportunities,” Bice said.

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