



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Michael Sentance
State Superintendent
of Education

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2016-2017 STATE SUPERINTENDENT STUDENT ADVISORY
COUNCIL MEMBERS



Montgomery, Ala. – The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pleased to announce the members of the 2016-2017 [State Superintendent Student Advisory Council](#). The State Superintendent Student Advisory Council is a group of 16 middle or secondary school students who discuss how decisions are made at the state level and affect students throughout Alabama. These students will directly provide student voice to the [State Superintendent of Education](#) on issues that affect them in our state.

The 2016-2017 selected council members are:

District 1

Eli Russell, Opp High School, Opp City Schools
Keenan Carter, W.P. Davidson High School, Mobile County Schools

District 2

Taylor Adams, Carroll High School, Ozark City Schools
Scott Nguyen, Ariton School, Dale County Schools

District 3

Ada Ruth Huntley, Chilton County High School, Chilton County Schools
Caleb Van Geffen, Oak Mountain High School, Shelby County Schools

District 4

Savana Marshall, Hale County High School, Hale County Schools
John Freeman, Echols Middle School, Tuscaloosa County Schools

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2016-2017 STATE SUPERINTENDENT STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

District 5

Deztini Stevens, Monroe County High School, Monroe County Schools
Zy'Shawn James, Southside High School, Dallas County Schools

District 6

Meredith Mosley, Brindlee Mountain High School, Marshall County Schools
Naman Gupta, Austin High School, Decatur City Schools

District 7

Lauren Thigpen, Brooks High School, Lauderdale County Schools
Melcha Satchel Jr., Colbert County High School, Colbert County Schools

District 8

Richard Buchanan, Huntsville High School, Huntsville City Schools
Sophia White, Madison County Middle School, Madison County Schools

“Student voice is an important part of our decision making. We are pleased to welcome this new class of council members and listen to their thoughts and suggestions on education in Alabama.” said Superintendent Michael Sentance.

Students were selected based on their GPA, participation, and leadership in schools and letters of recommendation. Over 400 applications were submitted, more than a 400% increase from last year (81 submitted last year). Judges of the student applications included representatives from the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS), Alabama Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB), Children First Foundation, A+ Education Partnership, the current Alabama Teacher of the Year, the current Alternate Teacher of the Year, local teachers and others.

Council members will meet two to three times throughout the school year with State Superintendent Michael Sentance. The first meeting will be November 2 in Montgomery. Members are advisors who act as liaisons between the ALSDE and the students of Alabama. Topics discussed by the Student Advisory Council could include: the school dropout rate, student leadership, graduation requirements, testing, school climate, and career and technical education.

Members will gather input from their district on students' needs or opinions on local- and state-level policies or directives and discuss at the meetings and also learn about the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) and give specific input. Mr. Sentance and council members will bring approved recommendations to the Alabama State Board of Education at a late Spring meeting.

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