



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent
of Education

July 21, 2010

Alabama
State Board
of Education

MEMORANDUM

Governor Bob Riley
President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Randy McKinney
District I
Vice President

FROM: Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters
District II

RE: The Implementation Guide for the Alabama Parent Project

Stephanie W. Bell
District III

The State Department of Education (SDE) and the Juvenile Judicial System in coordination with the local Children's Policy Council have joined forces in a collaborative effort to reduce the impact of student absenteeism resulting in a truancy epidemic. Student absences from class and/or school, excused or unexcused, have been identified by the Alabama Graduation Coach Program and supported by national research as a major indicator for student failure and facilitates a potential candidate to drop out of school. In support of our schools and communities, over 200 facilitators with representation from each of the 11 Alabama Regional Inservice Centers (ARIC) were trained to conduct the series of sessions for the evidenced-based research program called *The Parent Project*.

Dr. Ethel H. Hall
District IV
Vice President
Emerita

The Parent Project, already implemented in school systems across the nation and in Alabama, is based as a court-mandated juvenile diversion program and is designed to reduce risk factors and to enhance protective factors related to alcohol, tobacco, violence among students, suicide, and truancy. The target audience for *The Parent Project* training sessions will consist of parents who volunteer or who have been referred by the Juvenile Judicial System.

Ella B. Bell
District V

The enclosed document is an attempt to begin communication and coordination among certified facilitators of *The Parent Project*, local educational agencies (LEAs), the Juvenile Court System, and concerned parents. The Implementation Guide for the Alabama Parent Project provides a brief synopsis of the program and procedures to kick-off this wonderful initiative against student truancy and other risky behaviors preventing students from being successful. The 200 certified facilitators will receive this information in a separate communication with instructions to contact the LEA superintendents in respective ARIC regions to be placed on the local contact list as a trainer of the program.

David F. Byers, Jr.
District VI

We are pleased to be working with *The Parent Project*, a national leader in prevention education, to provide this effective solution to the truancy epidemic and other destructive behaviors identified as indicators. This document will allow for LEA customization and can be downloaded from the SDE Web site at www.alsde.edu. Click on Sections, Prevention and Support Services, Alabama Parent Project Program. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield at (334) 242-8165 or by e-mail at kaw@alsde.edu.

Gary Warren
District VII

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor
District VIII
President Pro Tem

Joseph B. Morton
Secretary and
Executive Officer

JBM/KAW/CT
Attachment

FY10-2123