June 18, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Selected City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent of Education

RE: FY 2011 Graduation Coach Application

As the nation strives to increase the number of high school students that graduate, Alabama continues to support programs for students at risk of dropping out of high school. As evidenced by the Immediate Impact Report for the Graduation Coach Program, participating schools reflected a decrease in the number of discipline referrals and in the number of students leaving school.

At-risk students who were planning to drop out of school remained in school after receiving specialized services and mentoring required for success. The FIRST CHOICE option that was implemented last year also allowed many potential non-completers to successfully obtain a high school diploma.

Enclosed is the Graduation Coach Application that includes specific guidelines for FY 2011. As referenced in the June 2, 2010, memorandum from Dr. Warren Craig Pouncey, Deputy State Superintendent, Division of Administrative and Financial Services, your school system will receive $20,000 per graduation coach. Funding for the FY 2011 Graduation Coach Program will become available October 2010 if your RFP is approved and will end by September 30, 2011. It is imperative for the continuation of these funds that local education agencies comply with all application requirements, as well as submit requested data during the school year.

A copy of the application may also be retrieved on the State Department of Education (SDE) Web site at www.alsde.edu by clicking on Sections, Prevention and Support Services, Dropout Applications, and then selecting the Graduation Coach application. This Web version allows you to type directly on the document; however, the completed document must be sent as a hard copy to the address below.

All applications must contain a legible post-mark of no later than August 3, 2010, or must be hand-delivered by 5 p.m. on the same date to:

Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield
Alabama State Department of Education
Prevent and Support Services Section
5227 Gordon Persons Building
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

If you have questions or need clarification, please contact Dr. Warfield at (334) 242-8165.

JBM/KAW/CT
Enclosures
cc: Dr. Thomas R. Bice
    Dr. Warren Craig Pouncey
    Mr. Feagin Johnson, Jr.

FY10-2054