DEADLINES & UPDATES
Each year three reports are required to be submitted by each school system regarding Gifted Education Programs to the ALSDE. Please review this overview of the three reports, of which two are due in October. The gifted coordinator must submit these reports on or before the deadline.

CHILD COUNT
DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2014
Gifted Child Count is part of the overall IDEA Child Count through STISETS. Please make sure your gifted count is accurate. All gifted identified students in Grades K-12 (with consent for services) must be marked as active in STISETS. Students who are no longer in your LEA must be marked as inactive or archived, depending on the situation. Make sure students who graduated prior to this school year are inactive and/or archived. Enrichment Systems will e-mail their enrichment Child Count of students who are served on October 1, 2014, no later than October 17, 2014.

GIFTED REFERRAL TRACKING LOG
DEADLINE: OCTOBER 17, 2014
This log is a record of all referrals in STISETS for the one year time period of Oct 2 of the previous school year to October 1 of the current school year. Review this log before submitting it through the State Report desktop of STISETS. Enrichment Systems who have processed gifted referrals must submit this report as well. Remember that if you run this report under Report/Gifted Tracking Log you must click Show Common Filters, Click on Status-ALL. Otherwise, you will only see Active students on your tracking log. Have all of your students from Second Grade Child Find been processed? Are they showing up on this report? Can you account for any students not on the Gifted Referral Tracking Log?

Enrichment Systems: How are you maintaining referral logs for enrichment students? We will ask for documentation during on-site monitoring.

SECOND GRADE CHILD FIND LEA SUMMARY REPORT
DEADLINE: APRIL 17, 2015
All students in the top two quadrants of each teacher form will be referred for gifted/enrichment services. The gifted specialist sends the school report from Second Grade Child Find to the coordinator who compiles the data into the LEA Summary report. This report shows the total number of referrals by race/ethnicity from each school. This report may be submitted any time after the first semester but no later than April 17, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SCOPE & SEQUENCE WEBINARS
A series of webinars regarding the Scope and Sequence (S&S) will take place during the 2014-2015 school year. Each webinar will focus on one of the main categories in the S&S, such as metacognition, critical thinking, and social-emotional. We will concentrate on how to embed these items into your unit, the resources and models available to use, and why this item is critical in order for gifted learners to reach their potential. A schedule and memorandum from Dr. Tommy Bice will be available within the next couple of weeks.

The October issue will have the PD we will offer based on your responses from the survey.
Check out the AAGC Web site with the latest contests and extracurricular opportunities. The Web site is updated frequently, so check it out!  
http://www.alabamagifted.org/ 
@alabamagifted 

Have You Read…?  
Mind/Shift-The Science of Character: Developing Positive Learning Traits  
http://tinyurl.com/nu55kl2  
This blog post is short but it includes an 8-minute video on how to strengthen good character traits by appreciating the positive qualities of others and oneself. Links to resources from the filmmaker are included to engage students in activities and discussions.  
Here’s a resource to help you meet affective needs of gifted learners.

Twitter  
@gtchatmod  
This is the official account of global #gtchat hosted by the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented. Join teachers and parents as they discuss gifted issues every Friday at 6:00 PM. All chats are maintained as transcripts and can be accessed at a later date.

Outdoor Classroom EXPO
October 2-3, 2014
http://www.alabamawildlife.org/educator-workshops/#OC%20Expo%202014  
This is a great conference for your school's outdoor classroom planning committee to attend together! Do not miss this great opportunity to gain knowledge, resources, and activities that can change the way you impact your students! This year's Keynote Speaker, Dr. Scott Duncan, the author of Southern Wonder: Alabama's Surprising Biodiversity will take us on a journey through the diverse ecosystems of Alabama. The Expo will take place at AWF Headquarters in Millbrook (just 10 miles north of Montgomery).

NEWS FROM AAGC
Annual AAGC Conference “In Living Color”  
McWane Science Center ~ Birmingham, Alabama  
September 17-19, 2014  
The theme of the conference, “In Living Color,” celebrates diversity and creativity within gifted students. Internationally known speakers will provide keynotes for the conference! Dr. Jerome Morris will present on Wednesday, Dr. Carolyn Coil on Thursday, and Dr. Brian Hourand on Friday. Each speaker will share their area of expertise on dynamic issues pertinent for teachers, gifted specialists, gifted coordinators, parents, and administrators in education today. The conference encompasses informative sessions concerning a variety of topics.

The conference dates are one week earlier! You can register for one, two, or all three days. Membership is included with all registration levels. Preregistration ended on August 28, 2014. Onsite registration does not include lunch. You can find a registration form at the link above.

Onsite Preregistration fees: One day-$75; two days-$110; and, full conference-$150.

CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATIONS
For the out of town guests needing accommodations, the Tutwiler has reserved a block of rooms at a fantastic discount! You can contact them at (205) 322-2100 for reservations, or to make reservations online, go to www.alabamagifted.org and click on the top tab Conference 2014 “In Living Color.” About half way down the page you will see the Tutwiler reservations link. Valet parking is also available. Don't wait!

This year, the AAGC conference will be added into STI-PD as a statewide event. You will need to sign-in every day in order to have your attendance verified.

GRANT & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Online Wish Lists & Donations
Deadline: Ongoing

Many gifted specialists in Alabama have had their projects or classrooms supported by the generosity of complete strangers and/or friends. The following three Web sites allow teachers the opportunity to post their projects and wish lists. Anyone can view these projects and pledge money to support your classroom, fully or partially. Each organization handles the distribution of money or supplies differently. You will need to read about all three and determine which one best fits your needs. The project postings are ongoing and requests can be made at any time. I noticed a couple of Alabama teachers were requesting funds this summer to have supplies at the beginning of school! Great planning!

AdoptAClassroom:  http://www.adoptaclassroom.org/  
DonorsChoose:  http://www.donorschoose.org/  
PledgeCents:  http://www.pledgecents.com/
**APPS**

**Videolicious**

**Free & Paid**

Free version is limited to 60 seconds. Students can record themselves, switch to images, and back to themselves to create a short, to-the-point documentary. Video is saved to camera roll and can be embedded into other videos, apps, or shared in a variety of ways!

**Oregon Trail**

$4.99

Remember playing this game on old Apple computers. This decision-making and problem-solving simulation is back! The object of this simulation to travel from Missouri to Oregon, surviving hardships. Challenges have been increased with real events faced by pioneers. Available on Android and iPad/iPod/iPhone.

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**Alabama Ag in the Classroom**


**DEADLINE:** October 15, 2014

The Alabama Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation makes grants available for projects that integrate agriculture into curriculum areas during the school year. Alabama public or private schools may apply for grants from $25 to $500.

**Alabama RC&D Council Conservation Education Grants**


“RC&D” is short for Resource Conservation and Development, a unique process that helps people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources in ways that improve their area's economy, environment, and quality of life.

There are 9 RC&D Councils across Alabama, and many provide funding for conservation education projects such as Outdoor Classroom development at area schools. The grant amounts vary widely from $250 to $2,500 or more. Contact the area in which your school resides and see if they are currently accepting grant requests for the coming year. Many have deadlines in September, so contact them as quickly as possible as their funds become available on Oct. 1

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**INSPIRATION by VENSPRIED**


You can download this poster at [http://venspired.com/6155-2/](http://venspired.com/6155-2/).

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**CONTESTS & OTHER REAL-WORLD AUDIENCES**

**International Torrance Creativity Awards**


**Deadline:** Extended to September 20

The International Torrance Legacy Creativity Awards have been extended to September 20 for the areas of Visual Arts, Music Composition, and Inventions. It is a wonderful opportunity for bright, talented children and young people, ages 8-18, to participate in an international contest. Award winners will be included in a Torrance creativity magazine that shares writing, visual arts, music composition, and inventions.

Please visit the Web site above to find details and themes, as well as applications and consent forms for Creative Writing, Visual Arts, Music Composition, and Inventions.

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**ALSDE GIFTED WEB PAGE**

**Deadline:** Ongoing

We would like to highlight the great projects you are doing with gifted/enrichment program model students on our new (coming soon) Web page. We need 4-5 new photos each month and each photo can have a descriptor of up to 60 characters. We cannot do this without you. Please send your photos throughout the school year. Right now, you can send photos from last school year. Please add the descriptor to the e-mail. In addition, please provide an assurance statement that you have consent from parents of children in each photo giving permission to post on the Internet.

The second item we would like for you and your students to send is a Tasty Tidbit of Knowledge! Send us those fabulous, weird facts that our gifted students love. We would like to change those out on a weekly basis. We will give credit to the student but not sure if we will use initials, first name, etc.
BOOK-TEACHER OR STUDENT

Faithful Elephants: A True Story of Animals, People, and War
By Yukio Tsuchiya

Before you read this story, which was first published in 1951, have a box of Kleenex ready! “A zookeeper recounts the story of John, Tonky, and Wanly, three performing elephants at the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo, whose turn it is to die, and of their keepers, who weep and pray that World War II will end so their beloved elephants might be saved.” This book can be upsetting to adults and students, but provokes questions and discussions about death, dying and the secondary casualties of war.

RESOURCES

Learnist (Web site or app)
https://learnist/

Today, millions of curious people worldwide use Learnist monthly to learn from expertly curated web, print and video content covering tens-of-thousands of topics, ranging from niche area of academics to broad interests such as food, health, sports and entertainment. Learnist user interests and passions drive easy, efficient discovery of new learning experiences—literally putting expert knowledge at users’ fingertips. To access information, you must create an account. Not everything is appropriate for the classroom or is free. Some content requires the payment of a fee. Therefore, teachers must choose and bookmark what is appropriate.

The Sports Network 2

This simulation game engages students to read and summarize as a sports newscaster for a sports network. The goal is to increase the number of teens watching the sports show. However, this game is not free. It is one of the many games found at Brain Pop. This game is aligned to College and Career ready Standards and is a good one to recommend to classroom teachers to use with reluctant and struggling readers. Motivating and engaging!

Prodigy
https://www.prodigygame.com/USA/

A fantasy world where math is key. Students use math to wield magic and combat monsters to level up their characters. A more engaging and fun way to practice math skills.

FIELD EXPERIENCES

The purpose of the field study experience is to enhance and enrich the content and skills from units of study. The trip becomes an embedded activity within the concept-based curriculum unit. This month’s featured trip is Mission Blue Education Resources: Inspire Students to Care About the Ocean from National Geographic at http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mission-blue-netflix/?ar_a=1. Meet oceanographer, Sylvia Earle, who worked four years on Mission Blue. Activities and videos are grouped by topic and grade level. Sylvia says: “No ocean; no life. No ocean; no us.”

As with any field trip experience, what before, during, and after experiences have you planned for students to further the studies of the concept-based curriculum? What Essential Understandings will students discover through Essential Questions and/or Scaffold Questions as they experience the field study?
CONCEPT-BASED CURRICULUM

EUs, EQs, SQs

This month’s featured EUs are related to identity. Each concept-based unit would only have 3-5 EUs. Remember that all SQs may not be used because your students may have the prior knowledge. One EU could take months to teach. The SQs are listed but the activities to help students answer the questions are not included. What additional scaffold questions can you add to these EUs? What activities would you include with the questions? Several EUs are featured in the forthcoming unit, My Identity Matters, written by Sherry Chappell and Latasha Warner, Gifted Teachers with Lee County School System, Lee County, Alabama.

Essential Understandings, Essential Questions, and Scaffold Questions:

Complex EU

EU: Having a gifted identity may result in conflict with positive and/or negative consequences.
EQ: How may having a gifted identity result in conflict with positive and/or negative consequences?
SQ: What is identity?
SQ: What is gifted?
SQ: What is a gifted identity?
SQ: What is conflict?
SQ: What are positive and negative consequences of being gifted?
SQ: How are gifted students identified?
SQ: What is creativity?
SQ: What is intelligence? Can it be improved or increased?

EU: The exploration of gifted characteristics in literature may help gifted learners discover their own identity.
EQ: How may the exploration of gifted characteristics in literature help gifted learners discover their own identity?

EU: Communication may affect social interactions positively or negatively.
EQ: How may communication affect social interactions positively or negatively?

EU: A sense of identity can create a positive self-image.
EQ: How may a sense of identity create a positive self-image?

EU: The identity of a person or group is rarely static, but may be constantly changed by internal and external forces.
EQ: Why is the identity of a person or group rarely static, but may be constantly changed by internal and external forces?

EU: In a culture where people are bombarded with ideas and images of “what we should be,” an individual must actualize an identity that remains true and authentic to her/himself.