August 21, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Tenth Annual Statewide Alabama Youth Conference (AYC)

For the past ten years, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has supported the work of Mrs. Sue Jones and the FOCUS Program. Approximately 250 high schools throughout the state have implemented a FOCUS course through the Health Education/Peer Helping elective curriculum, implemented FOCUS as an extra-curricular activity, or attended facilitator trainings and FOCUS statewide events. The program empowers students in the prevention of adolescent risk behaviors identified through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

On October 3, 2013, the ALSDE, in collaboration with FOCUS, the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Truman Pierce Institute-Auburn University School of Education, and the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, will sponsor the Tenth Annual Statewide AYC. Youth from across the state of Alabama will gather at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa Montgomery Performing Arts Centre (MPAC) to promote healthy behaviors among Alabama teens. This year’s conference will feature Rachel’s Challenge (www.rachelschallenge.org). Students will be encouraged to take a more active role in prevention of bullying, HIV/AIDS, STIs, Teen Pregnancy, and other adolescent risk behaviors.

I encourage you to send student leaders from Grades 9-12 and chaperones (or parents) from your school to attend the AYC. The registration fee is $25.00 per person. Lunch and materials will be provided. Registration may be completed on-line at www.thefocusprogram.com. Educators may receive professional development credit by registering at https://pdweb.alsde.edu. The Title PD Number is “FOCUS2013.” Social worker CEUs will be provided by the Alabama Board of Social Work. Please note that registration is on a first-come, first-serve, basis and will close at 5 p.m. on September 20, 2013. Late registration will be $30.00 per person.

Thank you in advance for your support of the 10th Annual AYC. Please pass this information along to every administrator, counselor, school nurse, lead health educator, curriculum coordinator, and FOCUS Facilitator so that we may impact every teen in the state. If you have questions regarding this event, please contact Mrs. Sue Jones at 256-453-4245.

TRB/ML/BHL

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