April 24, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice  
       State Superintendent of Education

RE: Writing Concept-Based Curriculum Workshop

Gifted pull-out classrooms are student-centered using, concept-based curriculum with essential understandings, essential questions, and scaffolded questions. This curriculum is standards-embedded and inquiry-based, requiring students to use higher order thinking skills to process information in order to gain a deeper understanding. The culminating performance task is the final project completed by students to demonstrate mastery of one or more of the essential understandings in the unit. This final project utilizes problem-based learning (which is project-based learning with the problem-based process), creating an added layer of depth and complexity for students. Gifted specialists struggle with the development of these advanced units.

In order to provide support for the development and implementation of these complex units, Mrs. Shirley Farrell and Mrs. Nancy Johnson, Education Specialists for Gifted, will present two-day workshops at three sites around the state during June and July of 2014. Gifted specialists will leave the workshop with a unit to implement during the 2014-2015 school year. These units will be maintained on a repository site for all gifted specialists to utilize, creating a library of units. Attendance at each session is open to all school system personnel with responsibilities of gifted pullout or advanced classes.

Participants must register for the trainings through STI-PD. Directions on accessing STI-PD and session locations are provided on the attachment. The registration deadline is one week before the date of each session.

Please contact Mrs. Farrell or Mrs. Johnson at (334) 242-8114 if you need additional information.

TRB/SF/SH
Attachment

cc: City and County Special Education Coordinators
    City and County Gifted Coordinators
    Mrs. Sherrill W. Parris
    Dr. Linda Felton-Smith
    Ms. Crystal Richardson
    Mrs. Cindy Lester
    Mrs. Nancy Johnson
    Mrs. Shirley Farrell

FY14-2059
WRITING CONCEPT-BASED CURRICULUM WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

The registration deadline for the Gifted Regional Training is one week before each session.

To register for the Writing Concept-Based Curriculum Workshop, each participant will need to:

1. Login to STI-PD (https://pdweb.alsde.edu/pdweb/).
2. Search for one of the sessions below using one of the following methods by clicking on the PD TITLES Tab:
   A. Click on “Search the PD Title Catalog” and enter either the PD Title—2014 Writing Concept-Based Curriculum Workshop OR PD Title Number-SESGift0015.

   OR

B. Click on “View Session Offerings.” Select “All LEAs,” and enter the month of the session. Scroll through the listings to the date of the session.
3. Click on the session that you want to attend.
4. Click on the button “ENROLL NOW” to register.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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| June 19-20, 2014 | Old Berry Middle School  
Hoover City Board of Education  
2826 Columbiana Road  
Birmingham, AL 35216 |
| June 25-26, 2014 | Mobile County School System  
Professional Development Center-Cypress Auditorium  
1 Magnum Pass  
Mobile, AL 36618 |
| July 30-31, 2014 | Alabama Industrial Development and Training (AIDT) Center Court  
One Technology Court  
Montgomery, AL 36116-3200 |