September 5, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Alabama Association for Gifted Children Conference

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pleased to announce the 2014 Alabama Association for Gifted Children (AAGC) annual conference on September 17-19, 2014, at the McWane Science Center in Birmingham, Alabama. This annual conference offers an excellent selection of break-out sessions for gifted specialists, administrators, teachers, and parents to support the unique cognitive and affective learning needs of gifted children and youth.

The theme for this three-day conference is "In Living Color," celebrating the diversity and creativity within gifted students. Internationally known speakers will provide keynotes for the conference: Dr. Jerome Morris on Wednesday, Dr. Carolyn Coil on Thursday, and Dr. Brian Housand on Friday. The session topics include creativity, technology, Thinking Like Scientists, affective needs, acceleration, higher-order thinking skills, and parenting gifted children. Special focus will be on identifying students from underrepresented populations and differentiating for gifted learners in general education and gifted classrooms. Participants can register for one, two, or three days. A preliminary schedule and registration form can be obtained on the Web site at alabamagifted.org.

I encourage you to support the attendance of your gifted specialists, teachers, counselors, or anyone who works with gifted students. This conference provides professional development, networking opportunities, and resources for teachers to help gifted students achieve annual growth.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Ms. Shirley Farrell or Ms. Nancy Johnson at (334) 242-8114.

TRB/SF/SWR

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

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