



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
 State Superintendent of Education

September 29, 2015

Alabama
 State Board
 of Education

MEMORANDUM

Governor
 Robert Bentley
 President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Matthew S. Brown, J.D.
 District I

FROM: Thomas R. Bice *TRB*
 State Superintendent of Education

RE: 2015 Alabama Attendance Manual

Betty Peters
 District II

Amid the sometimes fierce debate about improving schools in Alabama or in the nation lies an indisputable truth: Students must attend school regularly to benefit from what is taught. But each year, an estimated 5 to 7.5 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school. This lost instructional time exacerbates dropout rates and achievement gaps. It erodes the promise of early education and confounds efforts to master reading by the end of third grade.

Stephanie Bell
 District III

Yvette M.
 Richardson, Ed.D.
 District IV
 President Pro Tem

These concerns are also prevalent in many of our schools in Alabama as the efforts are continued to provide a positive learning environment for our students. The Alabama Attendance Manual, developed by a diverse committee determined to align support for students and families, is ready for full implementation and has been posted on the Alabama State Department of Education Web site at <http://www.alsde.edu/sec/pss/Attendance/2015%20Alabama%20Attendance%20Manual.pdf>. Salient points of interest address the attendance cycle from mandatory age requirements to appropriate interventions in a restorative manner. This manual serves as a guide and reference and encourages each to read in full text the laws and local education agency (LEA) policies pertaining to attendance and an analysis thereof that involve students and families when identifying the obstacles hindering the process for a career- and college-prepared education. Trainings in this regard are projected for late fall.

Ella B. Bell
 District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
 District VI

September is national Attendance Awareness Month and Alabama is celebrating it as well. Please share with appropriate personnel the www.attendanceworks.org Web site that has many PowerPoint presentations, including the ones from MEGA with Dr. Hedy Chang, Toolkits for parents, and research information. Do not forget to pin your school system on this Web site as you share what events are being conducted in your area in support of this initiative.

Jeff Newman
 District VII
 Vice President

If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield via e-mail at kaw@alsde.edu or Dr. Susan McKim at smckim@alsde.edu in the Prevention and Support Services Section.

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
 District VIII

Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D.
 Secretary and
 Executive Officer

TRB/KAW/CT

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