



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



Michael Sentance  
 State Superintendent of Education

December 9, 2016

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:** Michael Sentance *MS*  
 State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters  
 District II

**RE:** 2017 Alabama Thespian Festival

Stephanie Bell  
 District III

The Alabama Educational Theatre Association (ALEdTA) will host the 2017 Alabama Thespian Festival (ATF) on February 24-25, 2017, at Pelham High School in Pelham, Alabama. The ATF will offer workshops for theatre teachers including acting technique, lesson planning, and technical theatre. Nationally recognized artists in acting, technical theatre, musical theatre, and dance will lead instructional workshops for teachers and students. Artists will also offer workshops on the impact of intergrading theatre across the curriculum.

Yvette M.  
 Richardson, Ed.D.  
 District IV  
 Vice President

The ATF is a weekend of workshops, plays, and competitions for students and teachers and creates a venue to network as well as enhance the knowledge and appreciation of theatre as part of a well-rounded student. The ALEdTA is a chapter of the national Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), an organization that provides support and advocacy for theatre educators and students across the country. This state conference is an opportunity for theatre educators in the state to refine skills, connect to colleges and universities in the area, and share ideas with fellow educators. Please visit the ALEdTA Web site for additional information at: <http://www.alabamathespians.com/>.

Ella B. Bell  
 District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
 District VI

Jeff Newman  
 District VII

I encourage you to review your budget and professional development procedures to ascertain if your classroom teachers and arts specialists may attend. This statewide professional development opportunity will enhance the arts education programs in your system for students and teachers. The ATF allows the sharing of ideas and networking for arts educators that will benefit them in learning and implementing new strategies to improve student achievement.

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.  
 District VIII  
 President Pro Tem

Michael Sentance  
 Secretary and  
 Executive Officer

MS:CAM:SMR

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