FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 29, 2016

ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY SUMMIT
What Works in Alabama

Montgomery, Ala. – The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is proud to host the Absenteeism and Truancy Summit: What Works in Alabama, a showcase of the best practices and programs at local schools across the state. Chronic absenteeism is a state and national crisis, often leading to students dropping out of school.

Keynote speakers will include Dr. Robert Balfanz, Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Md.); and Dr. Randy Sprick, Teaching Strategies Inc., Safe and Civil Schools (Portland, Ore.). These renowned experts on attendance and dropout prevention and additional speakers will speak on important topics in education such as attendance strategies that work, report card conferencing, community partnerships and more.

When: April 7-8, 2016
Where: The Grand Hotel, One Grand Boulevard, Point Clear, AL 36564
What: The Absenteeism and Truancy Summit: What Works in Alabama is a collaborative effort between the ALSDE Special Education Services, Prevention and Support Services, and Johns Hopkins University’s Everyone A Graduate Center (JHU), to provide school personnel with effective intervention/best practices for increasing attendance, and reducing discipline and truancy issues as identified by the Alabama Graduation Tracking System (GTS) during the three year research study.

Significant gains have been seen in the number of students with increased attendance, promotion to the 10th grade, and reduced discipline infractions at the school level. The conference will showcase LEAs sites and effective interventions from the JHU/ALSDE research project.

Attendees: There is no fee to attend the conference. Please use special code ASDASDA for a $130 hotel reservation.

Media: There are opportunities for interviews with Dr. Balfanz on April 7 and Dr. Sprick on April 7 or 8 after 12:30pm.

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