

May 29, 2020

Superintendents,

As we wrap up the month of May, I wanted to consolidate several pieces of information for you. The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has seen a rise in the number of positive COVID-19 cases in different areas across the state and has asked us to help encourage the public to continue social distancing and handwashing practices to help stop the spread of Coronavirus. Attached are three posters ADPH has shared with us. Please print and display these posters in frequently trafficked areas throughout your schools. You can find more resources at [www.adph.org](http://www.adph.org) and [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

### **Contact Tracing and Public Health**

In order to assist ADPH with contact tracing, 193 school nurses have committed to additional training and work this summer. Please allow these nurses reasonable access to school facilities and equipment as needed to perform this important public health function. Even though these nurses are being remunerated by ADPH for this work, we do not see any ethics issue involved in their utilizing their school-owned equipment for this work. This should fall under the similar provision under which off-duty law enforcement officers can provide security at events and yet wear their uniforms, drive patrol cars, etc. If there are any questions, please contact Asst. Superintendent Terry Roller or General Counsel Jason Swann for guidance.

### **Roadmap to Reopening Schools this Fall**

We need your input. The SEAL Task Force has developed a survey which will give us valuable feedback as we work on the roadmap to reopening schools. Please complete the [survey](#) by Friday, June 5.

This week, the SEAL Task Force committees began individual discussions with the Opportunity Labs team. A SEAL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday to discuss committee reports and overall direction for the roadmap for the return to school this fall. The roadmap will be completed and distributed on June 19.

### **Principal Evaluations**

We have received several inquiries as it pertains to principal evaluations. Please note there have not been any waivers issued or deadlines extended due to COVID-19.

### **Office of Student Learning**

Below is the Office of Student Learning summer newsletter which was distributed to curriculum directors earlier today and includes updates on summer learning opportunities, AMSTI, Professional Development, ARI, and Instructional Services. It contains a lot of great, useful information for your schools.

Thank you for all that you are doing!

*Eric S. Mackey*

State Superintendent of Education



"Leadership is fluid because it is always a process." - Michael Fullan

The Office of Student Learning

# Happenings & Highlights

June-July 2020

Dr. Elisabeth Davis

*Every Child.  
Every Chance.  
Every Day.*

## Upcoming Dates

**June 9-11:** ELA & CTE ACOS Committee Meetings

**June 11:** State Board of Education Meeting

**June 15-19:** CLAS Summer Convention

**June 16-17:** ELA & CTE ACOS Committee Meetings

**June 29-July 1:** ACAP Instructional Supports Phase II Educator Review

**July 7-9:** ELA & CTE ACOS Committee Meetings

**July 14:** State Board of Education Meeting

## Updates from Student Learning

### Alabama ASCD 2020-2021 Dates to Remember

The Office of Student Learning is working collaboratively with ASCD to provide additional support during the 2020-2021 school year. For more information, visit

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cnPBzHK3FDLaN0jpJtgyL3q6REFAHXIC/view?usp=sharing>.

### 2020 Alabama Summer Learning Challenge

For the eighth year, the ALSDE is partnering with some of the country's leading education organizations to help "minimize the summer learning slide." Through July 31, educators, parents and students have access to free distance learning resources through the following

link: <https://www.alsde.edu/sec/comm/Pages/summer-learning.aspx>.

### **CLAS Summer Convention Features John Hattie: “STEM the TIDE of COVID Slide”**

CLAS is offering a “Post-CLAS Convention Conference” with John Hattie, also known as the collective efficacy guru, on Thursday afternoon, June 18, at 3:30 p.m., followed by Christine Drew and Dick Erdmann Friday, June 19, 2020, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Additional information to [register](#) for this event is accessible through the link. In addition to this unique “post conference” CLAS is also partnering with a sister organization from another state; New Mexico school leaders will join Alabama’s CLAS attendees to expand learning network opportunities to New Mexico. Click [here](#) for more information regarding this opportunity.

### **Early Reading and Math Assessment Allocations**

LEAs have almost completed their final K-3 reading and math screener selections. The ALSDE accounting team is planning to disperse allocations to each LEA by June 15. Once LEA selections are finalized and allocations are dispersed, each LEA will need to contact the vendor(s) to work through any PD or other logistics for implementation of the assessments. If you have questions, contact Dr. Sandy Ledwell in AMSTI or Mrs. Karen Porter in ARI.

### **National Science Foundation (NSF)-Sponsored 2020 LEGACY CS Project POSTPONED**

**LEGACY** is a free program designed to help young African American women succeed in AP CS Principles. Students participate in AP CSP training during the summer prior to actually taking the course at their school. They are also provided a stipend during the summer and academic year, travel, meals, and lodging, among other incentives. Unfortunately this event has been postponed, but

general information regarding the LEGACY project, including a flyer, is available at <https://legacy.ua.edu/>.

### **“Visible Learning Effect Sizes When Schools Are Closed: What Matters and What Does Not”**

Noted researcher John Hattie speaks out about what we can learn from past extended school closures. You can access his article at <https://corwin-connect.com/2020/04/visible-learning-effect-sizes-when-schools-are-closed-what-matters-and-what-does-not/>.

## **Alabama Math, Science, & Technology Initiative**

Coordinator,  
Dr. Sandy  
Ledwell



### **K-12 Remote Math and Science Resources**

AMSTI has new content area aligned remote learning resources for math and science for each grade level. Resources are both web-based and unplugged. Visit [amsti.org](http://amsti.org) for more information.



### **“Elementary Science: Equipping Students Through Inquiry and Integration”**

SREB’s May 2020 Policy Brief highlights the importance of including science instruction in elementary school and the direct role it plays in increased reading performance, as well as the ability to develop important thinking skills that benefit ALL subjects. Solutions for educators to prepare students for “success in science, both in elementary school and beyond” are also described in the following

article: [https://www.sreb.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/sciencebrief\\_may2020.pdf?1589398782](https://www.sreb.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/sciencebrief_may2020.pdf?1589398782).

## Summer Professional Learning Opportunities

The ALSDE Office of Student Learning is proud to offer a variety of remote professional learning opportunities for teachers and administrators during June and July. We are committed to supporting Alabama's educators in their professional growth despite the complexities of the pandemic. Please join us for one or more of the following professional learning opportunities listed below. You will be glad you did!

### AMSTI

Within days of the June 2020 PD catalog release, there were 1,634 participants registered with 190 additional participants on a waitlist to participate in one or more of the 30 AMSTI courses, including over 50 sections to choose from. You can find out more by visiting their summer learning site at <https://www.amsti.org/summer-professional-learning>.

### ARI

Educators currently on the **LETRS** waitlist will begin this powerful science of reading course of study this summer through virtual training. If you would like to be included in any of the **LETRS** professional development courses, please complete the [Wait List Registration](#).

**LETRS Cohort 3B:** "Kick-Off" virtual meetings will be held in June and July. **LETRS 3rd Edition Unit 1** and **Day 1 of LETRS for Administrators** will be offered in July for those who wish to begin in the summer. You may contact Gay Finn or Denise Perkins at [AlabamaLETRS@alsde.edu](mailto:AlabamaLETRS@alsde.edu) or 334-694-4632.

### **Multisensory Structured Language Education (MSLE)**

ARI will offer two pathways that lead to a dyslexia therapist certification endorsement. Interested educators may apply for the *Shelton Academic Reading Approach (SARA)* for up to 25 participants or the *Neuhaus Basic Language Skills Course* for

up to 12 participants. All applications must be received by Friday, June 5, 2020. Please contact Vickie Chappelle at [dyslexia@alsde.edu](mailto:dyslexia@alsde.edu) or 334-694-4632.

### **Other ARI Summer Learning Opportunities through Regional Inservice Centers**

Virtual summer professional learning sessions for K-3 educators will include the following: *The ARI Foundations for Beginning Reading: An Introduction to the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy Overview* trainings along with *EL-Understanding English Language Proficiency* and *EL-Content Instruction for English Learners*. Consult your [REGIONAL INSERVICE CENTERS](#) for more summer learning details or contact ARI Specialists Wendy Warren at [arisummerlearning@alsde.edu](mailto:arisummerlearning@alsde.edu), Michele Lee or Katrina Todd at [EnglishLearner@alsde.edu](mailto:EnglishLearner@alsde.edu) or 334-694-4632.

### **Instructional Services**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T3xD0hUuBgRXh\\_Pwei0MA\\_VVPnPtVuHrt/view?usp=sharing2019](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T3xD0hUuBgRXh_Pwei0mA_VVPnPtVuHrt/view?usp=sharing2019)

### **Secondary Mathematics Course of Study & Computer Science**

The ALSDE is partnering with A+ College Ready to provide [FREE training](#) for secondary math and computer science teachers. All training events, unless otherwise noted, will be four days and are available to **ALL ALABAMA PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS at no cost to the school/LEA**. It is virtual training, so there will BE NO TRAVEL COSTS associated with the training.

### **Secondary Mathematics**

Math 7/Accelerated Math 7; Algebra I with Probability; Geometry with Data Analysis; and Algebra II with Statistics (NOTE: This subject only is a one-day training focusing solely on the statistics standards in the new Algebra II course of study. These standards will be new to Algebra II teachers.)

## Computer Science

The following CS professional development summer trainings meet all of the requirements of **HB216 requiring computer science in all high schools in fall 2020** and in all middle schools for the fall 2021: Middle School Computer Science (formerly Computer Science Discoveries); AP Computer Science Principles (VERY accessible course for large numbers of students--not the stereotypical "AP course"); and AP Computer Science A (Java-based programming course only offered June 15 - 18). **Attendance and completion** of the four-day computer science training earns a teacher a PERMIT which serves as certification to teach the course for which s/he was trained in any public school.

All training opportunities listed above are available six different weeks of the summer:

**Session 1--June 8-11;**

**Session 2--June 15 – 18;**

**Session 3--June 29 - July 2;**

**Session 4--July 6 – 9;**

**Session 5--July 13 – 16; and**

**Session 6--July 20 – 23.**

Teachers can register at the A+ College Ready website, [www.aplusala.org/college-ready/events](http://www.aplusala.org/college-ready/events).

## Alabama Reading Initiative

Coordinator,  
Karen Porter



### ***Alabama's Journey To Reading Success: The Alabama Literacy Act Implementation Guide***

Final edits for Phase I of this guide are being completed with the goal to send it out and post it in the next week or two. Remember that this guide is a "living document" that will be completed in phases to ensure information and resources are updated annually. Thank you for your patience as we did not plan for the COVID-19 impact on the regular work flow. We hope LEAs can utilize this tool to plan for the 2020-2021 school year, with an understanding that additional information will be updated at least annually.

### **Alabama's ARI Full Support Schools**

In a recent memorandum, Dr. Mackey outlined three levels of ARI support for K-3 schools beginning in 2020-2021. The memorandum described K-3 schools with the greatest reading needs as [Full Support Schools](#). Select superintendents were notified in late April of that school status and the intensive, on-site coaching support they will receive from ARI. This aggressive effort to raise K-3 student reading achievement will include regular, sustained support from an ARI regional literacy specialist and a regional leadership specialist. Additionally, Full Support School faculties will begin a two-year study in the science of reading *with the LETRS course*.

During the month of July, newly hired ARI Regional Specialist Support Teams will undergo intensive training in preparation to begin supporting and collaborating with LEA leaders, school principals, and school reading specialists on *Alabama's Journey to Reading Success*. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Karen Rutledge-Bell, ARI Full Support Lead at [ALfullsupport@alsde.edu](mailto:ALfullsupport@alsde.edu) or 334-694-4632.



### **ARI Supporting English Learners**

A [NEW English Learner website](#) housed on the **ALEX** platform has been developed to provide greater access to resources for all teachers, administrators, and parents. The website will provide links to *EL Quick Facts*, *Covid-19 Information*, *EL Standards*, a Padlet Link to resources for Grade K-12, and links to many other helpful resources. This [NEW English Learner](#)

[website](#) is scheduled to go live on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The ARI-EL specialists will continue to add resources as they become available. Please contact Michele Lee or Katrina Todd at [EnglishLearner@alsde.edu](mailto:EnglishLearner@alsde.edu) for more information.



### **Multisensory Language Instruction**

The ARI is finalizing plans to provide scientifically based reading instruction and multisensory language instruction professional learning to K-3 educators as outlined in the *Alabama Literacy Act*. This *late summer* learning opportunity with the Neuhaus Educational Center will provide a five-day training course, ***Reading Readiness on-demand and Language Enrichment***, for approximately 440 K-3 teachers, special education teachers, reading intervention teachers, and local reading specialists across our state during July and August. Included are three virtual-coaching sessions provided by a Neuhaus trainer upon completion of the training course. If you are interested in this training, contact Vickie Chappelle at [dyslexia@alsde.edu](mailto:dyslexia@alsde.edu) or call 334-694-4632.

### **Instructional Services**

Coordinator,  
Sean Stevens

### **2019 Mathematics Alabama Course of Study Bound Documents**

We are excited to provide LEAs with printed and bound course of study documents this summer. Originally, we planned to provide these at our on-site summer trainings hosted by AMSTI (elementary) and A+ College Ready (secondary), but that is no longer an option. We have arranged to ship the bound documents to the Regional AMSTI sites, and we will follow up with LEAs to provide instructions for dissemination

or pick-up once they arrive on site. Thank you to Mr. Sean Stevens and Mrs. Cathy Jones for their efforts to ensure this project was completed, despite operations being closed or minimized during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **2020-2021 Subject/Personnel Codes**

The latest release of the 2020-2021 Subject and Personnel Course Codes were made available on April 29, 2020. The release includes the Grade 8, Accelerated Mathematics course that may be offered with Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) approval. The 2020-2021 Subject and Personnel Course Codes document is posted on the ALSDE website, and you may access it through the following link: [2020-2021 Subject & Personnel Course Codes](#).

### **ALSDE Academic Guide**

The *2020-2021 ALSDE Academic Guidelines for Alabama Schools* is in the final stages of development and will provide school administrators, school counselors, teacher advisors, and other school leaders with a comprehensive resource with ALSDE statutes, memoranda, and other information in ONE location to help LEAs when they are reviewing or developing local policies, procedures, and powerful practices needed for successful academic advising. This guide will be available to LEA leaders by July 2020. If you have questions, contact Sean Stevens at [sstevens@alsde.edu](mailto:sstevens@alsde.edu).

### **2020-2021 CollegeCounts Student Folders**

Through a partnership with the Alabama State Treasurer's office, CollegeCounts is supplying all schools a Grade 1 with sturdy "weekly" or "take home" folders for every rising first grade student. These folders will include information on the Alabama's CollegeCounts Savings Program. They can be used by classroom teachers to communicate classroom activities with parents and families throughout the new school year. The State Treasurer's office is planning to ship the

folders to each LEA's school site, but we will provide final details as soon as they are finalized.

### **Cash for College/College and Career Decision Day**

Schools across Alabama held *Cash for College Week* on May 4-8, 2020, followed by College and Career Decision Week on May 11-15, 2020. This year's Alabama College and Career Decision Week was a virtual opportunity to celebrate students committing to pursue their education beyond high school, whether to obtain a two-year degree, a four-year degree, a certificate, an industry-recognized credential of value, as well as students entering a branch of armed forces. Thank you for helping these students reach these goals and for celebrating their successes! The following LEAs are just a few of the many celebrations that took place.

#### ***Florence City Schools***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zU72RJEvTUM&feature=youtu.be>

#### ***Saraland City Schools***

<https://video214.com/play/5FJKZhNDM7gveXg97j191g/s/dark>

#### ***Tallapoosa County Schools***

[https://vimeo.com/416673252?ref=em-share&fbclid=IwAR2qPbnYG\\_PfWQ64VxtFoVg9NMIKtWfSw6-KPU9f9eIUfkaQiGefk0OK0Vk](https://vimeo.com/416673252?ref=em-share&fbclid=IwAR2qPbnYG_PfWQ64VxtFoVg9NMIKtWfSw6-KPU9f9eIUfkaQiGefk0OK0Vk)

#### ***Tarrant City Schools***



### **Novice Curriculum Directors Academy**

Through collaborative efforts of the ALSDE and AASCD, we are excited to host several professional learning and mentoring opportunities for Novice Curriculum Directors. The ALSDE

hosted an initial meeting last October and then worked with AASCD to plan for additional supports for the 2020-2021 school year. More information will be shared in upcoming weeks; however, we hope you will save the **TENTATIVE** dates below:

**August 6, 2020** Location TBD or Virtual (ALSDE Roundtables & Planning),

**October 21, 2020** Location TBD or Virtual, and

**January 26, 2021** AASCD Annual Conference.

**June-July 2020** The Office of Student Learning Happenings & Highlights