Alabama educators have been very busy throughout the month of October. The holiday season is upon us and November is an appropriate month to give thanks for the many collective educational accomplishments made across our great state. We have so much for which to be thankful. Our schools are demonstrating student success in countless ways. I watch the news feed daily to see the many ways we are touching lives and cementing a strong foundation for future success. Thank you to our educators for making a profound difference in our students’ lives. The real work continues to happen daily in our classrooms because of your commitment.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

I am particularly thankful for the direction Alabama is taking with Computer Science (CS). The demand for computer scientists is great with over 4000 jobs unfilled annually. In U.S. News Best Jobs, software developer takes the number one spot. IT jobs will grow 22% through 2020, says U.S. It is critical that our educational system prepares Alabama students to meet the growing demand for computer scientists.

Dr. Gray of The University of Alabama and I facilitated the first meeting of the Governors Computer Science Advisory Council. The Governor’s Education Initiative ‘Strong Start, Strong Finish’ is especially relevant as it provides a forum to create policy aimed at advancing computer science in Alabama. This work is timely as the ALSDE opens the window to receive feedback on the Computer Science Course of Study (COS) throughout the month of November. I encourage all stakeholders to seriously review and submit your comments about the CS COS. The CS Advisory Council has been tasked with making recommendations to the Governor for the expansion of CS education in Alabama. See photos from the first meeting of the CS Advisory Council Taskforce.

“We can, whenever and wherever we choose, successfully teach all children whose schooling is of interest to us. We already know more than we need to do that. Whether or not we do it must finally depend on how we feel about the fact that we haven’t so far.”

– Ron Edmonds
We are already making strides in the area of Computer Science in Alabama.

**Computer Science Accomplishments**

- Increase in AP enrollment in the Computer Science Test; we’ve increased from 27 exams in 2007 to 1703 exams taken in 2017.
- The Computer Science Course of Study committee completed the CS standards in October and will receive stakeholder feedback during November.
- We have trained over 1400 Alabama teachers on K-5 Code.org Fundamentals and 19 Middle school teachers were trained by Code.org/A+ College Ready.
- Increase in the number of students receiving a qualifying score on the CS AP exam.
- Lee Calton (Eufaula) and Vinny Chiaramonte (Hoover) are Alabama Teacher Leaders for CS.
- Editors for the College Board Computer Science Principles (CSP) AP Teaching Guide.
- Four teachers are College Board APSI instructors (most of any state in USA).
- Carol Yarbrough at ASFA now on the College Board AP CSP Development Committee.
- The CSP counts as a high school graduation course. The AP CSP course is an approved university course.
- We are ensuring equitable opportunities to CS by expanding training opportunities to the Black Belt. Exploring Computer Science, from UCLA, will be taught to over 60 Alabama schools through a $1M NSF award. 26 Selma teachers were trained this summer. This effort is being led by Tuskegee University (Mohammed Qazi), along with Auburn (David Shannon/Melody Russell) and the University of Alabama (Jeff Gray).

**ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE**

This month, the ALSDE convened a group to discuss the future of the Alabama state assessment. This year, we will administer the Scantron Assessment, but we will work diligently to create an assessment that will provide data that informs our work as educators. The work of the taskforce is ongoing and the stakeholders will continue to play a critical role with the next state assessment. We will provide monthly updates regarding our progress in this area.

**EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)**

On October 12, 2017, we submitted the Alabama Every Student Succeeds Act Plan to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). This plan will serve the students of Alabama for many years to come. Thank you to the many stakeholder groups who willingly supported us in creating a plan that ensures equitable opportunities for all students. We anticipate receiving feedback within 90 days. This plan supports us in our work to provide strategic direction for the state. Upon receiving the feedback, we will make any corrections and prepare for full implementation of the plan during the 2018-2019 school year.
The Office of Student Learning (OSL) exists to support districts and schools in improving the learning for all students. The OSL is comprised of Assessment; Instructional Services; Alabama Reading Initiative; Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative; and Regional Support. We are committed to working together to provide a seamless system of service to districts. If you have instructional or support questions, please contact the section Coordinator or Shanthia Washington at or 334-353-1608. Professional development or technical assistance requests for instructional or support matters may be submitted using a support request form HERE.

OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING
Shanthia Washington, Assistant Superintendent

OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING
Instructional Services, Robin Nelson

Alabama Course of Study: Digital Literacy and Computer Science
The November 2017 draft of the Alabama Course of Study: Digital Literacy and Computer Science is ready for public review. In order to receive public input, the Digital Literacy and Computer Science State Course of Study Committee and Task Force has made a draft available on the Alabama State Department of Education Web site. This draft contains the proposed Grades K-12 digital literacy and computer science standards defining what students in Alabama should know and be able to do. The draft will be posted from Wednesday, November 1, 2017 through Friday, December 1, 2017. Comments should be entered electronically on the review Web site and must be received by Friday, December 1, 2017.

Please share this information with the faculty and staff in each of your schools. Your assistance in ensuring that Alabama's students have the best possible digital literacy and computer science standards is appreciated.

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Michele Matin.

Alabama AT&T African American History Calendar
The Alabama State Department of Education and our partner, AT&T Alabama, proudly present the 2018 Alabama AT&T African American History Calendar Unveiling, November 9, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the Historic A.H. Parker High School in Birmingham, Alabama. For the last eight years, the calendar has recognized astronauts, civil rights activists and leaders, entrepreneurs, physicians, athletes, distinguished musicians, educators, literary giants, rocket scientists, politicians, military greats, and the list goes on and on. Alabama's heritage is full of ordinary people who have achieved extraordinary feats. Our goal for the History Calendar is simple ... to motivate the next generation – our future – to continue Alabama's great legacy of accomplishments. The 2018 Calendar will feature Jeanette Scissum (NASA's Original Hidden Figure), Kenyen Brown, Dr. C.T. Vivian, Isaac White, Sr., Vernon Z. Crawford, Judge Helen Shores-Lee, Erskine Hawkins, Nell Carter, Wilson Pickett, Dr. A. H. Parker, Dr. Willie Ruff, and Dr. Shelia Nash Stevenson (modern day NASA Hidden Figure). For more details, past honorees, and archived calendars please visit http://alafricanamerican.com/honorees/.

Alabama State Textbook Committee
Alabama State Textbook Committee Chairman, Dr. Pamela Long, will present the list of the recommendations of textbooks for Arts Education and World Languages at the November 9, 2017, Work Session. The State Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the Arts Education and World Languages Textbook Committee's recommendations at the December 14, 2017, Board Meeting. Persons interested in addressing the Board regarding any textbook should contact Ms. Ann Starks prior to the meeting at 334-242-9702.

The Arts Education and World Languages textbook recommendations are now available on the Alabama State Department of Education's Web site.

2017 Walter Trumbauer State Theatre Festival
The Alabama Conference of Theatre will host the 2017 Walter Trumbauer State Theatre Festival from November 30-December 2, 2017, at the University of North Alabama in Florence, Alabama. You can visit for details regarding this professional development opportunity that will enhance the arts education programs in your systems for students and teachers.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ms. Jane Ganey.
"Darkness into Life: Alabama Holocaust Survivors through Photography"

The Birmingham Holocaust Education Center is proud to be able to loan Darkness into Life: Alabama Holocaust Survivors through Photography and Art to your school, community, or museum. This unique educational exhibit features the stories of 20 Alabama Holocaust survivors. It teaches the history of the Holocaust and offers a rich understanding of its impact on these individuals and their families. The idea of ten photographs grew into a 78-piece exhibit featuring the stories of 20 Holocaust survivors from throughout Alabama. Created to educate, the exhibit was donated to the Alabama Holocaust Education Commission to help teach students about the Holocaust, genocide, bigotry, and most importantly, to join together and say "Never Again!" This traveling exhibit is free and can be loaned to your school all through the school year. Questions? Contact Ann Mollengarden.

Physical Education

The Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (ASAHPERD) will hold its annual Fall Conference November 5, 6, and 7 at the Wynfrey Hotel in Hoover, AL. Registration information may be obtained here.

Alabama Physical Fitness Assessment Reminders:
- Testing was to begin on or after October 1.
- All test administrators and persons assisting with the fitness assessment must sign the confidentiality agreement each year. This document must be kept on file with the principal.
- The deadline to post fall fitness data into INOW Health is January 15.

Awards, Grants, and Scholarships

Each year, the governor of West Virginia shares an invitation from the National Youth Science Foundation for two Alabama students to attend the National Youth Science Camp (NYSC). The NYSC is one of the nation's premier programs in secondary science education. Since its inception in 1963, the month-long residential summer program has offered educational forums and activities that encourage the development of scientific leadership. The students will be chosen as delegates to represent Alabama at the NYSC for the period of June 27, 2018, through July 21, 2018. All transportation, meals, and lodging expenses will be provided. Delegates must be graduating seniors who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and leadership in school and community activities, and who possess a genuine interest in the sciences.

For additional information about the NYSC, visit the Web site. Online applications begin on November 1, 2017. The deadline for all submissions through the NYSC Web site is February 28, 2018. If you should need additional information, contact Dr. Carolyn E. Townsend by telephone at 334-353-1191.
The AMSTI Professional Learning Support Plan is due! Regional Directors continue to meet with each LEA to complete the PLSP and plan the three year cycle of support AMSTI can provide.

Check out the new AMSTI Web site – still located at www.amsti.org. On the website, you can find staff contact information, helpful resources for teachers, and links to AMSTI's social media platforms. Subscribe to our YouTube channel to get notifications for new posts for videos that help you navigate your AMSTI units.

K-8 Science
Online courses are in full swing for second cycle. There are 125 teachers enrolled in professional learning that coincides with the unit being taught in the classroom.

ASIM:
Alabama Science In Motion (ASIM) specialists across the state continue in their work of preparing and delivering labs to participating high school science teachers. These labs provide students with hands-on learning in biology, chemistry, physics, and physical science.

• The University of Alabama at Birmingham ASIM will conduct a day of chemistry, biology, and physics training on Friday, November 3rd in the CORD building on the UAB campus. They are also offering a physical science training on Tuesday, December 5th.
• The University of Alabama ASIM Physics will hold an ASIM Year Two, Day 4 training on Thursday, November 16th. The UA ASIM Biology will conduct a day of training at the University of Alabama Science and Engineering Complex on December 1st.
• Jacksonville State University ASIM Chemistry is offering a day of physical science and chemistry training on November 17th from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. This training is hosted by Oxford High School.

Contact the regional ASIM specialists to register for any of the sessions listed above or to inquire about training opportunities in your area. Information can be found here or here. Follow ASIM on Facebook.

Office of Student Learning

Self-Determination Conference for Youth with Disabilities

The Alabama State Department of Education, Special Education Services Section, in conjunction with the State Interagency Transition Team, sponsored a Self-Determination Conference for Youth with Disabilities on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, in Gardendale, Alabama. The conference participants included 112 students and 27 parents, as well as 70 professionals and presenters. The focus of the conference was on developing self-determination skills for youth with disabilities, including goal setting, decision-making, self-awareness, and self-advocacy skills. The conference began with a general session presentation by Mr. Chris Moore entitled, “My Unusual Journey: Getting through School with a Learning Disability in My Pocket.”

Four break-out sessions followed consisting of 14 different sessions for youth, seven sessions for parents and four sessions for professionals. Several agencies provided exhibits the students could visit in order to collect information and ask questions. The conference was a great success, and plans are in the works for several additional conferences around the state during the 2018-2019 school year.
Virtual Fieldtrips
The Alabama Digital Learning virtual field trips began several years ago in conjunction with the National Digital Learning Day that is held each year in February. On February 22, 2018, hundreds of thousands of students from around the country will participate in numerous activities celebrating new ways of teaching and learning that enhance what an educator is trying to accomplish. This allows teachers, administrators, and students an opportunity to show the country how technology has and continues to shape the learning environment that forever changes the learning landscape each year and oftentimes daily.

At the Alabama State Department of Education, we have chosen to capitalize on existing equipment that can make virtual field trips available to students who might not otherwise have exposure to certain learning experiences and materials. Some of our partners include the following:

- **Alabama Archives and History** – students learn about early settlements that have influenced Alabama’s growth and rich history.
- **Dauphin Island Sea Lab** – students get to see and experience shark dissections, invasive species that are threatening local species, and many other happenings on our Gulf Coast.
- **Farley Nuclear Plant** – students learn about advantages of nuclear power.
- **U. S. Space & Rocket Center** – students learn about what it is like to live, work, and play in space.
- **Sports Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio** – students learn many aspects about the sports hall of fame that highlights jobs, media coverage, record holders, and how scoring has changed through the years.

During the virtual field trips, students get an opportunity to interact with the presenter(s), and they can ask questions. Schools need to have videoconferencing capabilities in order to view field trips. Alabama Super Computer and our bridging agents are in the process of developing a way for more schools to participate via a computer. Until that is completed and tested, the videoconferencing equipment is necessary.

Each year, we reach about 5,000 students and teachers across the state. For further information, contact **Terry Atchison**, **Donna Fuller**, visit Alabama Digital Learning or call 334-242-9594.

Upcoming ATIM TechKNOWlogy Webinar!
**Alabama TechKNOWlogy Webinar Series**
Alabama Technology in Motion will host one hour training webinars for Alabama Educators each month. Alabama educators can log on from their remote locations and participate in FREE Web- based technology trainings. The trainings last one hour and participants earn one (1) Continuous Education Unit (CEU). Visit to register. For more information, visit or search the PD title catalog in Chalkable PD for upcoming sessions.

**Gifted Goes Rogue**
**Thursday, November 2 at 3:30 p.m. Central Time**
[REGISTER HERE](#) - Presented by Shirley Farrell
Chalkable PD Title Number: ATIM-AK029 – When the unique cognitive and affective learning needs of gifted learners are not met, these students can become perfectionistic, underachieving, and/or depressed. Join this Webinar to look at the “dark side” of Gifted and how to bring them back to the “force!”

**PLU Offering** – The **Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA)** requires that we address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet. Elizabeth Sessions, Alabama Technology in Motion specialist, is partnering with schools in the Mobile County Public School System to train media center specialists and counselors to educate faculty, parents, students and community stakeholders about digital citizenship, digital literacy, and safety. Counselors, media specialists, and school administrators will be working together as a team to ensure that all stakeholders are armed with all of the knowledge they need to become safe and ethical users of digital tools and resources. Each team will be attending three half-day sessions and developing a comprehensive action plan that insures that each LEA has practical hands-on strategies for educating teachers, students, and parents about digital citizenship, digital literacy, and safety. In addition to this opportunity in the Mobile County Public School System, all school administrators across the state of Alabama are being offered the opportunity to earn an ACLD-approved PLU, PLUACLD558 PLUASIL 6 ACLD Digital Citizenship, Literacy, Online Safety and Cyberbullying, to aide in the development of school and systemwide plans for educating all faculty members, parents, students, and community stakeholders in becoming safe, ethical, and responsible digital citizens. Contact your ATiM Specialist or e-mail to schedule this or other PLU offerings in your region.
OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING
Educational Technology, Earlene Patton  

10th Annual Girls Engaged in Math & Science Expo  
We are excited to announce an opportunity for Alabama's K-12 female students. This event offered by the Alabama State Department of Education's Girls Engaged in Math and Science (GEMS) is an educational experience designed to actively engage girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The one-day event will take place at two locations* within the state:  
• Friday, February 23, 2018 - McWane Science Center, Birmingham  
• Friday March 2, 2018 – Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, Mobile  

*GEMS Sponsors will apply to attend one location of their choice.  
Activities will include:  
• Student-Project Showcase  
• Interactive STEM explorations

Thank you to all the schools enrolling students in the ACCESS Virtual Learning program this year. Presently, we have over 27,000 enrollments which accounts for nearly 20,000 unique students actively participating in the program. These students are taking 135 courses taught by 875 teachers from across our state. Please note the following reminders as you continue to participation:

(1) Inactivity and Alert Reports are sent out to principals and counselors every Wednesday. These reports are to help you monitor and encourage your students during the duration of their courses. Inactivity includes all students who have not used the drop boxes, discussions, or quizzes for any two-week period. Students with less than a 70 average are placed on the Alert Report.

(2) The NCAA does not accept ACCESS credit recovery and credit advancement courses for eligibility purposes.

(3) For students who need more time in their courses, principals and counselors may request a Work in Progress (WIP). The WIP procedure is found on the ACCESS Web site (accessdl.state.al.us) under the Educators tab, Administrators/Counselors link. Please follow the WIP procedure as published. These requests may be entered by the principal or counselor during the period two weeks prior and one week after the request term end-date.

(4) The ACCESS Marine Science course (State Course Number 220045) does not count as one of the four required science credits for graduation.

(5) Students in Grade 8 may take the ACCESS course Career Preparedness A. They are not allowed to take ACCESS Career Preparedness B or the ACCESS full-credit Career Preparedness course.

We continually add to our list of ACCESS courses. For fall, 2017 Algebra with Finance, Human Anatomy & Physiology, full-credit Career Preparedness, and full-credit Art Survey courses were added. If you would like to make recommendations for additions, contact Larry Raines, ACCESS Administrator.

OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING
Student Assessment, Maggie Hicks

Scantron Performance Series  
With only three weeks left in the fall administration window, Scantron Performance Series testing is almost complete. The scores from this administration will serve as a baseline for measuring growth in the spring, as well as provide valuable instructional data for teachers in the classroom. Information and guidance for the spring administration, which will serve as Alabama’s state assessment for 2017-2018 accountability, are forthcoming at the January System Test Coordinators Workshop.

ACT WorkKeys 2.0  
ACT WorkKeys 2.0 online testing will begin on December 1, 2017, for some 12th grade students. System Test Coordinators are completing training for this administration. An ACT WorkKeys batch loading webinar will be available on November 1, 2017, at 1 p.m. To register for this webinar, click on this link.

ACT WorkKeys Curriculum  
Is available for students as they prepare for the ACT WorkKeys assessments. Building Test Coordinators
Monthy Telegram

OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING

Student Assessment, Maggie Hicks

received an email with login credentials and instructions on how to enroll students within the program.

Expanded offerings for English Learners (EL) taking ACT WorkKeys assessments are available for spring 2018. Supports for EL students include a word-to-word foreign language glossary and written translated test directions available in 12 languages.

ACT with Writing

System Test Coordinators or Building Test Coordinators can begin requesting ACT-approved accommodations on the ACT with Writing for eligible examinees through the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) beginning November 6. The deadline to request accommodations for the ACT with Writing is February 16, 2018. System Test Coordinators or school personnel who will request accommodations or supports can attend a Webinar on November 7, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. To register for this Webinar, click on this link.

ACT Online Prep

Is available for all juniors for this school year. Building Test Coordinators received an email with login credentials and how to enroll students within the program.

English Learners (EL) may be approved to use extended time, an approved word-to-word bilingual dictionary, and/or printed test directions translated into 12 languages. All supports for EL students must be requested through the TAA System for the ACT with Writing assessment.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

Ordering Materials:
The window for ordering test materials for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is November 13 – December 8. Alabama is projected to test as many as 24,000 English Learner (EL) students in 2018. The testing window opens January 22nd and closes March 23rd. System Test Coordinators will receive additional information pertaining to the ordering process during the Student Assessment Updates Webinar in November.

Online Training:
Test Administrators who will administer ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs must complete the required online training at www.wida.us. A passing score of 80% or above is required in order to be able to administer either of the assessments. There is no limit to how many times you may take the quizzes in order to attain the passing score. Annual retraining/restesting is not required. Questions about ordering materials or online training should be directed to Susan Beard.

Coming Soon! The 2017-2018 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Checklist will be posted at www.wida.us on the Alabama homepage on November 17th. The checklist provides tasks, requirements, and Alabama specific information to guide educators through the testing process before, during, and after testing.

Preparing Students:
In order to prepare for the administration of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, educators can access a new document titled, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0: Let’s Get Going!. This document takes you step-by-step through all of the training requirements, including how to prepare your students for testing. World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) has partnered with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) to provide educators with various classroom tools to use while preparing students to take the online or paper assessment. Included, are more robust sample items that allow students to fully engage with the online platform and user guides that assist teachers in navigating the system with their students. There are three new documents for those schools that will administer the online assessment that may be used to better prepare students for the Speaking test. The documents are broken down by grade span and offer helpful hints for making sure students perform their best. These resources are sure to provide educators with all of the guidance they need to ensure that EL students are afforded the best opportunity to demonstrate their English language skills!

WIDA Screener Online

WIDA Screener Online has replaced the former W-APT for screening EL students in order to determine if English language services are needed. Schools have 10 days, after the student enrolls, to administer this assessment. The 2017-2018 Alabama English Language Learner Identification and Placement Guidance Document is available here. This document guides educators through the process of screening, identifying, and serving EL students. Questions about the WIDA Screener Online should be directed to Susan Beard.

Alabama Alternate Assessment (AAA)

Ordering Materials:
There is a new procedure available from Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) using eDIRECT for ordering testing materials. An introduction to the new system was provided recently to System Test Coordinators (STCs) attending statewide assessment trainings. STCs will order either
To help ensure that every child is taught by a well-prepared teacher, every school is led by a well-prepared and effective leader, and every school system is led by a well-prepared and visionary instructional leader, the Office of Teaching and Leading coordinates the efforts of the education community to ensure that prospective educators are prepared to begin and continue eligibility for employment in Alabama schools and school systems. Standards adopted by the Alabama State Board of Education are the basis for reviewing educator preparation programs. Assistance is provided to teachers and other educators who are seeking employment and to school systems in need of personnel. Assistance is facilitated for teachers seeking certification from the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards.

AAA Low Vision/Braille Accommodation:
Braille testing materials will be available this spring for the AAA. A podcast is being developed with step-by-step guidance for providing the Low Vision and/or Braille accommodation for the AAA.

Accessibility and Accommodation Supports
The introduction of Universal Design elements in state assessments in the form of accessibility supports are available for ALL students taking state assessments and not limited to those with an IEP/504/I-ELP. ALL students may be eligible for supports on state assessments based upon documentation (e.g. IEP/504/I-ELP, Medical Plans, classroom plans, etc.) of use in the classroom. Due to recent changes within the state assessment program the Alabama State Department of Education Student Assessment Program Policies and Procedures for Students of Special Populations manual, which contains information regarding the definitions and proper administration of accommodations, is in the process of being updated. Keeping in mind the eligibility of accessibility and accommodation supports for ALL students, a more streamlined checklist system is being developed. The implementation should benefit educators regarding the selection of accessibility and/or accommodation supports for students taking state assessments. A manual with guidance for accessibility supports will be included with the new checklist system. The availability of podcasts/modules for training regarding the definitions and use of accessibility and accommodation supports in the classroom and state assessments are planned for the future.

NAEP – the National Assessment of Educational Progress
Kanetra Germany, our NAEP Coordinator, has begun traveling to meet with school leadership of Grade 12 schools participating in NAEP 2018. She is delivering and discussing Best Practices for Grade 12 participation and motivation based on the theme, “It’s Opportunity Time.” We have an OPPORTUNITY to change our preparation and playing field if we fully embrace the “Next Man Up” concept. The remainder of November will be devoted to preparing various files in preparation for the spring administration (January 29- March 9, 2018).
Mathematics and Science Teacher Education Scholarship Program
According to staff employed by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the fiscal agent, the following Alabama institutions will participate in the scholarship program provided by the Alabama Legislature:

Alabama A & M University
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Alabama State University
University of Alabama in Huntsville
Athens State University
University of Mobile
Auburn University
University of Montevallo
Auburn University Montgomery
University of North Alabama
Jacksonville State University
University of South Alabama
Troy University
University of West Alabama
University of Alabama

Interested individuals should contact the dean of education or certification officer of the institution where they have been admitted to an ALSBOE-approved program in mathematics or an area of science.

Program Completion Guarantee
For over 20 years, Alabama’s colleges and universities (educator preparation providers, or EPPs) that prepare teachers have been required to provide assistance if a new teacher assigned in-field encounters problems. Here is the statement from the Educator Preparation Chapter of the Alabama Administrative Code, page 262:

(h) Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Accountability.
1. Support for program completers. The EPP shall establish, publish, and implement policies to guarantee the success of individuals who complete its approved programs and are employed in their area(s) of specialization in Alabama. The EPP shall provide remediation at no cost to such individuals whose performance indicates the need for additional support within the first two years after the beginning valid date of the Professional Educator Certificate, which was issued based on recommendation by the EPP. Assistance may be requested by the new employee, the employee's principal, or the employing superintendent. In no case, shall the EPP be required to provide remediation for more than the first two years of employment.

Educator preparation colleges and universities want their graduates to be successful. Over the years, however, very few LEAs have requested assistance to help specific teachers. New superintendents may not be aware of the support available.

Pay for Advanced Degrees
Three memoranda have been sent to local superintendents concerning changes in the requirements and procedures applicable to receiving a salary increase based on earning a higher degree. If you are not familiar with the changes resulting from Act #2016-198, also known as the Pay Raise Bill, and signed by former Governor Bentley on April 26, 2016, you may wish to access those memoranda from the following links:

October 2016 • February 2017 • June 2017
Additional and helpful information for educators to consider is accessible via this link.
OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING

Educator Assessment, Althea Hampton, Ed.D.

• The ALSBOE has approved the Pre-Kindergarten Education score adoption resolution. Individuals completing a NAEYC approved Birth to Age 4 program will now be required to take and pass Praxis 5531: Pre-Kindergarten Education. The ALSBE adopted a score of 155. This is effective October 13, 2017, and thereafter. Individuals seeking reciprocity may also have to complete this assessment.
• The Praxis score adjustment resolution will be on the ALSBOE work session for the November 9th work session. Individuals interested in submitting feedback and comments regarding score adjustments must send their comments to ahampton1@alsde.edu no later than Friday, October 27, 2017.

• Alabama will be hosting the 2017-2018 Southeastern Region edTPA conference. The dates will be April 5-7, 2018. More information including location and registration will be forthcoming.
• The Educator Assessment Webpage has been updated. Please continue to check the Web site for new information.

September Educator Certification Productivity Report
Number of applications logged into the database: 1,578
Number of certificates and substitute licenses issued: 1,676
Number of individuals for whom certificates were renewed: 63
Number of files that are pending (awaiting test scores, experience, etc.): 618
Number of answered telephone calls through Customer Service: 1,740

Certification Routes
This month, we will highlight the Driver and Traffic Safety Education and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards routes to Alabama certification. All-inclusive information for these routes may be found on the application and summary sheet.

Driver and Traffic Safety Education
An individual who holds a valid Alabama Professional Educator Certificate or Professional Leadership Certificate and verifies credit earned for the required basic and advanced driver education coursework may seek additional Alabama professional educator certification in Driver and Traffic Safety Education.

• Must hold a valid Alabama Professional Educator Certificate or Professional Leadership Certificate.
• Must verify credit earned for both the approved basic and advanced driver education coursework.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
An individual who holds a valid NBPTS Certificate may meet requirements for Alabama professional educator certification.
• Must hold a valid NBPTS Certificate.
• Background clearance by both the Alabama State Bureau of Investigation (ASBI) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through the Educator Certification Section.
• Must verify at least a bachelor’s degree earned from a senior institution that was regionally accredited at the time of degree conferral.
• For School Counseling or Library Media:
  · Verify at least a master’s degree earned from a senior institution that was regionally accredited at the time of degree conferral.
  · Verify two full scholastic years of full-time educational experience.
• Passing score(s) on the Alabama prescribed Praxis subject area test(s).
OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
Educator Recruitment/Placement, Debra Gosha

1. All applications for NBCT Grant Support have been received, reviewed, and scored.
2. Out of 300 applications, 114 recipients will be awarded $1900.00 to complete the National Board process.
3. Recipients will be notified by November 17, 2017, as stated in the application.
4. Fall recruitment education fairs have been attended to encourage Alabama graduates to teach in Alabama schools. Pre-service teachers are encouraged to apply for open positions in rural systems and systems with the greatest need for teachers.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
Educator Effectiveness, Telena Madison

How to Locate ACLD Approved Professional Studies
Using the online Instructional Leadership Professional Study Application (ILPSA)
To locate a professional study approved by the Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD) follow the directions shown below:

• Go to, http://www.leadershipalsde.com
• Select, the Search link
• Select, the appropriate Fiscal Year (defaults to ALL) in the Public Application Search section.
  • Uncheck the Active Only box to see a complete list of approved professional studies

• Then, click the Search button to populate the list
• Next, select the View Application link for the title you wish to view
• Finally, select the View/Print Entire Application link to review all content

To learn more information on registration and professional study availability, contact the person(s) are listed in the Address Book (link on left). You must have a valid Chalkable account to register for PLU credit. For more information, contact Telena Madison, Project Administrator, at (334) 353-5230.
OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
Educator Effectiveness, Telena Madison

Is Your School District Interested in Offering ACLD Approved PLUs?
The Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD) provides advice for the development of a seamless system of professional development for Alabama’s instructional leaders. The council members serve a three-year staggered term and meet regularly during the year to ensure approved professional studies delivered over time fully address the Alabama Standards for Instructional Leaders, and are aligned to the Alabama Standards for Professional Development. If your school system would like to submit professional study content for review, the remaining deadlines for submission and review are as follows:

• All PLU applications received by January 5, 2018, will be reviewed on January 23, 2018.
• All PLU applications received by March 9, 2018, will be reviewed on March 27, 2018.

Please submit the online professional study applications for review, as soon as possible. If you would like to access the online Instructional Leadership Professional Study Application, go to [http://www.leadershipalsde.com](http://www.leadershipalsde.com). Then, complete the Contact ACLD form. An account will be created for you and your agency within 48 hours. The ACLD does not review professional study content for retroactive approval. Therefore, it is important to submit the application prior to implementation of any required activities. For more information contact Telena Madison, Project Administrator, at (334) 353-5230.

The ALSDE has recently added a new section, “Pupil Transportation,” to the Student Data app. This provides a view for “Drivers Education.” This new view allows for the Drivers Ed instructor to see their rosters of students taking the Drivers Ed course. Once a student has completed the Drivers Ed Test, the teacher will input the Permit # of the student to print a certificate locally. The student then takes the certificate to the nearest ALEA office for issuance of a Driver’s License. This new process is much simpler and is real-time for the teacher and student. The old process was costly for the LEA and ALSDE. It would take multiple steps to produce the gold cards taking up to two weeks if there were no issues. The future of the current process will be a real-time interface with the ALEA for verification of Permit #. An anticipated addition in the future will be the ability to issue the boating license certification for students.

OFFICE OF EVALUATION AND INNOVATION
Charter Schools and Flexibility, Logan Searcy

The Alabama Charter School process is currently underway. The local school systems who are charter school authorizers will release their requests for proposals for charter school applicants by November 1, 2017. The applications will be due to the authorizer by December 1, 2017, and decisions will be made by February 1st. The Alabama Public Charter School Commission has also released its application. Their submission deadline is December 18, 2017.
OFFICE OF EVALUATION AND INNOVATION
Charter Schools and Flexibility, Logan Searcy  
All authorizers will engage independent and experienced external reviewers for a recommendation to the internal review team.

Authorizers have the following responsibilities: release an application, review applications, establish charter contracts, ensure compliance, and renew (or not) contracts. The application has three sections:

1. educational program design and capacity,
2. operations plan and capacity, and
3. financial plan and capacity.

A high-quality response will have internal alignment including a cohesion of elements and a connected mission and vision. Also, it will have external validity that is evidence based. It must have sufficient detail with a founding group that inspires confidence in its ability to execute. Some of the sources of evidence include the application and materials, due diligence, public hearings, and interviews.

Once a charter school opens, it is the authorizer’s responsibility to have a performance framework in order to monitor academic, operational, and financial accountability. The Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act requires that the performance framework includes the following indicators, measures, and metrics at a minimum: student academic proficiency, student academic growth, achievement gaps in proficiency and growth, attendance, recurrent enrollment, postsecondary readiness for high schools, financial performance, and board performance including compliance. For more information regarding the Alabama charter school process, contact Logan Searcy.

In addition, further work is being completed to have a combined report card reflective of both state law and federal mandates required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This process will enable districts to create communication plans in a more fluent manner to address accountability questions and or concerns from their stakeholders and will remove the need to have a dual system for state and federal mandates. The timeframe for the completion of the merged report cards will be fall 2018 based on federal guidelines. The Accountability Section will be continuously conducting data samples for the federal ESSA indicators within the accountability system. These samples will assist in directing amendments to the Accountability Section of the ESSA State Plan that was submitted on October 12, 2017.

The Accountability Section is working to maintain an updated SharePoint site for district leadership as it relate to Alabama’s Accountability System. This SharePoint site currently contains prior calculation information supportive of Phase I release of the A-F Report Cards. Work is continuously being completed on the A-F Support Technical Guide, quick fact document, as well as the calculations booklet and training PowerPoint for Phase II. Accountability staff is available to support districts and schools in developing an understanding of this new release of A-F Report Cards in December 2017.

OFFICE OF EVALUATION AND INNOVATION
Accountability, Angela Martin

Alabama’s accountability system currently consist of dual models reflective of both state and federal mandates.

Work is underway to produce Phase II of the A-F Report Cards as defined by Alabama Act 2012-402. Stakeholder feedback is currently being analyzed to further define the public production of the December 2017 release of these letter grades. The local superintendent advisory board has been involved in the defining of the report cards. Data is currently being analyzed from the 2016-2017 school year. Once data has been validated the P2A Portal will be revised to include all the new report card indicator data. Districts and schools will have the opportunity to review their report card indicator data prior to the public release and receive support from the accountability section on calculations if needed. Collaboration is currently taking place between accountability and the information system department to develop the new display within the website for this release of A-F Report Cards in December 2017.

The Accountability Section is working to produce Alabama’s annual list of failing schools as mandated by Alabama Act 2015-434 known as the Failing Schools Law. Validations of data for the identification of failing schools are being conducted alongside validations for the A-F Report Cards. The failing schools law identifies the bottom six percent of schools in the state as deemed failing. There are requirements placed on districts within this law. The Alabama State Department of Education is expected to notify districts in January if they have schools identified on the list.
OFFICE OF EVALUATION AND INNOVATION

Prevention and Support Services Section (PSSS), Marilyn Lewis, Ed.D.

1. Dial In to the Conference: (701) 801-1211
   Access Code: 797-903-355
2. Join Online Meeting:
   Online Meeting Link: https://join.startmeeting.com/iiot
   Online Meeting ID: iiot

Instructions:
On November 7, 2017, at 3 p.m. CST (4 p.m. EST), dial in to the conference line. When prompted, enter the access code followed by hash (#). To join the online meeting, click the online meeting link and follow the prompts.

Need Help Reducing Suspensions and Expulsions?
Register and attend a training near you. You will learn about evidence-based best practices to address root causes of behavioral problems that lead to suspensions and expulsions in public schools and help determine the best avenues for student success. For questions, contact Mr. Greg Delarnett or Dr. Erica Butler at 334-242-8165.

Training Scheduled
Also, join the Foundation for a Drug-Free World for a Web Training on November 7, 2017, at 3:00 pm CST (4:00 pm EST).

OFFICE OF EVALUATION AND INNOVATION
Research and Development - Jean Scott, Education Administrator

Phase II of Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Eligibility Field Testing

The Alabama Department of Education is seeking schools to participate in the AHSAA Eligibility Field Testing for Grades 7-11 core subject areas. The end-of-course tests will be used to assess homeschool students’ knowledge of recently completed core subject-areas for eligibility to participate in Alabama public school-sponsored athletic activities. Public schools are being asked to assist with this effort in order to be sure the eligibility tests are producing stable and consistent results.

Phase II: During the weeks of November 27-December 1, 2017; December 4-8, 2017; December 11-15, 2017; December 18-22, 2017; January 2-5, 2018, and January 8-12, 2018, students in grades 7 through 11 that may complete a core courses in the 1st semester of the 2017-2018 school year will have the opportunity to field-test the eligibility end-of-course assessments for the areas below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th Grade Math</td>
<td>7th Grade Life Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Math</td>
<td>8th Grade Physical Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra II</td>
<td>High School Physical Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra II with Trig</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebraic Connections</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This testing period will afford teachers an opportunity to utilize the assessment in several ways: (1) as an end-of-course test to measure students’ comprehensive knowledge of the course; (2) as a way to assess student-knowledge and guide instruction before end-of-course tests/final examinations; or (3) as a way to assess student-knowledge at the beginning of a follow-up course during the second semester of the 2017-2018 school year.

Feedback reports will be generated and sent to participating teachers indicating the percentage of items each student answered correctly. Information indicating how the group performed against subject-area standards will also be provided.

If your school is eligible and able to assist with this project, contact Dr. Marcus Vandiver at (334) 242-9742.
The OSIT staff are continuing to give priority support to specific schools identified on the AAA list. Each of the schools have received instructional audits. Action plans are in place with OSIT staff assigned to assist school and district leaders to implement the plans, addressing deficiencies identified. The OSIT staff are providing support and monitoring for progress.

The OSIT staff are also providing support to schools and districts not identified on the AAA list. Support provided during the month of October included the following:

- Coordinate with Regional Inservice Center officials to ensure allocation of resources are based on school and district needs.
- Assist district-level administrators to develop a Leadership Academy for aspiring and current administrators.
- Assist with Performance Series data analysis and interpretation.
- Assist school and district level administration with walkthroughs.
- Lead National Board Mentoring Session for new candidates and renewals.
- Coordinate community resources (mental health) to serve students in need.
- Develop professional learning session specific to school and district needs.
- Organize Career Coach Meeting, sharing FAFSA information and resources available.
- Guide school leadership through the process of evaluating instructional practices.
- Coordinate site visit to school to observe positive practices to improve student outcomes.
- Support districts’ participation in Key Leaders Network, Principally Speaking Network, Learning Forward, etc.

Additionally, Regional Support Coordinators are in the process of developing a professional learning series for districts focused on evidence-based practices to assess and develop conditions that support student learning and adult learning.

Superintendents interested in receiving support can submit their requests online or contact the appropriate individual listed below:

Karen Winn
Melissa Shields
Scott Mohon
Molly Killingsworth