Congratulations on the completion of another successful year of preparing students for a lifelong journey of learning. It is always bittersweet for me to end a school year by attending celebrations of year-long accomplishments and commencement ceremonies where diplomas are awarded that represent the fruits of our labor as educators. My favorite days within a school year are the first day of school and graduation. I recognize that the value of an education is priceless and as the Chief Academic Officer for the state of Alabama, I realize that the important work happens in classrooms on the days between the first and last day of school. As educators, we open doors for students and ensure that their opportunities have no bounds when they graduate from our schools, college and/or career ready.

The ALSDE has begun preparation for the 2017-2018 school year. The entries in this telegram provide an update of the activities that will be offered throughout the summer. In July we will share our final strategic plan and academic foci for the upcoming school year. We have many examples of success in our state and we will continue to highlight these areas.

I recognize that the value of an education is priceless and that the important work happens in classrooms on the days between the first and last day of school.

We will work together to purposefully address our challenges. We are in the process of creating the Office of School Turnaround and School Improvement. We anticipate providing differentiated support for districts and schools. We recognize that the support provided by the state must be grounded in the realities of the students you serve.

This month, State Superintendent Mike Sentance and members of his staff had an opportunity to engage with superintendents and stakeholder groups around various topics and gain input on the draft strategic plan Alabama Ascending. I encourage you to review the plan and provide feedback using THIS LINK. We anticipate the goals in the plan providing a foundation to ensure an equitable education becomes a reality for every student in the state of Alabama. Thank you for spending time thoughtfully reviewing Alabama Ascending and letting us know your suggestions.

Thank you for another outstanding year. I hold educators in high esteem and remain in awe of your commitment to our students. For those of you who get time off in the summer, I wish you a restful, relaxing and rejuvenating summer. I hope you will take some time to reflect and think about how you will positively impact our students during next school year.

“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
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES – Chasidy White, Director

Superintendent’s Teacher Cabinet Has First Meeting

The first meeting of the Superintendent’s Teacher Cabinet was a huge success! The purpose of the cabinet is to provide a direct avenue of communication between teachers and Mr. Sentance, and the goal is to elevate the teaching profession. Teachers across Alabama, representing a variety of grade levels and content areas were in attendance. The cabinet is co-chaired by Chasity Collier, who is the 2017-18 Alabama Teacher of the Year, and Dana Jacobson, the 2016-17 Alabama Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Sentance spent the afternoon talking with teachers about the importance of collaboration, and making sure educators always have a seat at the table in education policy discussions.

The cabinet will meet four times during the 2017-18 school year, and will be invited to attend a variety of education-related events across the state.

OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING

Department Updates

Shanthia Washington, Assistant Superintendent

Office of Student Learning (OSL) exists to support districts and schools in improving the learning for all students. 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

Instructional Services, Robin Nelson

Cursive Writing
The Alabama State Department of Education 3rd Grade Cursive Writing Proficiency Link for the 2016-2017 school year is now open.
In order to certify to the Alabama State Board of Education that the cursive writing requirement has been met for third grade students in your schools please go to the link below and enter the information for each of your schools with a 3rd grade configuration. The deadline for submitting this information is June 30, 2017. The information needed to complete the form is below:

1. Name of District
2. Name of Superintendent
3. Name of each school with 3rd grade configuration and corresponding proficiency percentage in cursive writing for 3rd grade students in that school
4. Name and email address of person submitting the information above

If you have further questions you may contact Ms. Gay Finn, Education Administrator, Instructional Services Section, at (334) 353-1191.
Curriculum and Instruction Meetings
2017-2018 School Year
The ALSDE has scheduled two Curriculum and Instruction meetings for the 2017-2018 school year. We will use the distribution list generated from the ALSDE Education Directory for email communication related to these meetings. We ask that you check the directory to ensure that it contains the most updated information for the “Curriculum/Instruction” position listings in order to facilitate communication between the ALSDE and LEA Curriculum Coordinators. The information regarding dates, locations, and meeting times will be posted to the ALSDE Website of the Office of Student Learning Page. We appreciate the positive feedback from these meetings and look forward to seeing you in the upcoming year!

If you have further questions you may contact Ms. Gay Finn, Education Administrator, Instructional Services Section, at (334) 353-1191.

Library Media
Alabama Camellia Children's Choice Book Awards
The students have spoken! With over 4,000 statewide, Winners of the 37th Annual Alabama Camellia Children’s Choice Book Awards are:

- **Are We There Yet?** by Nina Laden and Adam McCauley (K-1)
- **The Day the Crayons Came Home** by Drew Daywalt (2-3)
- **USS Alabama: Hooray for the Mighty A!** by Karyn W. Tunks (4-5 Nonfiction)
- **Boy's Best Friend** by Kate Banks (4-5 Fiction)
- **Circus Mirandus** by Cassie Beasley (6-8 Fiction)

ScreenCast Challenge
During April, School Librarians were encouraged to showcase their Instructional Partner role by creating “How to Video’s”. Winners of this years “ScreenCast Challenge” are:

- **Advocacy - Rosemary Adams - Crossville Middle School Students - Kelly McCrady - Robertsdale High School Teacher - Abbey Thomas - Ider High School Community - Rosemary Adams - Crossville Middle School**

View all finalist videos
In their commitment to help prevent childhood obesity, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama's Be Healthy School Grant Program awarded $250,000 in grants to 26 schools statewide enrolling students in grades K through sixth for the 2017-2018 school year. The grants are for the implementation of school-based health and wellness programs, emphasizing increased exercise, nutrition education and parental involvement during the school year. More than 12,200 students will benefit from the program. Each school is receiving a grant up to $10,000. Since 2012, Blue Cross has awarded over $1,019,800 in 114 Be Healthy School Grants statewide impacting more than 57,500 students.

Congratulations to the following schools receiving grants for the 2017-2018 school year:

**Banks School** - Pike County Schools
**Barbour County Primary** - Barbour County Schools
**Brookhill Elementary** - Limestone County Schools
**Buhl Elementary** - Tuscaloosa County Schools
**Cahaba Elementary** - Trussville City Schools
**Clay Elementary** - Jefferson County Schools
**Dixie Elementary** - Russell County Schools
**Douglas Elementary** - Marshall County Schools
**Evergreen Elementary** - Conecuh County Schools
**Fayetteville High School** - Sylacauga Schools
**Glenwood School** - Lee County Schools
**Greenwood Elementary** - Bessemer City Schools
**Harrand Creek** - Enterprise City Schools
**Huntington Place** - Tuscaloosa County Schools
**Indian Valley Elementary** - Sylacauga City Schools
**Jasper Intermediate School** - Jasper City
**Martha Gaskins Elementary** - Birmingham City Schools
**Montevallo Elementary** - Shelby County Schools
**Pelham Oaks Elementary** - Pelham City Schools
**Reform Elementary** - Pickens County Schools
**Riverton Elementary** - Madison County Schools
**Robinson Elementary** - Birmingham City
**Swift School** - Baldwin City
**Troy Elementary** - Troy City
**Valley Jr. High** - Walker County Schools
**Walter Jackson Elementary** - Decatur City

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Announcements

**Alliance for a Healthier Generation**

America's Healthiest Schools

Seven schools have made the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's 2017 list of America's Healthiest Schools by making changes that promote healthier eating and physical activity for students and staff. This award was granted by Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program, an evidence-based national initiative to create healthier school environments where children can thrive. Healthier Generation recognizes schools that meet or exceed stringent standards set by its Healthy Schools Program for serving healthier meals and snacks, getting students moving more, offering high-quality physical and health education and empowering school leaders to become healthy role models.

The award demonstrates the school's commitment to fostering the health of their students and staff. Aside from home, school is the place where children spend most of their time, making healthy schools vital to preparing students for success. Studies show that healthy students perform better on tests, get better grades, attend school more often and behave better in class.

Any school may sign up to receive the support of the Healthy Schools Program's resources, tools, and national experts at no cost. To learn more about the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program visit [schools.healthiergeneration.org](http://schools.healthiergeneration.org). The following schools will be recognized by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation in the Fall for their work on developing a healthier school environment.

**Bronze Winners**

**Selma Street Elementary** - Dothan City Schools
**Kelly Springs Elementary** - Dothan City Schools
**Morris Slingmuff Elementary** - Dothan City Schools
**Hearing Magnet** - Dothan City Schools
**Huntingdon High School** - Hoover City School
**Huntington Place Elementary** - Tuscaloosa County Schools

**Gold Level**

*Robert C. Hatch* - Perry County

*The only school in Alabama to receive gold level twice*

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Physical Fitness Assessment Reminders

All spring physical fitness student scores should have been posted into INow Health by June 1 for students in Grades 2-12. **Notice!** This year concluded orders for pre-printed award certificates from the Governor’s Commission on Physical Fitness. Teachers may download the award certificates from the [ALSDE Health and Physical Education Web page](http://www.alsde.edu). These certificates will have the new Governor’s signature.
Summer Professional Development Opportunities

June 6  Enhancing Academic Achievement
Auburn University at Montgomery, Taylor Center
(For class room and physical education teachers)

June 19  ASAHPERD District 5 PE Workshop
Sponsored by Auburn University The School of Kinesiology, Auburn

June 23  ASAHPERD District 3 PE Workshop
Sponsored by The Jacksonville State University HPE Department, Jacksonville

June 27  More Than Just Childs Play Pre-School Workshop
(For early childhood and physical education teachers) Huntingdon College, Montgomery

This workshop has reached full capacity and has a waiting list.

July 24-25  2017 Summer Health and Physical Education Conference
Alabama 4-H Youth Conference Center, Columbiana

For complete information, schedule, and registration for workshops and conferences click here.

Science
NASA Education Professional Development Collaborative
NASA Education Professional Development Collaborative will assist NASA STEM Standards of Practice Teacher Leaders in attending MEGA 2017. Stipends are available to attend the conference for the NASA trained teachers. Refresher science training will be held to deepen science knowledge and instructional practices. A teacher leader project is planned that focuses on interdisciplinary learning. Information about stipends for MEGA may be found in the NASA STEM Standards of Practice Edmodo community group created during training last year for NASA teachers to share ideas and practices.

For general information, contact Dr. Michal G. Robinson by telephone at (334) 353-1191.

Congratulations to Samantha Maynor, K-5 teacher in Madison County, who was selected for the 2017 AGI/ExxonMobil STEM & Geoscience Teacher Leadership Academy for K-5 teachers; and Amara Alexander, middle school teacher in Madison City who was selected for the 2017 AGI/ExxonMobil STEM & Geoscience Teacher Leadership Academy for Middle School teachers. The academies will be held this summer in Houston, Texas. This year the set of applications was extremely competitive, so being a successful candidate was an accomplishment in itself. Going into their ninth year, these academies continue to have a significant impact on how Earth and Space Science teaching is done throughout the United States. By accepting a position in the academy, teachers commit to presenting geoscience and STEM professional development workshops to other teachers within the summer 2017 and/or 2017/2018 academic year. The teacher expertise that Ms. Maynor and Ms. Alexander gain will help improve instruction in Earth and Space Science courses in the state.

Congratulations to Leanne Jeong, a Junior at the Alabama School of Math and Science, who is a finalist in the International Science and Engineering Fair. The competition is held in Los Angeles, California. The competition includes a rigorous schedule of interviews and evaluation. Only 1750 students from throughout the world are selected from more than a million that compete in the 500 affiliated fairs.

Advanced Studies
The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will pay a portion of the test fees for eligible low-income public school students who took Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations in 2017. In order to receive reimbursement from the ALSDE, the school system's AP/IB coordinator will need to submit BY MAIL both the 2017 AP/IB Request for Payment Form AND a copy of the College Board AP Exam Invoice: State Copy and/or the IB Exam Invoice. A copy of the Request for Payment Form may be downloaded from the ALSDE's Web site. The deadline for submission of these documents is July 31, 2017. If you have questions regarding these reimbursements, please contact Dr. Michal G. Robinson at (334) 353-1191.

Awards, Grants, and Scholarships
"Bring Our Missing Children Home" Contest
Each year more than 1.3 million children are reported missing. Law enforcement, citizens, and even children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and returning them home to their families, community, and school. Every year the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) takes time to commemorate the valiant and unselfish acts of the many organizations and individuals who bring our missing children home. On May 25, 2017, National Missing Children's Day, we will pause to focus our attention on children who have been recovered, as well as the children who are still missing. Each year the DOJ sponsors a national poster contest and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony in Washington, D. C. This year congratulations go to Lauren Doty, a fifth grader at Rockwell Elementary School, Baldwin County School System. Lauren was selected as the Alabama finalist for the “Bring Our Missing Children Home” poster contest. She was presented with a resolution from the State Board of Education to recognize her accomplishment. Her poster will be forwarded to compete at the national level.
OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING

U. S. Presidential Scholars Program
The U. S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our Nation's most distinguished graduating seniors. In 1979, the program was expanded to recognize students who demonstrated exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. In 2015, the program expanded once again to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical fields. Annually, up to 161 students are chosen from among outstanding seniors to become U. S. Presidential Scholars, one of the Nation's highest honors for high school students. After careful deliberation, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars has selected the 2017 U. S. Presidential Scholars from a pool of extremely qualified candidates. We are pleased to recognize Trent Kannegieter from Bayside Academy located in Daphne, Alabama and Anna Pollard, Jacksonville High School, Jacksonville City School System as Alabama recipients of this prestigious recognition.

National Youth Science Camp
The National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) is a four week residential science education program that honors and challenges two graduating high school science students from each state. Scientists from across the nation present lectures and hands-on science seminars and linger to interact informally with student delegates. Delegates are challenged to explore new areas in the biological and physical sciences, art, and music with resident staff members. Opportunities are provided for delegates to present seminars covering their own areas of interest and research. A visit to Washington D.C. permits delegates to visit some of the nation's premier scientific, governmental, and cultural facilities. The NYSC experience includes overnight excursions into the Monongahela National Forest featuring backpacking, rock-climbing, caving, mountain biking, and kayaking opportunities. We are pleased to announce that Dhruval Gadhia, Alabama School of Fine Arts located in Birmingham, Alabama and Joey Li, Bob Jones High School, Madison City School System were selected as Alabama delegates to experience this tremendous opportunity.

United States Senate Youth Program
The United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution in 1962 creating the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), a national initiative to provide a yearly opportunity for talented young people with demonstrated leadership abilities to deepen their understanding of America's political processes and strengthen their resolve to pursue careers in public service. During an intensive educational program week held in Washington, D.C., the USSYP brings the highest-level officials from each branch of government together with an outstanding group of high school students from each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). The program is merit-based and highly competitive. Each student receives a $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science. This year’s recipients of this esteemed scholarship is Emma Turner, Indian Springs School located in Indian Springs, Alabama and Sydney Ross, Virgil Grissom High School, Huntsville City School System. Congratulations to you both!

ARI Summer Professional Learning Sessions are being offered in two central locations in Birmingham and Montgomery the weeks of June 5-9, June 12-15, and July 10-13. These sessions will focus on the “Big 5” in Beginning Reading – Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. Each topic is open to generalists in Grades K-5, reading teachers, reading specialists, and elementary administrators. These sessions are especially helpful for “new hires” and first year teachers.

Central Office Contacts have received specific information regarding the ARI Summer Learning Sessions which include dates and locations. This information may also be found on the ALSDE website, ARI landing page, Summer 2017 PD. Please note – there are deadlines for registration for all sessions. All sessions are listed on Chalkable by PD Title Number.

The ARI is also offering Dyslexia Simulation Sessions at each Regional Inservice Center (RIC). All teachers, administrators, and new hires who have not attended are highly encouraged to attend one of these sessions. Information regarding session dates and times may be found in RIC summer bulletins.

If you have questions regarding any of the Summer PD sessions offered by ARI call the ARI Office at 334-353-1389 or email Mrs. Reeda Betts or Mrs. Karen Rutledge-Bell.
OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

The AMSTI Math Update, Tod Beers

The Alabama State Department of Education is measuring the scope of the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative's (AMSTI) work with systems. This will be accomplished by determining which current AMSTI schools remain committed to receiving AMSTI training and services in coming years. Future AMSTI services to systems and schools will be provided based on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between each system and the local AMSTI site. District leadership is key to the continuation of AMSTI services and support.

The MOA is for current AMSTI schools only, not for schools which would like to become AMSTI schools. A separate MOA will be required for each AMSTI school and includes a School Partnership Plan to be developed collaboratively with your school system personnel and the local AMSTI Director during the summer. The AMSTI School Partnership Plan will outline a multi-year plan of teacher training and professional learning support for existing AMSTI schools. AMSTI support for your system for 2017-2018 will align with the School Partnership Plan.

AMSTI promotes effective math and science instruction with growth in student proficiency as the ultimate goal. In order to assess the initiative's impact in schools, each AMSTI site must collect data from all schools receiving support from AMSTI. These include summative testing and interim measures of student progress (ex. beginning, middle and end of year benchmarks). If you need additional information regarding AMSTI's Memorandum of Agreement, please communicate with your regional AMSTI Director whose contact information can be found at www.amsti.org.

OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING

The AMSTI Math Update, Tod Beers

OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING

Special Education Services, Crystal Richardson

Expect to be inspired, engaged, and energized by Special Education Services (SES) during MEGA 2017! You can look forward to quality professional learning that's personally fulfilling for each attendee. SES will offer compelling speakers and unlimited networking opportunities to help you as an educator keep up with the challenges and drive you forward. Below you will find a few sessions that will be featured by SES during MEGA this summer:

SES UPDATES – Staff from SES will provide updates, reminders, and hot topics in the area of special education on Tuesday, July 11th in Moonlight A of the Battlehouse. See you there...

LEGAL – To assist special educators, administrators, and IDEA dispute resolution practitioners, SES has developed a legal sub strand for the upcoming MEGA Conference 2017. Nationally recognized authorities, Perry Zirkel, Stephanie Weaver & Lenore Knudson, David Hodgins, Julie Weatherly, and Jim Gerl will offer an array of presentations on exemplar and proactive practices for resolving disputes that sometimes arise within special education.

TRANSITION – SES will offer a two day transition strand at the 2017 MEGA Conference. This professional development will focus on secondary transition and will be offered on Wednesday, July 12th and Thursday, July 13th. Attendees will be provided with information and resources on improving the post-school outcomes of individuals with disabilities in the area of education/training, employment/occupation/career, and community/independent living. These sessions will explore the relevance and continuity of transition services in developing meaningful transition programs and activities that may increase the post-school outcomes of individuals with disabilities. Information will also be shared regarding evidence-based practices, tools, and resources, community work-based opportunities, and the engagement of family and professionals in the transition process. In addition, these sessions will highlight creative and innovative transition programs that promote greater independence and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

SES will also unveil our new Transition landing page. The Transition landing page will provide educators, families, students, and transition stakeholders with current transition services, events, trends, and best practices to support transition services in Alabama. Visit the Transition landing page.

HEARING IMPAIRMENT – SES will feature Attorney Tawny
OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING
Special Education Services, Crystal Richardson

Holmes. She is the Education Policy Counsel at the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) sponsored by Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius, LLP, focusing on federal education laws and advocacy. As a child she attended mainstream school programs in south Florida and decided to become a lawyer when she started high school at the Alabama School for the Deaf. She graduated from Gallaudet University with Bachelor degrees in Deaf Studies and Sociology along with a Masters in Deaf Education. Tawny has four years of teaching experience with deaf and hard of hearing children at all grades at two different schools including being a family educator. She then graduated from law school at the University of Baltimore, focusing on family law and education law. She is currently the coordinator of the national Education Advocates program and the chair of the Education Strategy Team for NAD along with being an adjunct instructor at Gallaudet University.

This dynamic presentation by an experienced teacher and lawyer will provide a hands-on navigation of specific avenues on how schools and teachers can ensure/monitor the maximum achievement of those students at a reasonable cost, in both time and funds. A review of federal/state laws will be provided, along with opportunities for participants to apply newly-learned strategies to real-life scenarios.

GIFTED – Guess Who’s Coming to MEGA? Dr. Tarek Grantham

The Annual ACCESS Teacher Day will be held at Hoover High School on Tuesday, June 13, 2017. As one way to meet the annual professional development requirements of ACCESS teachers, there will be several PD sessions presented. These include “IEP Magic – No Such Thing!”, “ACCESS Happenings, Introducing BrightSpace’s Daylight”, “Create, Communicate, and Collaborate with Google Tools”, and “Coding – A Beginner’s Guide”. Registration is still open on the AETC Website (http://alex.state.al.us/aetc/). Join us for a time of relevant, useful and fun PD.

Arts Course of Study “Unpacking” Sessions - The newly approved Arts Course of Study Standards will be “unpacked” for the 2017-18 school year. Highly effective art, music, dance, and theatre teachers will attend unpacking sessions to analyze the Arts CoS, to identify specific knowledge, skills, vocabulary, understandings, and evidence of student attainment for each standard. These components, along with ALEX resources, instructional strategies, and state assessment items will be aligned to each Art standard. It is anticipated that the unpacked Arts Course of Study will be live in the Insight tool prior to the beginning of the 2017-18 school year.

Alabama Educational Conferences Attendance - The ALEX Team will strive to have a presence at every professional Alabama educator’s conference in order to promote an awareness of ALEX initiatives. Stop by our booth and mention you read it in this newsletter and get a special treat!

- June 13-15, 2017 – Alabama Educational Technology Conference
- July 11 - 14, 2017 - MEGA Conference
ATiM Summer Technology Conference- June 20-22, ATiM Specialist, Dr. Barry Wiginton, working in collaboration with the University of North Alabama Regional In-service Center, will co-host the annual Region 1 Technology Conference for teachers and administrators. Unlike many regional conferences, many of the presenters are classroom teachers, innovatively using technology in their classrooms. The conference provides a platform for classroom teachers to share their experience and expertise with colleagues and other educational professionals. This year’s conference will be held in two locations, UNA East Campus and Jasper High School. Conference offerings at the Jasper location will be July 19th. Having two locations reduces the travel time of teachers in the Region 1 In-service area. All sessions are free of charge to public and private school teachers; active and retired. Click this link to see a detailed description of each session and register in Chalkable.

Summer Sessions at Auburn – Join ATiM Specialist Carol Foster this summer for professional development opportunities at East Alabama Regional Inservice Center. Click HERE for more information.

Tech Meet Tuscaloosa - The Alabama Technology in Motion Specialist, Dr. Robert Mayben, is hosting the 7th Annual Tech Meet Tuscaloosa (TMT) on June 1st at the UA/UWA In-Service Center. Tech Meet Tuscaloosa is a free, one-day technology conference for educators interested in learning about classroom uses of emerging instructional technologies and strategies. Throughout the conference, participants learn about emerging technology integration tools and strategies, discover how the technologies can be integrated within various content areas, participate in discussions about best practices with technology, and connect with other participants to share resources for learning more about classroom integration strategies. There are elementary sessions, secondary sessions, and general technology integration sessions. All of the sessions are presented and facilitated by teachers from the Master Technology Teachers Professional Learning Group. The Master Technology Teachers PLG is an on-going partnership between Alabama Technology in Motion, the UA/UWA In-Service Education Center, The UA College of Education, and twelve innovative teachers from the UA/UWA in-service region. This year’s TMT will focus on the themes of Game-Based Learning, Flipped & Blended Learning, Project-Based Learning, Makerspaces, and Assessment Strategies with Technology. Teachers from any LEA in Alabama are invited to register and attend. More details including registration information HERE.

Digital Lesson Design - The three Instructional Technology Specialists across North Alabama (Barry Wiginton- UNA, Courtney Hamilton- Athens, Jornea Erwin- AAMU) have partnered to present Student-Centered Learning through Digital Lesson Design. Teachers will experience the “why, what, and how” of transforming lessons for technology-integrated student-centered learning that aligns with the SAMR model. Participants will also have the option to partner with their local ATiM specialist to take their learning further and share their lessons for collective efforts to improve teaching & learning across the state of AL.

eLearning Alabama
Summer Semester Courses offered, June 1- July 19: For those new to eLearning, visit our Registration webpage for a pacing guide and step-by-step instructions on how to enroll using your Chalkable (STIPD) account. Don’t forget to review the tutorials on our website to get a better feel of what the courserooms look like and how to navigate them. For those needing ACLD-approved PLUs, we offer 13 courses that can earn PLUs with additional work. Please look over our PLU Courses webpage for details, Action Plan templates, and project examples. Remember, it takes a minimum of 4 months to complete the PLU process. Have questions or need more information, CLICK.

OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING
Educational Technology, Earlene Patton continued...

Check out the Preliminary Program and register today on our website. Be sure to friend us on FACEBOOK: Alabama Educational Technology Conference and follow us on Twitter: #AETC2017. For additional information call the Office of Educational Technology: 334-242-9594

www.alsde.edu
OFFICE OF LEARNING SUPPORT

Federal Programs, Edmund Moore

Alaska 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) and the Competitive Grant Competition for Fiscal Year 2018

The 21st CCLC program is authorized under Title IV, Part B, of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), to provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers. The 21st CCLC initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated to supporting local summer learning and afterschool programs. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (now known as the Every Student Succeeds Act) updated and reauthorized the 21st CCLC program in December 2015. Each state receives funding based on its share of Title I funding for low-income students.

The purpose of the 21st CCLC program, as described in Section 4201(a), is to establish or expand Community Learning Centers that accomplish the following:

• Provide opportunities for academic enrichment, including the provision of tutorial services to help students (particularly students in high poverty areas and those who attend low-performing schools) to meet challenging state and local academic standards.
• Offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular school-day academic program of participating students.
• Offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for personal development in areas such as literacy and educational enhancement. The community learning center should develop and nurture the potential for parents and families to assist in instructing their children while supporting their children’s academic success and social development.

Grant competitions are scheduled to begin June 1, 2017. Applicants must apply through the electronic grant application program system (eGAP) located on the department’s Website. A letter of intent must be submitted to the department by June 9, 2017, in order to participate in the June competition. The grant competition is scheduled to end on June 30, 2017, at 5 PM. Any public or private organization is eligible to apply for a 21st CCLC grant. Examples of such agencies and organizations may be, but are not limited to, the following:

• Local education agencies (LEAs)
• Community-based organizations (CBOs)
• Faith-based organizations (FBOs)
• Institutions of higher education
• Non-profit agencies
• City or county governments
• For-profit corporations

Grants are submitted for the purpose of primarily serving students who attend schools with a high concentration of impoverished students. Impoverished students are defined by a poverty percentage of 40% or greater that is determined by school enrollment or participating attendance area, and to serve at-risk students (academic, social or behavioral needs). Last year in Alabama, there were over 15,000 students receiving afterschool and summer programming services. This year, that number has exceeded 18,000 students. A current list of active grantees serving children in afterschool and summer programs can be found at www.alsde.edu.

If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact Mr. Mark Ward, Ms. Joslyn Reddick, or Mrs. Yolonda Averett.

Department Updates

Tony Thacker, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent

The Office of Evaluation and Innovation (OEI) oversees the research, assessment, and accountability functions of the ALSDE. As part of its mission, OEI also helps identify grant opportunities to secure additional funding for state initiatives, is the conduit between the ALSDE and the charter school commission, and provides supports to schools and LEAs regarding increasing graduation rates and improving school culture and climate.
Public Charter Schools have become a reality in Alabama. Presently, we have five authorizers of charter schools: Birmingham City Board of Education, Athens City Board of Education, Macon County Board of Education, Greene County Board of Education, and the Alabama Public Charter School Commission. When an authorizer receives an application, it rates it in three areas: school design, organizational plan, and financial plan. Clarifying questions are asked in an interview and open meetings are held in the location that the applicant wants to start the school. Thus far, three charter schools have been approved to open by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission: Acceleration Day and Evening Academy, Sports Leadership and Management (SLAM), and STAR Academy. Acceleration Day and Evening Academy, located in Mobile, will open in August 2017. Sports Leadership and Management (SLAM) is currently working toward an agreement concerning the desegregation order in Huntsville before it can determine a start date. STAR Academy, located in Birmingham, will open in 2018. Since all three schools are start-up charter schools, they can open on any date of the approved year.

The Commission recently received three new applications for charter schools to review for approval. The locations for the applicants include Sumter County, Montgomery County, and Shelby County. The first open meeting for the applicant group was held May 22nd at the Livingston Community Center. The University of West Alabama presented its plan to open a charter school, and the community was given an opportunity to provide input. The next two open meetings will be held the last week of May. The Commission will meet at the end of June to either approve or deny the applications. If approved, these schools can open on any date in 2018. When a charter school is approved, it is recommended that they take a year to plan; however, it is not required. Athens City has also received an application for an online charter school designed for incarcerated youth. The Board voted 3-2 in favor; however, without a majority, it is considered denied. The applicant can choose to appeal to the Commission. Since the Commission is also an appellate body, it can choose to either uphold the denial or to overturn the denial and approve the school.

The Commission and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) are working collaboratively to ensure that the approved schools have the support and resources provided to all public schools. The ALSDE is and will be providing training to the new schools in areas such as school finance, federal programs, special education, and child nutrition. Questions concerning public charter schools can be answered by Mrs. Logan Searcy via email or by calling 334-353-2154.
OFFICE OF EVALUATION AND INNOVATION

Information Systems, Dom Martel

Information Systems develops, enhances, and manages the Alabama Department of Education's enterprise network to provide high speed, transparent, and highly functional connectivity between all information resources while ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of all data.

What does Information Systems do?
- AIM Single Sign-On Portal
- EdFacts Data Reporting
- 1,447 User Accounts
- 1,336 Email Accounts
- 146 Applications
- 89 VPN Tunnels to LEAs
- 163 Web Sites
- 117 Servers
- 59 SQL
- 6 Firewalls
- 875 TB Storage
- 507 PCs Supported
- 800+ Ad Hoc Queries annually
- Assessment Matching and Disaggregation
- eDiscovery Requests
- 20,000 Emails Received Daily
- 1,005 SPAM Emails Blocked Daily
- 4925 Helpdesk tickets in the last Year
- 154 Virtual Machines
- 24 Wireless Access Points
- 49,816 Customers
- Data Collected Annually for 138 LEAs
- 8 Major collections
- 485 Databases

Information Systems (IS) provides all network and hardware infrastructure for the ALSDE. We are responsible for the connectivity and security of our network ensuring that all ALSDE assets can work and communicate with as few interruptions as possible. IS staff are responsible for the installation and maintenance of all desktop system and technology in the Department. IS develops and maintains more than 140 software applications for the Department. We manage and support the ALSDE's major data collections and ensure that Federal reports are sent on time. IS provides the web presence and main public data reporting mechanism for the ALSDE. IS also provides support to ALSDE staff, researchers, and partners by providing mechanisms to get to necessary data, whether it be through a portal or from one the hundreds of Ad Hoc queries responded to annually. IS Supports the LEAs and Department staff with data collections, and we are the liaison between the LEAs and the Student Information System vendor. We work behind the scenes to ensure that the ALSDE has all of the resources necessary to perform its mission.

OFFICE OF EVALUATION AND INNOVATION
Prevention and Support Services Section (PSSS), Marilyn Lewis, Ed.D.

The Office of Accountability is responsible for the coordination, development, and reporting of state and federal accountability results. Our goal is to provide transparent accountability results reflective of Alabama Act No. 2012-402 (A-F Report Card), Alabama Act No. 2015-434 (Alabama Accountability Act, Failing Schools) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) within our reporting system. This office strives to provide districts, schools and all stakeholders the necessary tools and information to determine the progress of our students being identified as college and/or career ready upon graduation utilizing multiple measures of accountability.

The Accountability Office will be providing training for all educators at the 2017 MEGA Conference relative to the A-F Report Cards Phase II release in December 2017. In addition, accountability trainings will occur during the summer throughout the different regions in Alabama. These trainings will assist districts and schools in understanding the data sources that populate the A-F Report Cards, and the Failing Schools List. Accountability team members will share with districts and schools how the data will be calculated for each of these laws. Information regarding the regional trainings will be communicated to the superintendent, accountability coordinator, school performance coordinator and the A-F Report Card Coordinator for each district as identified in EdDir, via email. For further information as it relates to accountability please feel free to contact our office at 334-353-4285.
The Office of Student Assessment is responsible for the coordination, development, and implementation of the state testing program. Our goal is to improve academic achievement for all Alabama students. This goal is accomplished by providing administrators, educators, parents, and the community the tools and information about student performance in the context of college and career readiness.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs:
Data Validation, a process that allows districts and schools the opportunity to check the demographics of all students who took either ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs prior to the release of student and district reports, closed May 15th. Reports will arrive in the districts on June 9th. WIDA has hosted several webinars that address the new scoring system, as a result of the recent standard setting, in order to prepare Local Education Agencies for the changes in the scores for 2017. The final webinar will be June 22nd at 1:00 and can be accessed HERE.

May 22nd, WIDA, along with the Student Assessment section, hosted an all-day face-face training for educators on the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. Educators learned how to administer the assessment, which is given to English learner (EL) students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Beginning July 3rd, the new WIDA Screener Online will be available to Alabama educators. This new screener will replace the previous W-APT paper screener for Grades 1-12. The W-APT will continue to be used for kindergarten students only. The new online screener will allow for a more standardized process for making determinations for the placement of newly arrived ELs.

ACT with Writing:
Reports containing college reportable scores will be provided three to eight weeks after testing has completed. The students will receive a printed-paper score report. The school will receive a printed-paper report and two printed labels with college reportable test results to be placed in and on the high school transcript/permanent record. The ACT Profile Report for both the school and district will arrive no later than July 28, 2017.

ALSDE and ACT, Inc., are pleased to offer Alabama educators with a training opportunity in June. This training workshop, Instructional Strategies that Support Rigorous and Relevant Learning, is designed to help classroom teachers increase the rigor and relevance of their classroom instruction. Teachers will reflect on rigor and relevance as it applies to the four core content areas (English, mathematics, science, and social studies). Many instructional strategies will be modeled throughout the session as participants learn how rigor is reflected in classroom activities, student assignments, and in-class assessments. Participants will leave with a valuable compendium of research-based instructional strategies to apply to their classrooms. These three hour workshops (morning and afternoon sessions) are recommended for secondary core-content teachers. The workshop locations are available in Huntsville (June 6), Tuscaloosa (June 7), Montgomery (June 8), Birmingham (June 12), Dothan (June 13), and Mobile (June 14). Register HERE.

MEGA Conference:
The Student Assessment section will host the following sessions at the MEGA Conference, July 10 – 14, 2017 in Mobile:

- **Session #136**: NAEP 101
- **Session # 159**: ACT WorkKeys, ACT Keytrain and the National Career Readiness Certificate – Preparing Your Students for Career Success
- **Session #181 and #355**: Monitoring and Evaluating Accessibility Features and Accommodations
- **Session # 223 and #271**: Interpreting ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Score Reports
- **Session # 276 and #338**: Dial 911 for the new Alabama Alternate Assessment
- **Session # 316 and #362**: WIDA Screener Overview

ACT Aspire:
ACT Aspire results are tentatively scheduled to be released to the LEAs on June 12, 2017.

Alabama Alternate Assessment:
The Student Assessment Section is finalizing the selection of general and special education educators from across the state to serve on the AAA Standard Setting Committee. The committee will meet in Birmingham June 20-23, 2017, to consider a student’s level of performance on the assessment to develop achievement levels.
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 (ALSBE) are the basis for reviewing educator preparation programs. A variety of certificate approaches are provided and efforts are made to issue and renew certificates in compliance with ALSBE standards. 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.

Office of Teaching and Leading (OTL)

Dr. Jayne Meyer, Director

April Productivity

During the month of April, the Educator Certification Section
- Received 1198 applications,
- Issued 753 Certificates/Licenses/Permits,
- Renewed Certificates for 243 individuals, and
- Answered 2095 telephone calls through our Customer Service Office.

Application Forms

New application forms for the following approaches have been posted:
- Adjunct Instructor Permit
- Certification Based on Test (CBT)
- Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (2017-2018)
- Provisional Certificate in a Career and Technical Teaching Field (2017-2018)
- Provisional Certificate in Library Media or School Counseling (2017-2018)
- Interim Employment Certificate (2017-2018)

Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF)

We will now offer certification in English language arts, general science, general social science, and mathematics for grades 4-8 through this approach. A revised application form was posted on May 24, 2017.

On-Line Renewal (OLR)

We know May is a very busy time for school systems, and we appreciate the assistance with OLR. Remember OLR will be turned off at the close of the business day on Friday, June 30th. At that time, no additional renewals can be processed through OLR because the payment link will no longer be active. If a renewal has been approved, but the individual has not paid, the individual will have to meet reinstatement requirements. If an individual decides to mail in his/her application, it must be received in the Educator Certification Section prior to July 1, 2017. Feel free to contact the certification specialist assigned to your school system if there are questions.

Educator Recruitment/Placement, Debra Gosha

An Early Career Educators Summer Conference will be held June 20, 2017 at Wallace State Community College 300 Earl Goodwin Parkway Selma, AL 36703.

To Register, CLICK HERE. Enroll on Chalkable PD for professional development credit hours. The PD Title Number is AEATL1617. For more information, call Dr. Pamela Fossett at 1-800-392-5839.

www.alsde.edu
OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
Educator Preparation, Anna Kozlowski, Ph.D.

The Educator Preparation section is implementing a new timetable for program reviews with the goal of decreasing the time it takes to return review team reports to the college or university. The section now accepts submissions for new programs and revised programs at any time. The deadline for submitting materials for comprehensive reviews continues to be June 1 each year. Colleges and universities have the option of staggering submissions for comprehensive reviews over three years. The section continues to accept “feedback only” reviews at any time. The original plan was to have this option for the first two years of the new Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP) program review process. Educator Preparation staff, in collaboration with college and university faculty, developed an FAQ on the CIEP process that is now available on the ALSDE website.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
Educator Assessment, Althea Hampton, Ed.D.

• The edTPA Planning Summit is scheduled for July 19, 2017 from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Faulkner University. CEUs will be awarded to attendees. More information is forthcoming.
• Scores from the Alabama Perspective Teacher Test (APTT) and the Alabama Educator Certification Test (AECT) from ACT for the Basic Skills Assessment both will be accepted in partial fulfillment of requirements for certification as long as the certification application is received by the certification division of Teaching and Learning at the ALSDE prior to 8/31/2022.
• The last testing date for the Alabama Educator Certification Test offered through ACT WorkKeys is July 8, 2017. Anyone who does not have a passing score on all three portions of either the APTT, AECT, or combination of APTT and AECT will be required to take and pass Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Test 5751.
• The updated pages for Alabama Praxis on ETS’s website will be available in August 2017.
• Beginning Fall 2017 (September), candidates in Alabama will be required to enter their TEACH ID when submitting edTPA portfolios. All teacher education candidates who have completed the background review process or had any scores submitted to the ALSDE should have a valid TEACH ID.
• Keep in mind the that 8/31/2017 is the last day the ALSDE will accept passing scores on the following content knowledge Praxis assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Name</th>
<th>Test Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Content Knowledge</td>
<td>0133</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Education</td>
<td>0050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>0910</td>
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<tr>
<td>French: Content Knowledge</td>
<td>0173</td>
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<tr>
<td>German: Content Knowledge</td>
<td>0181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government/Political Science</td>
<td>0930</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>0600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Specialist</td>
<td>0300</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Guidance and Counseling</td>
<td>0420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish: Content Knowledge</td>
<td>0191</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>0640</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 a professional study application for review by the committee, the upcoming deadline for submissions and reviews are as follows:

*All PLU applications received by September 7, 2017 will be reviewed on September 26, 2017.

Submit your online professional study applications for review, as soon as possible. If you would like to access the online Instructional Leadership Professional Study Application, then, complete the Contact ACLD form. An account will be created for the school system 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) 242-9962.