Alabama educators ushered in the school year by welcoming students to the best year of their lives. It was refreshing for the ALSDE team to visit schools across the state and witness first-hand the energy and enthusiasm with which our educators approach teaching our future. The ALSDE team wish every student an outstanding school year.

This way captures some of the 2017 ALABAMA BACK TO SCHOOL moments.

Educators play a critical role in educating our future and therefore we must take a stance and become the positive voice for our profession and advocates for our children. We have chosen to answer the calling and make a difference. We must share our beliefs about public education with others. Consider spreading the positive message about public education with other educators across the country. The School Superintendent's Association has launched the I Love Public Education campaign to share with others about the role our educators play in shaping the future of our country through educating our youth. Tweet #LovePublicEducation to join the conversation.

**Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

Thank you for providing feedback throughout our stakeholder engagement conversations for ESSA.

The feedback you provided is being reviewed by our team. We assure you that all recommendations have been considered and the final document will reflect our collective best thinking for educating Alabama students today and in the future.

It is important to note that changes were made to the ESSA template when we moved from President Obama's Administration to President Trump's Administration. There were entire sections removed from the final ESSA Consolidated Template. Additionally, the instructional staff at the ALSDE has worked very closely with the USDOE to ensure that our ESSA Plan is inclusive of the required components.

**LISTENING TO ALABAMA EDUCATORS**

Superintendent Sentance and the ALSDE leadership team is committed to listening and learning from Alabama educators. We value the perspectives of educators and the Chat and Chews are invaluable opportunities to gain information that will help shape the future landscape of education in Alabama. These visits with the team will be followed up by additional conversations with educators across the state.

“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
Alabama teachers are incredible! The August meeting of the Superintendent’s Teacher Cabinet was a huge success. Educators from across the state gathered in Montgomery to communicate directly with Mr. Sentance regarding how to help students by elevating the teaching profession. The cabinet discussed ESSA, Alabama Ascending, and how these plans will help “give teachers their classrooms back.” Chasity Collier, the 2017-18 Alabama Teacher of the Year joined the group as co-chair, along with the 2016-17 Alabama Teacher of the Year, Dana Jacobson. The cabinet is made up of teachers from all academic areas, including ESL, music and the arts, Career Tech, and Special Education. The cabinet is participating in a wonderful book study of Getting to Yes by Roger Fisher and William Ury. It is based on the Harvard Negotiation Project and impacts the way teachers, researchers, and practitioners approach communicating and negotiating education policy issues in a principled, thoughtful way.

In addition, Mr. Sentance is listening to teachers across the state by visiting schools and engaging in informal conversations with teachers. He visited Echols Middle School and Westwood Elementary School in rural Tuscaloosa County. It was such a joy to visit classrooms to see teachers engaging in excellent teaching strategies. Teachers have the most important job in the world ... they shape the future each and every day.

Grant season is almost underway, and this year there are some outstanding opportunities for educators with upcoming deadlines:

- **Target Field Trip grants:**
- **Penguin Random House Teacher Awards for Literacy**
- **Siemens Competition for Math Science & Technology**
- **Safe Places to Play $50,000 grant**
- **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Grades 7-12 Research grants**
- **Pets in the Classroom grant**
- **Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant**
The 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
Shanthia Washington, Assistant Superintendent

Departments

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Department Updates

OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING

Instructional Services, Robin Nelson

Approved Academic and Innovation/Flexibility Waivers Form
On June 30, 2017 the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) requested that any waiver, written or verbal, your school system currently holds be listed on the Approved Academic and Innovation/Flexibility Waivers Form. The requested forms were due to the ALSDE on August 1, 2017. The form can be accessed by clicking HERE. If your system does not currently hold any approved waivers, complete the form and state “Not Applicable (NA)” for ALSDE records. Download and complete the form and email to Mrs. Robin Nelson, Ms. Gay Finn, or Ms. Lori MaGee.

Curriculum and Instruction Meetings
2017-2018 School Year
Information regarding the ALSDE’s 2017-2018 Curriculum and Instruction meetings has been emailed to Curriculum Coordinators using the distribution list from the ALSDE Education Directory. If your system did not receive the email please update the “Curriculum/Instruction” position listings in the directory. Specific information about the Curriculum and Instruction meetings can be accessed by clicking HERE. You may attend the meeting that best fits your schedule and location. Register on Chalkable/STIPD for the meetings you plan to attend. The first round of meetings begin at the end of September. If you have further questions you may contact Ms. Gay Finn.

Alabama State Textbook Committee Public Hearing
The Alabama State Textbook Committee will hold a public hearing concerning Arts Education and World Languages textbooks being considered for adoption. The hearing will be held on Sept. 11, 2017, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, 50 N. Ripley St., Montgomery, AL. Examination copies of the books being considered are available at selected libraries. A list of libraries is available at the State Department of Education Web site or by clicking HERE. Once you are on the ALSDE Instructional Services Textbooks Adoption Process page, click on the Procedures tab.
to find the list. Anyone interested in appearing before the committee and/or in sending written comments must do so by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 5, 2017.

Alabama Camellia Children’s Choice Book Award

The nominees for the 2017-18 Alabama Camellia Children’s Choice Book Award have been chosen! All Alabama school and public libraries are invited to participate in this year’s program filled with wonderful titles. The program is designed to expose students to newer quality children’s literature while giving them the opportunity to use their voices to decide the winners. School librarians coordinate the program and collaborate to expose students to all titles in a division before allowing students to individually choose their favorite. All votes across the state will be tabulated in April 2018 and the new winners will be announced. This program is coordinated from the Office of Student Learning, Instructional Services-Library Media. To see this year’s list of nominees, click HERE. For more information about participation, contact Dede Coe.

Definition of an Effective Library Media Program

“The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) supports the position that an effective school library program has a certified school librarian at the helm, provides personalized learning environments, and offers equitable access to resources to ensure a well-rounded education for every student.

As a fundamental component of college, career, and community readiness, the effective school library program:

1. Is adequately staffed, including a state-certified school librarian who
   a. is an instructional leader and teacher,
   b. supports the development of digital learning, participatory learning, inquiry learning, technology literacies, and information literacy, and
   c. supports, supplements, and elevates the literacy experience through guidance and motivational reading initiatives;
2. Has up-to-date digital and print materials and technology, including curation of openly licensed educational resources; and
3. Provides regular professional development and collaboration between classroom teachers and school librarians.

Effective school libraries are dynamic learning environments that bridge the gap between access and opportunity for all K-12 learners. Under the leadership of the school librarian, the school library provides students access to resources and technology, connecting classroom learning to real-world events. By providing access to an array of well-managed resources, school libraries enable academic knowledge to be linked to deeper, personalized learning. In this way, effective school library programs prepare students for college, career, and community.” See the full position statement HERE.

Alabama Arts Education Initiative Grants

Research clearly proves that providing students with sequential arts programs improves student achievement. In support of Alabama’s Plan for Arts Education, the ALSDE will soon be accepting Alabama Arts Education Initiative (AAEI) grant proposals for schools hoping to expand their arts programs. The AAEI grants will provide an opportunity to strengthen the development and implementation of comprehensive arts education programs. Grants may also provide additional support to schools that have a current arts plan. Applicants must show a concerted effort to include the participation of every student, staff member, and administrator. Selected schools may receive up to $25,000. Consideration will be given to programs that leverage other resources and have a plan for sustainability.

Assistant will be provided by ALSDE partners, the Alabama Arts Alliance, and the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, with workshops on writing specifically for the AAEI grant. The workshops will take place in Anniston, Birmingham, Demopolis, Enterprise, Eufaula, Franklin County, Guntersville, Huntsville, Jasper, Montgomery, Opelika, Spanish Fort, Thomasville and Tuscaloosa. For specific dates and times in these locations, contact Mrs. Donna Russell, Executive Director of the Alabama Arts Alliance, at (334) 269-1435 or (334) 391-1334. Interested applicants may also contact Mr. Randy Foster, Executive Director of the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, at (334) 396-2432.

2018 United States Senate Youth Program

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation is sponsoring the 56th Annual United States Senate Youth Program. Brochures about the program may be obtained HERE. System curriculum personnel will be responsible for distributing a hard copy of the exam to principals and/or guidance counselors in high schools with grades eleven and twelve. Applications will be reviewed and scored at the state level. Ten semifinalists will be selected for a face-to-face interview. Two finalists will receive a $10,000 scholarship each and will represent Alabama during the week’s internship in Washington, D.C., March 3-10, 2018. While in Washington, the winners will be the guests of Alabama’s senators. For more information about the program, contact Dr. Carolyn Townsend via email at or by telephone at 334-353-1191.
OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING
Instructional Services, Robin Nelson

October is Alabama’s State Declared Parenting Month
Because parent involvement – now more than ever – is such a critical factor in determining the success or failure of students and schools, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) recognizes the need for ongoing, meaningful parental engagement. The Department is promoting Statewide Parent Visitation Month in October. It is intended as a community effort – a time for schools, businesses, community agencies, churches, and government to turn their attention to the important role of parents in the education of their children. The ALSDE extends an invitation for all schools and school systems to become a part of this important statewide event. Should you have any questions about parent visitation month, please feel free to contact Dr. Carolyn Townsend by telephone at (334) 353-1191.

Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF) Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship
The 2017 Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship applications are due September 1, 2017!
This $1,000 award supports teachers in attending a seminar or institute, purchasing classroom materials, or creating a program that enhances their students’ understanding of history and civics.
K-6th grade educators in public and private Alabama schools are eligible. The scholarship committee will consider applications in subjects including but not limited to geography, Alabama history, world history, U.S. History, and civics.
Final applications are due by September 1, 2017 and should be submitted to T. C. McLemore. There is a committee-reviewed process, and recipients will be informed of decisions by September 15. AHF will honor scholarship recipients at the Alabama Colloquium on Tuesday, October 2, at The Club in Birmingham.

Health and Physical Education
Extreme Temperature Activities
The ALSDE does not have a policy regarding extreme temperatures for physical education classes or recess. LEAs are encouraged to develop their own local policies. School systems should restrict certain activities for physical education, recess and other outdoor programs with the following information in mind since children have less tolerance to heat than adults.
- All staff members should be familiar with early indications of heat stress and first aid procedures.
- Students should be carefully monitored to identify symptoms in order to promote early identification and referral to nursing personnel.
- Physical education teachers should exercise professional judgment whether a lesson should be altered in extreme heat conditions.
- Students should have easy access to water and be reminded to utilize the water fountains to maintain adequate levels of hydration.
- Students should have access to shade and/or the inside of the building when needed.
- Alternative outside activities such as walking instead of running should be encouraged. High-intensity exercise should be avoided during periods of excessive heat.
- Students are allowed to carry and apply sunscreen (Act 2017-278) which must be provided by the parent/guardian. Questions regarding this Act may be directed to Jennifer Ventress, ALSDE Nurse Administrator.

Physical Fitness Assessment Information
Physical fitness testing begins on or after October 1. Preprinted award certificates for the Alabama Physical Fitness Assessment will no longer be available from the Governor’s Commission on Physical Fitness. Certificates may be downloaded from the ALSDE Health and Physical Education Web page. The new Governor’s Certificates will be available after January 1, 2017.

Adapted Physical Education
The taskforce for Best Practices for Adapted Physical Education has developed a quick reference guide for physical education teachers. The small flip guides will be handed out at the Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (ASAHPERD) Fall Conference in Birmingham November 5, 6, 7 at the Wynfrey Hotel. For those who cannot attend information will be sent out at a later date on how to obtain a guide.

Do you have students with disability in Grades 1-3? Come join the fun at the first-ever inclusive RunJumpThrow event sponsored by USA Track & Field and Hershey at Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham, AL! Two sessions will be held on Friday, September 15th. For more information, contact Kelly Bonner at 205-313-7450. Up to 200 students can be accommodated at each event time. Schools meeting event criteria will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Grants
Action for Healthy Kids Game on $1,000 Grant (Eligible LEAs and schools systems located in Blount, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair and Walker counties).
Game On is a no-cost online guide providing all the information and resources you need to host a successful school wellness program in your school with the ultimate goal of getting your school nationally recognized as a health-promoting school. Game On grants provide funding for physical activity initiatives (such as facilities and equipment for recess, playgrounds/play-spaces, classroom energizers, physical education, intramural and/or before/after-school programs), and nutrition initiatives. Application deadline September 15, 2017

The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Shade Structure Grant Program awards grants of up to $8,000 to public schools and nonprofit organizations for installing...
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Instructional Services, Robin Nelson continued...

permanent shade structures for outdoor locations that are not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools or recreation spaces. The AAD Shade Structure Program is open to non-profit organizations that provide services, programs, and curricula to children and teenagers who are 18 and younger. 2018 applications open September 1, 2017.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunity

Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (ASAHPERD) Fall Conference November 5-7, 2017 at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, AL. Look for preregistration information HERE. A list of session titles will be online soon! Membership must be current to receive the discount for conference registration.

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Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI), Karen Porter

ARI just completed the first series of professional learning for LEA contacts and LEA reading specialists. These Effective Literacy Leaders Learning Communities (E3LCs) was the first in a four-part series to provide extended learning opportunities for these two leaders. As reminder, the ARI Professional Learning Support Plan (PLSP) has been extended until Friday, September 29, 2017. The streamlined plan template and an informational voiceover PowerPoint have been upload to the ARI site. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail your SDE ARI Contact with questions regarding the ARI work in your district or call Reeda Betts at (334) 353-1389.

To address any remaining questions concerning the two AMSTI communications from this summer, a video has been created which provides information to district leaders on the two AMSTI Memoranda. This video can be accessed through one of the two links below. The video talks through the Letter of Recommitment process and expresses that there is still time to respond for anyone who missed the July 19th "received by" date. The parts of the Memorandum of Agreement are explained as well as how the Professional Learning Support Plan (PLSP) is to be worked out collaboratively between the district, the regional AMSTI site, and the ALSDE. It is important to note that district efforts in writing their ACIP do not need to be duplicated for the PLSP, but can be attached or copied-and-pasted from the ACIP into the PLSP. The AMSTI PLSPs will be due by the end of the day on Friday, October 20, 2017. AMSTI Specialists are marking their calendar now to provide support in AMSTI schools. LEA Key Contacts and AMSTI school principals are able to address with the AMSTI Director any questions or concerns regarding the memoranda through the PLSP process, as well as arrange on-site support. Click HERE to access the video on Google Drive. Click HERE to access the video on YouTube.

ASIM: Alabama Science In Motion (ASIM) specialists across the state were busy this summer training teachers on new conceptual lessons and preparing equipment and labs for a new school year. In August, they hit the ground running delivering labs, visiting classrooms, and volunteering on the first day of school. During this, specialists are gathering information on any new science teachers in order to offer them ASIM training in the future. If you have a science teacher in grades 9-12 who needs ASIM training, please contact the local ASIM site. Information can be found HERE or HERE.

ASIM will hold its fall statewide meeting in September at the AMSTI-AU site in Opelika. ASIM specialists will continue work on refining new lessons/labs to align with the Alabama Course of Study: Science and will reflect on summer training successes and areas that need improvement. HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology will train biology specialists on a couple of their recently developed projects. Also, PASCO Scientific will be there to train physics specialists in their Capstone platform and to share new technology with biology specialists.

We are excited to introduce three new specialists who joined the ASIM program over the summer:

• Stephen Shivers - ASIM Physics at the University of Montevallo
• Kate White – ASIM Physics at the University of Alabama in Huntsville
• Stephen Phillips – ASIM Biology at the University of North Alabama

Currently, there is an opening for ASIM Chemistry at the University of Montevallo. Follow ASIM on Facebook!
Alabama Critical Issues Workshop
The Alabama School Counselor Association (ALSCA) will hold its annual workshop next month. Critical Issues for Alabama Schools is scheduled for Friday, September 8, 2017 on the campus of Birmingham-Southern College. The ALSCA recognizes that our schools are dealing with increasingly critical issues and that collaboration with stakeholders is essential for student success. The ALSCA aims to address the current critical issues by equipping school counselors and other stakeholders with information and resources though this workshop. Those who counsel, guide, and/or educate students, are involved in the supervision and education of school counselors and staff, and other vested stakeholders will find the topics presented relevant and useful. Attendance of your school counselor and other school and system leaders is strongly encouraged. Please consider attending this workshop that should prove to be beneficial for all student success stakeholders.

Smart Art Contest
The Counseling and Guidance team along with the Office of the State Treasurer, Young Boozer, is pleased to announce the second annual CollegeCounts Smart Art Contest. The CollegeCounts Smart Art Contest is designed to encourage students to begin thinking about college and careers. This program will also bring awareness of Alabama’s 529 college savings program and emphasis to careers. This contest is open to all Alabama public school fourth grade students. The contest begins September 6, 2017 and all entries must be postmarked on or before October 18, 2017. More information to include contest entry, procedures, selection of winners and prizes will be sent via email from the Counseling and Guidance Department.

Transcript Best Practices Workshop
The Alabama State Department of Education is pleased to host four regional workshops focusing on student records and high school transcript guidelines. These regional workshops will equip system-level administrators and school-level leaders with the tools, strategies, and best practices to ensure the accuracy of student records and student transcripts. Administrators, counselors, lead advisors, and registrars from middle and high schools are strongly encouraged to attend.

The scheduled training sessions are listed below:

9/26/17  1:00-3:30 PM  
Wallace State - Bailey Center - 12th Floor  
801 Main Street, Hanceville, Alabama 35077

9/27/17  1:00-3:30 PM  
Lincoln Professional Development Center  
901 9th Ave. North, Birmingham, Alabama 35204

10/03/17  1:00-3:30 PM  
Alabama State University-Ralph David Abernathy Hall-Aud  
625 Hall Street (Harris Way), Montgomery, Alabama 36101

10/05/2017  1:00-3:30 PM  
University of South Alabama-Faculty Club  
6348 Fincher Road, Mobile, Alabama 36688

Information for registration in STI PD will be sent at a later time. If you should need clarification or have questions regarding these training sessions, contact Sean J. Stevens, Education Administrator or Wanda Langley, Education Specialist, at 334-242-9111.

ACCESS Virtual Learning courses opened for students on August 7, 2017. Students and their schools are allowed to request course enrollments anytime during the school year, and students are allowed to work at their own pace. With this in mind, most students enroll and work at a pace to finish the courses during the regular school year terms (traditional all year, traditional first semester, traditional second semester, fall block, fall block – first nine weeks, fall block - second nine weeks, spring block, spring block – first nine weeks, spring block – second nine weeks, tri-semester 1, tri-semester 2, tri-semester 3, tri-semester 1 & 2, tri-semester 1 & 3, tri-semester 2 & 3). However, if the school believes that the students need additional time in their courses, the school administration may request a Work-In-Progress (WIP). The administrator will determine the amount of additional time the students will be allowed in the courses and designate a new end-date for the courses. ACCESS teachers will continue to work with these students as long as the school requests.
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Educational Technology, Earlene Patton

The 2017-2018 school year has begun with a record enrollment of students in the ACCESS program (over 2,000 more enrollments currently as compared to the same time last year). This continues a trend that began three years ago and set an all-time enrollment record in 2016-2017 of over 58,400 half credits delivered by over 950 ACCESS teachers statewide.

Another component of the ACCESS program is the Franchise Model. In this component, the course content of fifty-two courses is loaded in Moodle and provided to local teachers to use in their classroom for their students. Educational Technology staff will provide not only the course content but also will provide training to the teachers on the use of Moodle and the Franchise Model. This component continues to grow as more and more systems/schools begin to use the Franchise Model to provide courses to their students in a blended approach. You have questions or want more information on the ACCESS Virtual Learning program and/or the Franchise Model, contact Larry Raines at (334) 353-8718.

Save the Date...

You don't want to miss the 10th Annual GEMS Expo on Friday, February 23, 2018 at the McWane Science Center. This is a great opportunity to involve girls in STEM related activities through various learning environments. CLICK for more information.

Alabama TechKnowlogy Webinar Series

Alabama Technology in Motion will again host one hour training webinars for Alabama Educators in September. Each month Alabama educators can log on from their remote locations and participate in FREE web based technology training. The trainings last one hour and participants earn 1 continuous education unit (CEU). For more information CLICK or search the PD title catalog in Chalkable PD for upcoming sessions.

Tallapoosa and Lee County partners with Alabama Technology in Motion Technology for Technology Initiative

Tallapoosa County Board of Education has partnered with ATIM Specialist, Carol Foster, to implement G Suite Training for its teachers. In addition to training on G Suite, Carol will also work with the district to discuss best practices for implementing a 1:1 environment at the high school level.

Lee County has partnered with Carol to kick off their second year of the “Spark” Technology Initiative. Spark is a local program that is that has been implemented to increase student engagement through utilization of technology to focus on student-centered, differentiated learning. The Spark Technology Initiative is a based on a train the trainer model. Five devices were added to every classroom last year, with hopes of adding more this school year. A learning management system will be added in grades 3-12 as a platform for single source access to learning content. An Ignite team of 33 model classrooms equipped with an audio enhancement package that includes audio, security, and camera/video system components has been created. Lee County hopes to increase student achievement through improved instructional practice, decrease discipline, and extend the learning day via video. Modeling and professional development will be provided to all teachers throughout the district from this Spark technology initiative.
First Day of School at Prattville Primary School
Mrs. Celeste Minor
On Wednesday, August 9, 2017, two education specialists from SES spent the first day of school in Autauga County. The duties varied as is typical for the first day of school especially in a school for first and second graders. They helped direct parents and students to class and ran forgotten lunches to students who were so caught up in the first day of school that they forgot about eating! They enjoyed visiting classrooms, helping a special needs class get through their lunch time by assisting with their feeding and most importantly helped meet the needs of frantic teachers who were dealing with students who had bus numbers that didn’t exist! On the first day of school these two volunteers greatly enjoyed making sure students made it to class, had something to eat for lunch and of course were able to get home safely! Being able to assist the schools on the first day is such a great reminder of why we do what we do every day.

First Day of School at Peter Crump Elementary School
Ms. Crystal Richardson
On Thursday, August 10, 2017, Ms. Crystal Richardson, Program Coordinator of SES, visited Peter Crump Elementary School on its first day of school for students. Crystal chose this school for many reasons. The first reason is her high school classmate, Ms. Linda Baldwin Fuqua, is the Assistant Principal. Crystal and Ms. Linda worked together at Children’s Center in Montgomery Public Schools in the early to mid-80’s teaching students with significant disabilities. These students taught both Ms. Crystal and Ms. Linda so much about life. The second reason Crystal visited Peter Crump Elementary is because a past State Teacher of the Year nominee, Mrs. Dawn Ellis, works there. Mrs. Ellis is an excellent special education teacher. Crystal visited Mrs. Ellis’ classroom, met some others who work with students with special needs and assisted a student to her 3rd grade classroom for the first time. Another reason Crystal volunteered at Peter Crump Elementary is that it is the school she attended in 3rd and 4th grade in the late 60’s. Crystal enjoyed being out in the school and wishes she could have stayed longer because she loves taking part of positive educational experiences.

First Day of School at Johnnie Carr Middle School
Ms. Bernice Rush-Harrison and Dr. Kemeche Green
I don’t know who was more excited and nervous about the first day back to school – the teachers or the students. This year, that excitement was also paired with a sense of loss as the teacher prepared to come back to school knowing there were three specific faces she would not see. In June of 2016, one of her students passed away suddenly. In January of 2017, an act of senseless violence claimed the life of a cherished friend and colleague. And then in May of 2017, another precious student passed away. While each of these loved ones were with them, they shaped the lives of all who had the privilege to know them. The memory of each of these incredible individuals has only magnified their impact. It is trite, but true: tomorrow really isn’t guaranteed. And when everything is said and done, when we leave this life, all we can really leave behind is how we made someone else feel and what we stood for. The teacher stated, “When my team and I look at the memories our students and dear friend left and when we think of what they stood for, we can’t help but be inspired to move forward with faith and purpose.” We were truly inspired by this wonderful team as they allowed us to share their day.

We hope you enjoyed hearing about first day of school experiences. As a reminder, SES is ready, willing and dedicated to providing quality technical assistance with high expectations. The SES family is thrilled and ready to start another wonderful school year with all the educators in the State of Alabama.
The Importance of Participating in the Continuous Improvement Planning Process

This time of year, schools are busy developing their Continuous Improvement Plans (CIP). The CIP plays a vital role in the academic achievement of students because it contains the goals and strategies that schools will use to drive educational reform. When developing a school's plan, it is important to have stakeholder involvement. A school's CIP team should consist of the principal and other school administrators, teachers, parents, students (secondary schools), and other appropriate school staff and community members. The CIP team should work together to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to determine the specific needs of the school. Analyzing data from various data sources such as State assessment results, student and teacher attendance, student discipline reports, parent/student/teacher survey results, program evaluations, etc. will allow schools to pinpoint specific areas of need in which they should focus when developing their goals and strategies for their CIP.

For schools who receive Federal Title I dollars, the CIP dictates how funds are spent. For example, if a school's comprehensive needs assessment shows there are deficits in the areas of math and reading, a strategy can be included in the school's Continuous Improvement Plan to address this need. Part of the strategy might include providing tutoring for students. If it is included in the Continuous Improvement Plan, Title I dollars could then be used to implement an after school tutoring program for students in the deficit areas.

The Continuous Improvement process is not regulated to the CIP team. The team spearheads the planning process, but provides opportunities for other stakeholders to be involved as well. All stakeholders should be given an opportunity to provide feedback and give suggestions regarding the development and implementation of the plan. The Continuous Improvement Process is ongoing. A school's CIP is a “working document”. In order for continuous improvement to occur, a school's CIP should be implemented, monitored, evaluated, reviewed and revised as needed.
or by a local board authorizer. If a local board has an interest in becoming an authorizer, they must register with the Alabama State Department of Education. If they do not register, a start-up charter school applicant may apply to be approved by the Commission. In this case, Mobile City Board of Education did not register to become an authorizer; therefore, the Commission gave the approval through its process. Since the Commission is Accel's authorizer, they will be responsible for monitoring the academic, fiscal, and organizational performance. Also, the Commission has approved a start-up school that will be located in Sumter County. University Charter School will open its doors in 2018.

In its approved application, the vision of University Charter School is described. It has a collaborative model for producing adaptable learners that have a strong sense of place, mission, and rural identity who recognize the value of collaboration within a school, across a community, and between diverse rural regions. To achieve this vision, the startup charter school is to be a rural, diverse K-12 school that cultivates independent thought, promotes the building of character and civic responsibility and is committed to preparing all students for personal and professional success through the discovery of individual learning pathways in a rigorous and integrated Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STREAM) focused, project-based and place based curriculum. University Charter School will be guided by five core values: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and character education. It will open in 2018 with kindergarten through fifth grades and plans to expand through the 12th grade in its second year of implementation. Through its role as an appellate body, the Commission also approved Star Academy in Birmingham to open in 2018.

Star Academy's mission is to educate and empower students to reach their limitless potential, by providing them with a rigorous academic preparation within a joyful and nurturing community focused on developing personal success factors, problem solvers, and leaders to create a better world for themselves and others. They will prepare students for this future environment by implementing its vision, mission, and philosophy through a STEAM (integrated science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) model that infuses a focus on literacy throughout its curriculum and instructional themes. STAR is built on six shared institutional values: empowerment, equal access, innovative curiosity, authentic experiences, perseverance and follow-through; and collaboration and diversity. The fourth approval for a start-up charter school was given to Sports Leadership and Management (SLAM) in Huntsville. Due to the desegregation order in place in Huntsville, the date of opening has not yet been determined.

SLAM's mission is to provide an engaging, challenging, and supportive learning environment that will motivate students in K-5th to be the best they can be in and out of the classroom and prepare them for future success. SLAM elementary school will engage students in Sports infused lessons that develop Lifelong learners who persistently pursue Academic and personal excellence and are Motivated to become future world changers. SLAM integrates sports related themes into a rigorous curricular program to create a learning environment that motivates, interests, and engages students in learning. The first conversion charter school has been approved by the Athens City School Board.

Athens City Schools registered to be an authorizer, and in its role as an authorizer, it approved a resolution to convert a portion of the current Athens Renaissance School to a conversion school called the Alabama Renaissance School. It is a K-12 blended and virtual student-centered school that will offer students a personalized learning experience to meet their individual and academic and social needs. The program is designed to prepare students for college and career goals. It is a blended school which means it will blend virtual with face-to-face classes. After reviewing responses received from the Request for Education Service Providers, Integra Ventures, LLC was identified and selected as the education service provider for the conversion charter school. The superintendent on behalf of the board will negotiate a performance contract with its provider that will contain elements required by the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act. Integra Ventures will provide management and implementation services necessary to operate the Alabama Renaissance School and its areas of operation as identified through educational agreements between Athens City Schools and other school systems in Alabama. Alabama Renaissance School will provide quality blended and comprehensive services within Alabama and has no interest in operating as a virtual-only charter school in Alabama. Integra Ventures, LLC, has secured the services of a longtime educator and superintendent of Alabama to be its director and grant writer.

To date, Alabama has one open start up charter school, three approved to open start up charter schools and one approved to open conversion school for a total of five. On November 1st, local authorizers, Athens City, Birmingham City, Greene County and Macon County, will release their request for proposals for charter school applicants. The Alabama Public Charter School Commission's application is available online for start-up charter school applicants for any other areas in Alabama. The Commission's application will be due December 18, 2017. The window for a school system to become an authorizer is open until November 1, 2017. It will reopen again on June 1, 2018.

Contact Mrs. Logan Searcy at 334-353-2154 for information.
September is Attendance Awareness Month - The start of each school year presents an important opportunity to lift up an increasingly urgent issue: too many children missing too many days of school. Literally tens of thousands of children, even those in the early grades, are chronically absent - missing nearly a month or more of school every year. September is Attendance Awareness Month, and this year's theme is Attendance = Engagement. Our children are not engaged in learning if they are not present.

Children who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to read proficiently by the end of third grade and are more likely to have poor attendance in later grades. By middle and high school, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign that a student will not graduate on time. This is especially true for those students living in poverty who need school the most, and are sometimes attending the least. Chronic absence is a problem we can solve when schools, families and community partners work together. Improving attendance and reducing chronic absence is not rocket science, but it does take commitment, collaboration, and tailored approaches to the particular challenges and strengths of each school community.

Schools have the power to pull students in or push them out. Combating absenteeism and bringing attention to the issue is one step toward a better education for all students. For questions, contact Dr. Kay Warfield or Ms. Ayanna Long at 334-242-8165.

Sunscreen at School - Act 2017-278 (Senate Bill 63) was passed allowing students to use sunscreen at school without compliance with rules of the State Department of Education or State Board of Nursing. Any student, parent, or guardian requesting a school board employee to apply sunscreen to a student shall present to the nurse a Parent Prescriber Authorization Form (PPA) containing a parent or guardian signature. A physician signature or physician order shall not be required. For more information on the law, CLICK.

Office of Evaluation and Innovation
Prevention and Support Services Section (PSSS), Marilyn Lewis, Ed.D.

The Compliance Monitoring Section has undergone a reorganization and the following changes are effective immediately. The Compliance Monitoring Section has moved to the Office of Evaluation and Innovation under the leadership of Dr. Tony Thacker. The updates to the SDE Website pertaining to the new SDE Organizational Chart were made this past week.

New updates were made to our Compliance Monitoring webpage and the deadlines for each LEA's Self-Assessment information is due on September 15, 2017. This information includes the Document of Assurance and Technical Assistance Form and both forms need to be completed and signed by its superintendent whether the district needs assistance or not. The forms were sent to each Superintendent electronically. Please return both forms to:

Paul Gay, Coordinator
Compliance Monitoring - Room 5146
Alabama State Department of Education
P. O. Box 302101
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101

Contact information for Compliance Monitoring and ASSIST.

Compliance Monitoring Coordinator – Paul Gay
pgay@alsde.edu · 334-649-9211

Compliance Monitoring Administrative Assistant – Donna Cannon
dcannon@alsde.edu · 334-242-9728

ASSIST – Jean Scott
jscott@alsde.edu · 334-242-9746

Advanc-ed/ASSIST Help
helpdesk@advance-ed.org · 1 (888) 413-3669
The major goals in Alabama Ascending are as follows: groups for math, science and reading helped shape the goals, required activities linked to state-level use of each of the Title engagement, educator equity and early childhood programs, created by the Obama administration, such as stakeholder income and at-risk students. Topics included in the template were eliminated from the template entirely. Alabama's ESSA ensure continued award of federal funds; however, the administrators, higher education partners and other education partners. Strategic planning from educators, parents and other interested stakeholders. To date, we have received over 280 comments, each of which we have taken the time to carefully review and consider. Some of the suggestions, while excellent, would be better addressed in our state strategic plan, Alabama Ascending. Other suggestions, though, have helped shape the ESSA plan submission and have informed how we are addressing federal spending. Although the plan is still being updated, it will be finished in time to be submitted to the US DOE on the local level.

Earlier this summer, a draft of the document was placed on the ALSDE website, inviting comments and suggestions from educators, parents and other interested stakeholders. To date, we have received over 280 comments, each of which we have taken the time to carefully review and consider. Some of the suggestions, while excellent, would be better addressed in our state strategic plan, Alabama Ascending. Other suggestions, though, have helped shape the ESSA plan submission and have informed how we are addressing federal spending. Although the plan is still being updated, it will be finished in time to be submitted to the US DOE on September 18.

Alabama Ascending, like the ESSA plan, received input from many stakeholder groups including educators, parents, administrators, higher education partners and other education partners. Strategic planning groups for math, science and reading helped shape the goals, strategies and activities for teaching and learning.

The major goals in Alabama Ascending are as follows:

- Prepared Graduates
- Multiple Pathways to Careers and Higher Education
- Superior Educator Preparation
- Continuous Improvement of World-Class Educators
- Equitable and Accountable Systems
- Healthy and Safe Systems and Schools
- Engaged Families and Communities

We believe that by focusing our efforts on those goals, we will create a system of education in Alabama that is equitable, accountable and just and that produces graduates who are ready to be successful in whatever college or career pathway they choose to pursue. Over the course of the next few months, we will expand the current Alabama Ascending plan to a full working document, with timelines and expected outcomes attached to each of the strategies. The plan is ambitious and will certainly be challenging to fully implement, but we believe that hard work is needed to produce the ultimate outcome of well-prepared students.

Alabama High School Athletic Association Eligibility Field Testing Dr. Marcus Vandiver, Education Administrator, Research and Development

The Alabama Department of Education is seeking schools to participate in the AHSAA Eligibility Field Testing for 7th - 11th grade 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.

Eligibility Field Testing will happen in two phases:

**Phase 1:** During the weeks of September 11th-15th and September 18th-22nd, current 8th and 9th grade students that completed 7th and 8th grade core courses in the 2nd semester of the 2016-17 school year will have the opportunity to field-test the eligibility end-of-course assessments for the areas below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>7th Grade</th>
<th>8th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Grade English</td>
<td>7th Grade Social Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade English</td>
<td>8th Grade Social Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Grade Math</td>
<td>7th Grade Life Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Math</td>
<td>8th Grade Physical Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra 1</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Phase 2:** A notification of request for eligibility field-testing for higher grades will be sent to superintendents and principals during the month of November. These tests will take place in December as end-of course tests near or at the end of the semester. Students sitting for field tests during Phase 2 should have completed an entire course to be eligible. A majority of these students will attend schools that utilize a traditional or 4X4 block schedule. Schools that currently have a 7th or 8th grade may also have an additional opportunity to participate as well.

Benefits of participating schools include identifying strengths and weaknesses of students based on the subject-area standards, allowing teachers to make enhancements to instruction to better align with student needs. In addition, feedback reports will be generated and sent to participating teachers indicating the percentage of items each student answered correctly as well as information indicating how the group performed against with regard to subject-area standards, allowing teachers to get a granular look at student performance.

If you are willing to assist with this project, contact [Dr. Marcus Vandiver](mailto:Dr.MarcusVandiver@alsde.edu) at (334) 242-9742.
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.

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.

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.

Mathematics and Science Teacher Education Scholarship Program
On July 20, 2017, Alabama deans of education and certification officers were notified about procedures to follow to apply for funding to support Alabama residents who have been unconditionally admitted to an Alabama State Board of Education (ALSBE) approved program leading to certification in mathematics or an area of science. Selected colleges and universities will receive funds provided by the Alabama Legislature to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). Colleges and universities were required to submit their proposals for funding to be received by August 18, 2017. The GOOD NEWS is that 17 of our 27 educator preparation colleges and universities replied to ACHE’s RFP, thus indicating a desire to participate in providing scholarships. ACHE intends to begin dispersing funds to the selected institutions after October 1, 2017. Institutional allotments will be given in four quarterly increments. After October 1, 2017, interested individuals should contact the dean of education or certification officer of the institution where they have been admitted to an ALSBE approved program in mathematics or an area of science. Please share this information with whomever you know who might be interested.
OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
Educator Preparation, Anna Kozlowski, Ph.D.

Educator Preparation (EP) is continuing the annual program review process. All programs have gone through the initial team review. Educator Preparation staff are reviewing and finalizing the draft reports with assistance from the summer review team and ALSDE staff in other sections as needed. Some of the team’s reports for programs that were submitted as part of a comprehensive review process have already.

The review team ensures programs use curriculum, field experiences, key assessments, and data analysis to document compliance with the standard of the Alabama State Board of Education. Programs are also required to use data analysis to inform continuous improvement efforts.

EP now accepts materials for proposed new program, “feedback only” reviews, and response to conditions at any time. The intent is to expedite the review process so the summer team can focus on comprehensive reviews. An expected outcome is that reports will be returned to colleges and universities more quickly.

Dr. Anna Kozlowski will be working with faculty and staff at the University of Alabama on Friday, August 25, 2017 about the Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP) program review process.

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

The Office of Educator Assessment (EA) currently is revising the public webpage for assessment to provide the public with more up-to-date information about assessments in Alabama. The website updates are expected to be completed within the next two weeks.

EA is preparing for a score setting study for Praxis Test 5531: Pre-Kindergarten Education.

EA is reviewing Praxis Test 5204: Teaching Reading and the Massachusetts Reading Assessment to see which test will best assess our teacher education candidates’ preparation to work with early readers.

EA is working with Pearson and AEA to host the regional edTPA conference for 2018.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING
Educator Recruitment/Placement, Debra Gosha


The application for the Alabama Process can be downloaded from our Website. On the Home page, click on Department Offices, Office of Teaching and Leading, scroll down to Educator Recruitment and Placement, AND click on NBPTS.

If you have questions regarding the process contact Mrs. Debra Gosha by telephone at 334-242-9935.

This a great retention tool to keep teachers in our state. Teacher retention is a prevalent issue in our state. What better way to retain all teachers in all locations across the state.

By encouraging teachers to become Nationally Board Certified, the total of accomplished teachers will continue to rise and students across the state will receive the same quality education.

National Board Certification and Back to School Extravaganza – September 9, 2017 at 9:00
Alabama State University Ralph D. Abernathy Hall

Enroll on Chalkable PD Today. The PD Title is ASU0006697. For more information about National Board Certification CLICK.
Educator Certification Productivity Report

- Number of applications logged into the database during the month of July: 1,788
- Number of certificates and substitute licenses issued during the month of July: 1,639
- Number of individuals certificates were renewed for during the month of July: 401
- Number of files that are pending (awaiting test scores, experience, etc.): 623
- Number of answered telephone calls through Customer Service during the month of July: 2,508

Provisional Certificate Deadlines

Applications for a:
- Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF),
- Provisional Certificate in a Career and Technical Teaching Field (PCCT),
- Provisional Certificate in Library Media or School Counseling (PCLS),
- Preliminary Certificate or Preliminary Certificate through Exception (second or third, if eligible), and
- Business and Industry to Educational Administrator Certificate (BIEA)

must be received in the Educator Certification Section by October 1, 2017. Application forms may be found HERE (click Provisional Certificates).

An individual who completed the:
- PCTF
- PCCT

...during the 2016-2017 scholastic year must submit an application for the Professional Educator Certificate. The application must be received in the Educator Certification Section by October 1, 2017. Application forms may be found HERE (click Provisional Certificates).

Provisional Certificate Exceptions

A memorandum dated August 8, 2017, was forwarded to city and county superintendents advising of two exceptions for issuance of provisional or alternative certificates. The exceptions are regarding the minimum overall GPA required for issuance of the first provisional certificate in teaching fields (PCTF and PCCT) and the number of years an individual may be employed on the basis of holding an alternative or provisional certificate. The revised application forms may be found HERE (click Provisional Certificates).

Substitute Licenses

Educator Certification has several instances in which Substitute License applications or fees submitted with these applications must be returned. Many of the returns involve submission of fees that the applicant was not required to pay because a fee is already on file or the applicant's substitute teacher license is not yet expired. Fortunately, in a few instances, we are able to catch this and return the money order, however, electronic fees cannot be refunded.

Please assist applicants by checking the portal to ensure that the applicant actually needs to submit an application for a new sub license and that a fee is absolutely necessary. This will greatly reduce the number of returns and potentially save money.

Department Updates

OFFICE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & TURNAROUND (OSIT)

Dr. Jermall D. Wright, SPECIAL ASSISTANT

The Office of School Improvement and Turnaround (OSIT) oversees and coordinates all school and district improvement initiatives of the ALSDE. As part of its mission, OSIT focuses on a partnership and systems approach to identifying the best evidence-based solutions to improve outcomes in schools and districts throughout the State of Alabama.

2017-18 OSIT Plan of Support

Priority support and assistance from OSIT will be provided to 14 schools and 11 districts.
- 14 schools (representing 10 districts) were selected based on a 5-year consecutive appearance on the AAA list
· 3/14 have already received instructional audits, received support with creating action plans to address deficiencies and have been assigned a “coach” to work with school teams on the implementation and monitoring of action plans in 17-18. A similar complementary process is also in place at the district level based on the district review completed.

· The remaining 11/14 schools and 9 districts will receive the same support and participate in the same improvement processes

· An additional district is also receiving prioritized support and technical assistance from OSIT (Barbour County)

Secondary support and assistance may be provided to other previously identified focus, priority, and AAA schools as determined by OSIT staff or as requested by LEAs.

Designated OSIT personnel are also continuing to provide support, coaching, and monitoring to seven SIG schools, representing nine districts.

Happenings in OSIT
OSIT Team invited to State Turnaround Convening in San Francisco

Alabama serves as a member of the Network of State Turnaround and Improvement Leaders; this group recently provided feedback on a school turnaround article published by the Center on School Turnaround (CST), named Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement: A Systems Framework. The CST worked with the American Institute for Research (AIR) to sponsor a state work session on the Four Domains article on August 16-17, 2017 to which OSIT team members were invited. Objectives included building states’ capacity to support districts as they manage school improvement processes, reflecting on states’ systems of support, and establishing a community of practice among states (AL, AR, BIE, CA, CO, KY, MD, MS, NH, OK and UT all sent state teams to this event). The opportunity to discuss and draft a theory of action for OSIT was particularly beneficial. Team members left with a plethora of resources, such as strategic performance management documents and tools for building readiness at the district level for school turnaround.

OSIT and School Leadership in Alabama

Members from the Office of School Improvement and Turnaround recently attended a work session sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) focusing on principal leadership. Realizing the importance of leadership with any school improvement efforts, the Office of School Improvement and Turnaround seeks to ensure that all leaders, whether novice or experienced, are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to drive a system of improvement for all students.

OSIT is currently working on a framework to guide the work and will continue to use the 2017-18 school year for planning, with full implementation to begin in 2018-19.

Our OSIT Team

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Karen Anderson Ph.D., Education Administrator
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School Improvement Grant (SIG) Program
Turnaround School Leaders (TSLP) Project
Alabama Consortium for Turnaround (PACT)

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Montgomery County & Wilcox County

Kathleen Knight, Support Specialist
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Selma City, Birmingham City, Barbour County, Washington County, Bullock County & Barbour County

Meg G. Lowry, Education Administrator
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SIG Coach, Tech Support & Mobile County Regional Support

Cicely Miller, Support Specialist
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Montgomery County & Wilcox County

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smohon@alsde.edu · (205) 410-2319

Data, Assessment, Regional Support for Tuscaloosa City, Greene County & Linden City

Melissa Shields, Support Coordinator
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Birmingham City District & Selma City

Christine Spear, Education Administrator
cspear@alsde.edu · (334) 353-5320

Response to Instruction (RTI)

School Improvement Grants (SIG)

Karen Winn, Support Coordinator
kwinn@alsde.edu · (256) 283-1935

Washington County, Barbour County & Bullock County