



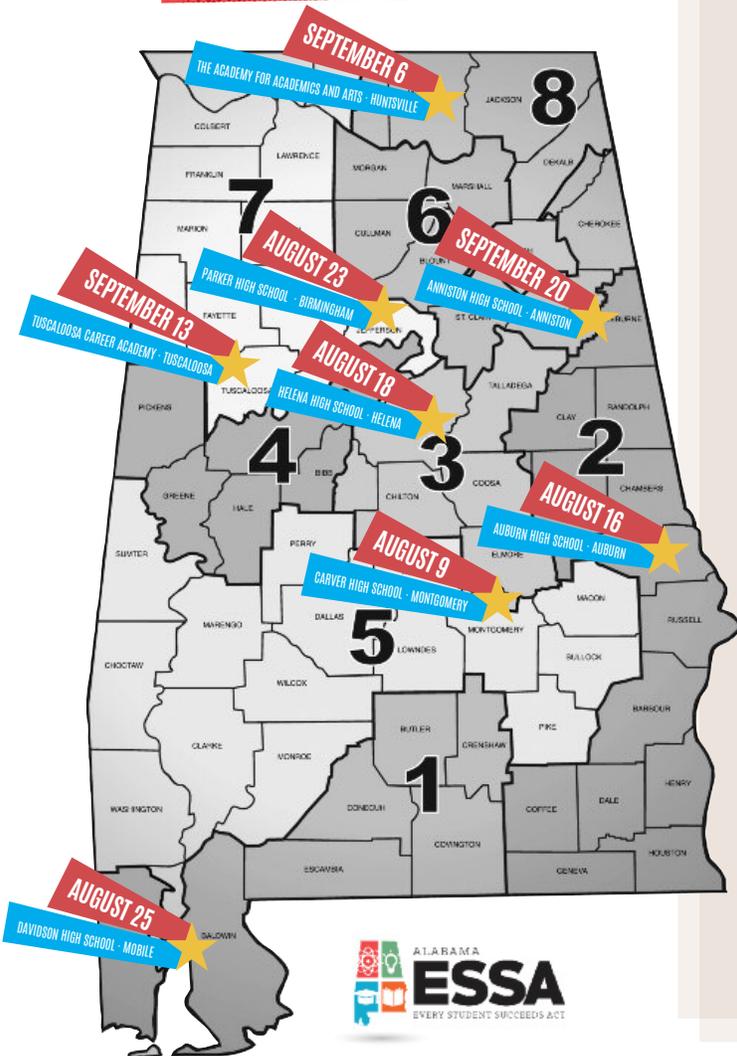
AEN *Alabama Education News*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Community Engagement Tour Kicks Off!

The Every Student Succeeds Act allows states and schools to innovate with a focus on accountability, systems of improvement, and a more balanced assessment system. Join us to learn about and give input on Alabama's continuing work on a strategic plan for our schools!

What is **ESSA?** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOUR 2016



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOUR DATES

August 9

Montgomery County Schools · Carver High School
2001 W Fairview Avenue · Montgomery, AL 36108

August 16

Auburn City Schools · Auburn High School Performing Arts Ctr
405 S Dean Road · Auburn, AL 36830

August 18

Shelby County Schools · Helena High School
1310 Hillsboro Parkway · Helena, AL 35080

August 23

Birmingham City Schools · Parker High School
400 Rev. Abraham Woods Jr. Blvd. · Birmingham, AL, 35204

August 25

Mobile County Schools · Davidson High School
3900 Pleasant Valley Road · Mobile, AL 36609

September 6

Huntsville City Schools · The Academy for Academics and Arts
4800 Sparkman Drive NW · Huntsville, AL 35810

September 13

Tuscaloosa City Schools · Tuscaloosa Career & Technology Acad.
2800 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. · Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

September 20

Anniston City Schools · Anniston Performing Arts Center
1301 Woodstock Avenue · Anniston, AL 36202



September is Alabama Attendance Awareness Month!



Educators know the importance of attendance in schools and the negative impact that absenteeism has on learning, and we need your help to spread the word! To combat the problem of chronic absenteeism, the Alabama State Department of Education is once again showcasing the need to be at school every day with **Attendance Awareness month this September!**

By promoting "Alabama Attendance Awareness Month" students and parents can become more aware of the crucial need for students in school when the bell rings. Resources located at <http://awareness.attendanceworks.org> offer great [materials](#) to assist your LEA. These free materials may be used in newsletters, websites, [social media graphics](#) and other external communications, in order to spread the word and achieve perfect

Share your exciting ideas with Prevention and Support Services Section and the Communications Section by emailing Dr. Kay Warfield at kwarfield@alsde.edu!

attendance for the month September and the rest of the year! Posters, videos and other materials are found on the site pages. Spanish versions are available as well.

Please share ALSDE related social media posts located on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Pinterest](#). Also, www.gradnation.org may serve as a springboard for incorporating effective attendance improvement/enhancing activities into your school processes. Tag the department on Twitter using @aldeptofed and use #schooleveryday to share your success!

We also ask that you share exciting ideas with Prevention and Support Services Section and the Communications Section by emailing Dr. Kay Warfield at kwarfield@alsde.edu. Together, we will coordinate learning support services and innovative pathways to address attendance as the major contributor for facilitating academic and behavioral success of our students.

2016-2017 Student Advisory Council

Student interaction and interest in state level policies and programs utilized daily is integral to our work and to Plan 2020's goals. Having a Student Advisory Council allows for direct input from our greatest stakeholder – the student.

The State Superintendent Student Advisory Council is a group of 16 middle or secondary school students (two from each board member's district) who will discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting students throughout Alabama.

To apply: A memo and subsequent emails will be sent to all high school principals with the directive to share the application with Grades 7-12 students in their schools.

Council members will meet two or more times throughout the school year (in person or virtually) with the State Superintendent. Members are advisors that act as liaisons between the State Department of Education and the students of Alabama. Members will gather input from their district on students' needs or opinions on state level policies or directives. The superintendent will bring any recommendations to the State Board of Education at the May meeting.

Students may apply for the advisory council at the beginning of each school year, by September 5 by obtaining an application from their school or [here](#). Members are chosen by a committee of Alabama State Department of Education and education organization representatives based on a rubric.

Members will be advised of their selection by September 20, 2016.



The Network for Alabama Teaching Fellows

In 2015, the Network for Alabama Teaching Fellows was conceptualized and actualized through the collaborative efforts of the [Alabama State Department of Education](#) (ALSDE), [Alabama Education Association](#) (AEA), and [A+ Education Partnership](#). The NATF was created for the primary purpose of unifying individual voices of Alabama educators into one, collective, powerful voice to improve educational outcomes for all students. To accomplish this, 22 Teacher Fellows were selected to represent educators throughout the 11 in-service regions in Alabama for a three-year service term. Each Fellow was vetted through a nomination and application process. Our Teacher Fellows are highly effective educators who possess a deep-seated desire to be leaders in the teaching field and have the time to commit to participating in the network over the course of the service term.

During the NATF's first year, Teacher Fellows and NATF partners have worked to

develop the foundational components that will help guide this initiative forward and support in the effort to influence state and local education policies.

This year the NATF focused on building connections with Alabama educators and other educational stakeholders; developing online, interactive state and regional professional learning communities (PLCs) that will allow educators to communicate directly with their colleagues both throughout the state and at the ALSDE; and gathering information concerning the primary challenges educators face on a daily basis that will be used to drive future NATF activities.

To learn more about the NATF and joining our work, please click [HERE](#).

Meet a few of the NATF Fellows



Hilary Ellis is a 14 year educator employed with Enterprise City Schools as an instructional partner. She has taught 4th, 6th, and 7th grades and has also served as a special education teacher. Mrs. Ellis holds an Ed.S in Curriculum and Instruction, a Masters in Educational Leadership and Early Childhood Education, and a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She was the 2014-15 Enterprise City Schools Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Ellis is passionate about partnering with teachers to successfully implement the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards in an engaging way that prepares all students to be college and career ready. She loves to serve teachers and students each day.



Carla Davis Griffin has a B.S. from Athens State College, Elementary Education; M.A., University of North Alabama, Elementary Ed.; Ed.S., University of North Alabama, Elementary Ed.; NBCT, National Board Certified Teacher, Middle Childhood Generalist; M.A. Level Certification, University of Alabama; Gifted Education Specialist; 6th Grade Teacher- 12 years; At-Risk Teacher, 9-12th grades- 1 year; Director of State and Federal Grants- 7 years; Gifted Education Specialist, K-12 System Wide- 4 years (Current Position); Married to Jeff Griffin for 27 years; One Daughter, Grace, age 12; Hobbies and Likes: Studying God's Word, Traveling, Family time, Reading, Coffee, Anything beach related, Rainstorms, Puppy breath, and Dogs



Antonia B. Owens is a teacher with the Montgomery Public Schools. She is passionate about teaching and learning. Mrs. Owens is currently seated on the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA) board as past-president and was selected to serve as one of the first GPS network Facilitators with NEA where she remains as a contributing member. She currently serves as a member of the 2014-16 AEA CADREA.

She is a graduate of the AEA Emerging Leaders and Bell Team Training and is currently serving a two year term on the AEA Legislative Commission. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Tuskegee University (Institute) and a Master's of Science in Supervision and Administration from Troy State University at Montgomery. She enjoys reading, arts and crafts, walking, traveling and family. She is a member of The Greater Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and The Tuskegee Chapter of the Links, Inc. Antonia is a native of Alexander City and is married to Josephus.



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6. Select the open seats in your section. Open seats will be green.
7. Click **Continue**, then **Checkout**
8. If you have an account, please sign in to proceed. If you do not, click on the register button located in the New Online Customer box.
9. Complete your order and receive the tickets in the mail two weeks before kickoff!



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2016



INTERESTED IN ADDITIONAL GAMES?

Please give me a call and we can discuss our other ticketing options. If you have family members or friends who would like to attend an Auburn football game this season, please share my contact information with them!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF AUBURN ATHLETICS! **WAR EAGLE!**



MATTHEW SMITH

(334) 844-8663 | MATTHEW.SMITH@AUBURN.EDU



Do you have the ALSDE App?

The ALSDE app will help you navigate the Alabama State Department of Education website faster and with more ease. Obtaining directions, contact information, and calendar dates can all be found on the app. Quick access to the Education Directory, *Alabama Education News* magazine, press releases, links to social media, and more, are right at your fingertips! **Come on, get APPY!**



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