



Alabama Education News

THE ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Vol. 39 • No. 8 • Mar 2015

Input Sought On The Comprehensive Counseling And Guidance Model For Alabama Public Schools

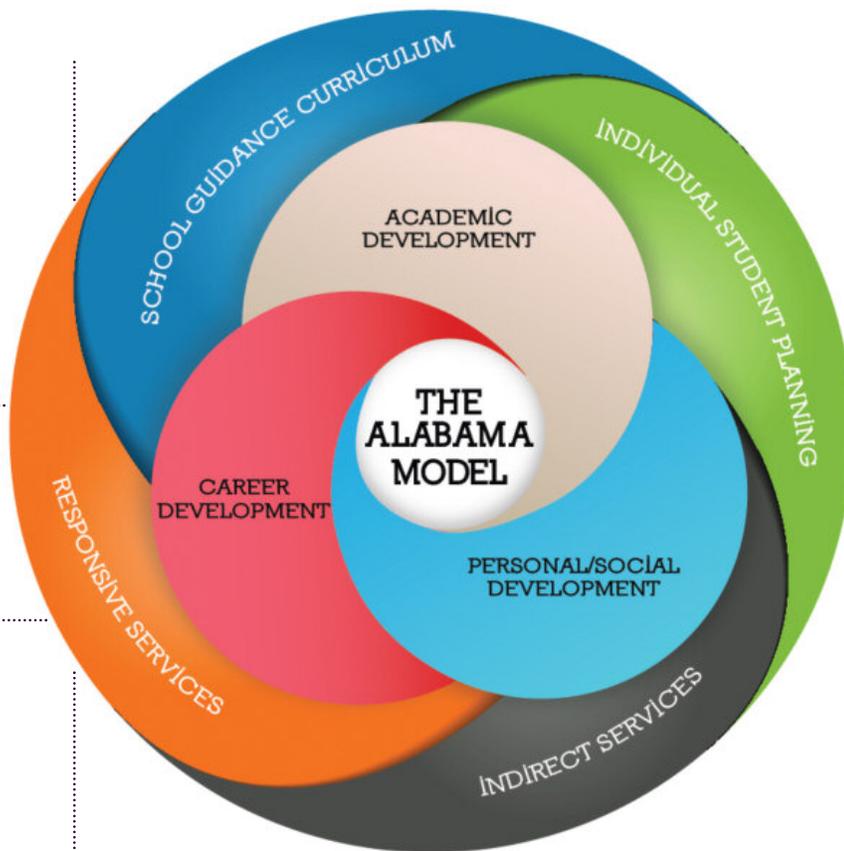
Public Review and Survey of "The Alabama Model" Draft Open Through April 17

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is seeking public input on the draft of the *Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Model for Alabama Public Schools*.

The Comprehensive School Counseling and Guidance Program, also known as "The Alabama Model," is an integral part of the preparation of all students to be college- and career-ready. The draft contains the proposed counseling and guidance program content for Grades K-12.

The Alabama Model encompasses the following tenants:

1. All students will be provided with access to a rigorous and relevant education.
2. All students will be given the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the systematic and developmentally appropriate program.
3. All students will receive a student-centered and data-informed counseling program that promotes academic achievement, career readiness, and personal/social development.



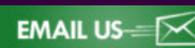
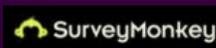
The draft document, including a survey response [link](#), may be reviewed through Friday, April 17, 2015, on the ALSDE website [HERE](#).

The ALSDE's Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development Section has hosted two public hearings to gather input from stakeholders on The Alabama Model draft document, and will host a third from 7 to 8 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2015, at Trenholm State Technical College, 1225 Airbase Boulevard, Building D, Montgomery, Alabama.

ACCRS Standards of the Week

Feel free to promote on your Web site, newsletter, and social media sites!

[Here's the link](#) to the page for all ACCRS Standard of the Week images.





Thank you! *InsideOut*: Stay in School Week

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), The [Mattie C. Stewart Foundation](#), and the Lawler Foundation of Birmingham recently partnered to bring even greater awareness to the importance of graduating from high school and taking a frank, honest, look at the reality of what happens to those who do not.

During "***InsideOut*: Stay in School Week**," March 2-6, 2015, the ALSDE encouraged all middle and high schools throughout the state to dedicate time to watch the 26-minute, emotionally gripping documentary entitled "***InsideOut*."** The film, shot in two Alabama maximum security prisons, exposes the devastating and lasting effects of dropping out of school by those who live with the consequences every day – prison inmates.

The week resulted in great interaction and engagement on Twitter with the #insideout and physically with the over 2000 students who viewed the DVD firsthand with Dr. Shelly Stewart of the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation and ALSDE staff. Hundreds of students were able experience the Choice Bus.

The nationally recognized "Choice Bus" visited Alabama high schools in Mobile, Montgomery, and Bessemer. The Choice Bus is an experienced-based learning tool designed to show young people the power of education, as well as the likely consequences of choosing to drop out of school.

Numerous media articles reported on the events and the dedication that educators and students show every day to working hard and staying in school. Dr. Stewart was featured on [al.com](#) and on WSFA 12's Editorial speaking on the importance of staying in school. Check out all the pictures from the week on [ALSDE's Flickr page](#).

According to national statistics, a student somewhere in America drops out of school every 26 seconds. That's 7,000 every day, and more than 1.3 million every year. Sadly, 8 out of 10 high school dropouts will end up in prison. In addition, each class of drop outs costs the United States more than \$329 billion in lost wages – not to mention \$40 billion spent on prisoner incarceration each year.

Career Tech Student's Training Leads to Big Rewards

by: Carolyn Drinkard, Public Relations/Marketing, Thomasville City Schools

While most high school students were enjoying Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, **Culvain Strang** was working a shut-down in Mississippi, taking apart a boiler. When his supervisor found out that he could weld, Strang was able to use the skills he had learned in the Welding Program at Thomasville High School. The hourly pay rate for the job was \$23, with overtime paying \$34.50, plus per diem and travel. Strang got to work 15 days during the holidays and drew quite a hefty paycheck for a young man, who is still a senior in high school.

Strang started the dual enrollment welding program during his junior year. This unique program is a collaborative partnership involving Thomasville City Schools, the City of Thomasville, and Alabama Southern Community College. During their junior year, students first work in a 15-unit welding center on the THS campus. Then, during their senior year, they move to the Alabama Southern Community College campus for part of the day to take welding and other related courses. When Strang graduates in May, he will be able to take two or three more semesters at ASCC to receive his certificate.

Strang's welding instructors were not surprised when they heard about his working during school holidays. "Culvin wants to learn," said Jeff McCutcheon, the THS welding instructor. "I never had to tell Culvin to do anything. He always came in and got right to the job he had to do. So many other students have the talents, but they choose not to develop them. It's all about making the right choices, and Culvin's got a good head on his shoulders!"

Strang's instructor at Alabama Southern, Brian McIntosh, also had high praise for his student: "If I had a shop full of Culvain Strangs, my job would be easy. Culvin follows the safety procedures and the rules of the shop 100%. Teaching Culvin is not really teaching; it's coaching."

In May, Strang will graduate with a 4.0 average on the Advanced with Honors Diploma Program. He praised all his high school teachers for his academic success, but one actually kept him from making a really bad decision. His 9th grade science teacher, Stephanie Wright, encouraged Strang to stay in the more rigorous academic diploma program. "I wanted to drop out of the Advanced with Honors Program, but she convinced me not to," he stated. "Mrs. Wright kept telling me that I could do it and urging me to try." Strang noted that Mrs. Wright still checks on him and encourages him to do his best.



Culvain Strang (left), with his father, Dana (center), and brother Nathaniel (right).

Strang says the person who has most influenced his life, however, is his dad. "My dad lives what he says," said Strang. "He always told my brother and me that 'if you don't work, you don't eat'. I've worked all my life," he laughed, "but I like to work!"

Strang's parents, Dana and Pam Strang, have encouraged him to go on to college, but at this point in his life, he wants to finish his welding degree at Alabama Southern and get a job.

"I like working with my hands," Strang said. "I don't like sitting in a classroom. I really want to work construction, like my Dad did. Then I can see where this takes me."

Welding instructor, Brian McIntosh, has no doubts Strang will succeed at whatever he tries. "He's just a natural. If he stays at what he's doing, he will be one of the best!"

The future looks very bright for this hard-working Career Tech student!



Alabama Southern Community College's welding instructor, Brian McIntosh (right) assists Culvain Strang during a class project.

National Read Across America Day

Can you say, 'Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss'? Yes, they can and did! Maybe not in a boat, nor with a goat, but thousands of Alabama Public School students, parents, and educators celebrated Read Across America this year!



High School Seniors Named as Finalists

Two Alabama School of Fine Art's seniors, Victor Sui and Nath Tumlin, have been named as Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Both are students in the Math and Science department. They qualified from among more than 1.5 million entrants nationwide.

Katlin Minor and Colby Hollman also seniors, have qualified as Finalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Minor is a student in the Math and Science Department and Hollman is a student in the Theater Arts department. They qualified as finalists from among more than 160,000 entrants from across the country.



From the Left: Katlin Minor, Nath Tumlin and Colby Hollman. (Not pictured Victor Sui)

The students were initially picked as Semi-finalists based upon their scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. In order to advance to the Finalist stage, they had to have a record of consistently very high academic performance throughout high school. As Finalists, the students are now being considered to be named Scholars with the opportunity to receive financial awards.

The Alabama School of Fine Arts is a tuition-free, public school located at 1800 Reverend Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd. Birmingham, AL 35203. Admission is by audition only. For more information, please call 205-252-9241 or visit our website at www.asfa.k12.al.us.



Alabama Teachers Recognized for Enhancing Student Learning in Math and Science

Six Alabama teachers were recently honored for being selected as finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) – the nation’s highest honors for K-12 mathematics and science teachers.

The 2014 honorees are elementary (Grades K-6) school teachers who join more than 4,300 teachers nationwide who have been recognized since 1983 for their contributions to mathematics and science education.

“Mathematics and science are vital parts of the curriculum in today’s STEM-oriented world,” said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tommy Bice. “The teachers honored by the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are challenging their students to think critically and solve complex problems with no obvious answer – helping them to develop the 21st century skills business and industry are asking of Alabama’s graduates.”

Alabama’s Presidential Finalists are:

Mathematics Finalists

- **Kim Bowen**, Rainbow Elementary School, Madison City
- **Christi Lambert**, Weeden Elementary School, Florence City
- **Heather Simpson**, Hueytown Elementary School, Jefferson County

Science Finalists

- **Debra Elmore**, Athens Intermediate School, Athens City
- **Julie Neidhardt**, Dawes Intermediate School, Mobile County
- **Taryn Sanders**, G.W. Carver Elementary School, Macon County

The honorees were recognized at the March Alabama State Board of Education board meeting. Prior to the meeting, they were lauded at an awards luncheon at the RSA Plaza Terrace in Montgomery, where they received the National Science Foundation Certificate of Honor in Mathematics and Science Teaching. 2012 Alabama PAEMST awardees Danielle Peterson and Rita Schell were also acknowledged during the ceremony.

Peterson shared details about her experience in Washington, D.C., where she and other national winners were congratulated by President Barack Obama. In addition to an all-expenses paid trip to the nation’s Capital, national winners receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

For the 2015 Awards, nominate outstanding secondary (Grades 7-12) mathematics and science teachers by April 1, 2015. For more information, visit www.paemst.org, or contact Dr. Carolyn Townsend, Office of Instructional Services, Alabama State Department of Education, 334-353-5440 or ctownsend@alsde.edu.

Alabama Shakespeare Festival Grant Aims to Expose More Students to The Bard's Plays

The results of a recent study by [EducationNext](#) conclude that field trips to see live theater demonstrates that seeing plays is an effective way to teach academic content; increases student tolerance by providing exposure to a broader, more diverse world; and improves the ability of students to recognize what other people are thinking or feeling.

The Montgomery-based Alabama Shakespeare Festival (ASF) aims to bring lessons to life on stage through its Schoolfest Program. Each year thousands of students from across Alabama and the Southeast attend Schoolfest weekday K-12 student matinees, which provide an opportunity for students to see curriculum-linked productions at greatly reduced prices. In addition, study guides are available on ASF's website for Schoolfest plays to help students familiarize themselves with the plot, characters and other critical details before they see the show.

Schoolfest has gotten even more of a boost in the form of a grant award from Shakespeare in American Communities, a national program managed by Arts Midwest in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). ASF is among 40 nonprofit, professional theater companies across 25 states that received a \$25,000 grant for the 2014-2015 school year to present live productions to students from at least 10 schools, as well as accompanying educational activities such as school residencies, workshops, or post performance discussions.

That includes covering the cost of tickets, transportation and substitutes for schools that qualify for the criteria outlined in the grant. ASF Marketing Director Katie Perkowski said the theater will likely seek the grant again for the 2015-2016 school year.

During a recent Schoolfest performance of "Alice in Wonderland," students from schools in Marbury, Daleville, and Rehoboth, Alabama, watched intently as Alice, White Rabbit, Mad

Hatter, Cheshire Cat, the Queen of Hearts, and other memorable characters, were brought to life by members of the theater's Intern Acting Company.

After the performance, the cast participated in a "Talk Back," in which students asked questions ranging from "What is the best way to become an actor?" to "How long does it take you to memorize your lines?" to "What has been your favorite acting job so far?" Many of the students left the theater praising the performance, which some said had inspired them to think about



pursuing an acting career.

Select grant award Schoolfest performances are still open. The upcoming available dates for high school students are for King Lear: April 17, 21, 22, and 24 or The Importance of Being Earnest April 29 or April 30.

To learn more, call Katie Petrowski at 334-271-5326 or kperkowski@asf.net, or click [here](#).



Saints Engineering Day

Mechanical



Selma High

Civil

Presents

Materials

The First Annual

Chemical

Aerospace

E-Day

Wireless

Electrical



Architectural

Computer Science

Saturday

April 11, 2015 at 8 a.m.

Selma High School 2180 Broad Street, Selma, AL 36701

nsbesaints@gmail.com or D. Davis 334.419.7107

“Come Join Us and Make This A Success”

Alabama Among Top States For Substantial Growth In Summer Food Service Program

Summer Meals Provided to Children Increased By Nearly 20 Percent from 2013 to 2014

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) is once again recognizing Alabama for its efforts in helping to decrease the summer "nutrition gap," citing Alabama among the Top 10 states in the nation that are continuing to increase the number of healthy meals provided to children when school is not in session.

According to the most recent USDA data, the state's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors served a total of 1,995,852 meals in 2014, up from 1,650,896 in 2013. In addition, 172,173 children were served last year, compared with 137,537 in 2013.

As such, **Alabama ranks No. 7 in the nation** among the USDA "Targeted Technical Assistance States" charged with focusing on increasing SFSP awareness and participation.

The intent of the partnership is to provide service to children who are at risk of experiencing hunger when school is out. More than half of the families whose children eat a subsidized school meal have a harder time making ends meet during the summer.

Recently, representatives from the USDA's Atlanta-

based Southeast Regional Office presented the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Section with an award in recognition of the state's accomplishment. The CNP administers the Summer Food Service Program in Alabama.

The honor states: "In recognition of your dedication to increasing awareness and access to summer meals for the children of Alabama through new partnerships and creativity for the FY2014 USDA Food and Nutrition Services State Technical Assistance Team Initiative."

Alabama has once again been tasked by the USDA to continue boosting its efforts to increase the number of summer meals served to children, helping them stay healthy during the summer and thus ready to learn when they return to school in the fall.

Information about the SFSP can be obtained by contacting the Alabama State Department of Education Child Nutrition Program Section at 334-242-8249 or visiting www.BreakforaPlate.com.



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS ON USTREAM.TV!



SEE YOUR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN ACTION [HERE](#).
SEE [LIVE VIDEO](#) EVERY BOARD MEETING AND WORK SESSION.
[WATCH THE ARCHIVED VIDEOS](#) ANYTIME YOU WANT!

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

President – Gov. Robert Bentley

District 1 – Al Thompson

District 2 – Betty Peters

District 3 – Stephanie Bell

District 4 – Yvette M. Richardson

District 5 – Ella B. Bell, Vice President

District 6 – Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.

District 7 – Jeff Newman, President Pro Tem

District 8 – Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.

State Superintendent of Education and Secretary and Executive Officer – Thomas R. Bice



AEN EDITORIAL STAFF

Managing Editor: Dr. Michael O. Sibley

Contributing Editors: Ed Crenshaw | Erica S. Pippins

Malissa Valdes-Hubert, APR

Graphic Artist: Charles V. Creel

Contact **Alabama Education News**

334-242-9950 (p) · 334-353-4682 (f)

aen@alsde.edu (e) · www.alsde.edu (w)

Alabama Education News

P.O. Box 302101

Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Alabama Education News (USPS #387-290) is published monthly by the Alabama State Department of Education, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101. This publication, authorized by Section 16-2-4 of the *Code of Alabama*, as recompiled in 1975, is a public service of the Alabama Department of Education designed to inform citizens and educators about programs and goals of public education in Alabama.

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, gender, race, religion, national origin, color, age or genetics.

Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8165.