

WHAT'S INSIDE ...

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- Good News
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STATE REPORT CARDS PROVIDE MORE ACCOUNTABILITY DATA

Continuing its commitment to help parents, students, and community

members better understand measurable progress in the state's public schools, the Alabama Board of Education released the 2003-2004 *School Accountability Report Card* on March 10. The annual state summary also signaled the release of customized school and system report cards. Printed copies for each public school have been sent home to parents.

Each year, revisions are made to better meet requirements of the federal *No Child Left Behind* law and increase knowledge about performance. A new online companion to the printed report cards provides even more useful, easy-to-understand information for each of Alabama's public schools.

IN ALL, THERE ARE SIX VERSIONS OF ALABAMA'S SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. State Summary | 3. Middle School | 5. K-12 School |
| 2. Elementary School | 4. High School | 6. System |

ALL OF THE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS ARE DIVIDED INTO FOUR BASIC AREAS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. General School Information | 3. Academic Performance |
| 2. State Accountability | 4. Taxpayers' Report |

The 2003-2004 reports outline even more academic and financial details of the state's K-12 public schools than in years past. New features added include: the percentage of highly qualified teachers; adequate yearly progress (AYP) status; 11th grade results from the *Alabama High School Graduation Exam*; and detailed student scores from the state's newest assessment, the *Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test*.

Report card items grade schools from an A to F on selected indicators ranging from academic achievement to financial support.



Additionally, charts, tables, and graphs measure how well students, schools, and school systems perform.

The Alabama Department of Education began producing school accountability report cards in 1996. Four years later, Alabama became the first state in the nation to require public schools to send easy-to-read report cards with letter grades home to parents. In addition to the comprehensive state summary, there are multiple versions of report cards.

(Continued on page 3)

BOARD BRIEFS

MARCH AGENDA ITEMS:

- Approved Resolution Commending Naomi Wolf, Candidate, Presidential Scholar in the Arts
- Approved Resolution in Recognition of Alabama's National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts 2005 Arts Recognition and Talent Search Winners
- Approved Resolution Commending Victor Cross, State Honoree, 2005 Prudential Spirit of Community Award
- Approved Resolutions Commending Ashley Graves and Dana Lewis, Distinguished Finalists, 2005 Prudential Spirit of Community Award
- Approved Resolution Removing the Dale County School System from State Financial Intervention
- Approved Substitution of Later Edition of Science Textbooks
- Approved Resolution Adopting Statewide Professional Development Standards
- Approved Appointments to the Alabama School of Fine Arts Board of Trustees

USING THE EDUCATIONAL RULER



A method to effectively measure the strategic goals established by the Alabama Board of Education, the Educational Ruler, was adopted and is recognized as the instrument used to chart the course of progress in Alabama public schools.

At the helm of this educational vessel, **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON** and state Board members outline the specific, measurable objectives being used in each category of the Educational Ruler diagram to successfully implement the concept and more importantly, achieve the expected results.

With the primary categories of the Ruler being **Safe and Disciplined Schools**, **Quality Teachers**, **Challenging Curricula**, and **Effective School Leaders**, each area was broken into various sections with each section establishing a measurable goal and each goal given a projected completion date.

For example, under the **Safe and Disciplined Schools** category, in the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) and Alabama Reading First Initiative (ARFI) sections, 1 of 18 objectives is to “reduce discipline referrals in ARI/ARFI schools by maximizing student engagement in learning until no more than 10 percent of the school’s population is referred for disciplinary action” by fiscal year 2007.

Under **Quality Teachers** in the Federal Programs Section, 1 of 27 goals is to “provide evidence that all ‘new’ teachers in school improvement schools are participating in a mentoring program to ensure that well-prepared teachers are in classrooms as required by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*” by fiscal year 2007.

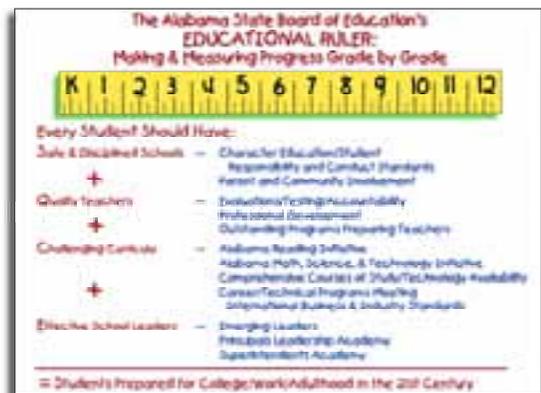
“The execution of the Educational Ruler not only provides a blueprint for the state Department of Education to map out its mission, but it also helps provide coordination between existing programs within the department, allowing them to work together to share information and work toward a common goal,” said Morton.

To develop a plan to reach continuous improvement, each area must examine its current initiatives and pair them against where they want to be by the completion date. They will then need to evaluate key performance indicators to determine which areas are effective or ineffective and establish a strategy (who, where, and how) to meet the goal. Lastly, once implemented, each area will go back and evaluate its plan to see which strategies are working toward achieving the goal and which are not.

DR. RUTH ASH, Deputy State Superintendent of Education, said the plan for continuous improvement can be simply stated, “Plan, Do, Check, Act.” The model will be customer-focused, systematic, data-driven, and aligned. “While everyone is working to meet the expectations of the Educational Ruler, aligned improvements will ensure everyone is pulling in the same direction,” Ash pointed out.

Methods to aid in the continuous improvement process include, but are not limited to, training materials for course of study implementation, professional trainers, coaches, and lesson plan and training evaluation.

In large part, Ash said, the goals of the Educational Ruler will be achieved by imparting knowledge to local schools systems that receive the Ruler as a tool, not a mandate. 🍏



(Continued from page 1)

Elementary, middle, high, and K-12 schools each receive customized report cards. Many results compare the individual school to the combined performance of schools within the local system and to state results. Additionally, a report card is prepared for each school system. It shows the combined results

for all the schools in the local system and compares those results to the state.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view report cards for the state, school systems, and public schools. 🍏

Staffing

Highly Qualified Teachers

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) requires that teachers demonstrate subject knowledge and teaching skills in the subject(s) and grade level(s) they teach. The graphs to the right represent the percent of current core academic subject classes taught by highly qualified teachers as well as the percent of current teachers who have met NCLB requirements.



Adequate Yearly Progress Status for 2004-2005

Based on School Year 2003-2004 Data

State accountability in Alabama is based on the federal law known as the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB). NCLB uses the term Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to describe whether a school or system has met all of its annual accountability goals

Reading				
Student Group	Percent Participation Goal = 75.0%	Met Participation AYP	Proficiency Rates Goal = 60%	Met Proficiency AYP
All Students	84.58	Yes	71.88	Yes
Special Education Students	88.07	Yes	70.14	Yes
American Indian/Alaska Native	90.88	Yes	65.39	Yes
Asian/Pacific Islander	101.19	Yes	68.05	Yes
Black	83.74	Yes	47.75	Yes
Hispanic	91.48	Yes	51.88	Yes
White	93.74	Yes	68.59	Yes
Limited English Proficient	No Data	No	50.47	Yes
Residentially Mobile	88.81	Yes	63.03	Yes

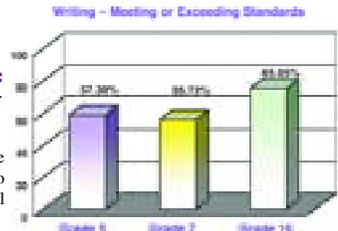
Mathematics				
Student Group	Percent Participation Goal = 75.0%	Met Participation AYP	Proficiency Rates Goal = 60%	Met Proficiency AYP
All Students	85.87	Yes	69.4	Yes
Special Education Students	87.83	Yes	63.88	Yes
American Indian/Alaska Native	99.41	Yes	69.04	Yes
Asian/Pacific Islander	101.21	Yes	69.03	Yes
Black	84.87	Yes	57.9	Yes
Hispanic	88.11	Yes	61.4	Yes
White	93.71	Yes	67.88	Yes
Limited English Proficient	No Data	No	53.4	Yes
Residentially Mobile	89.87	Yes	67.8	Yes

Additional Academic Indicators						
Student Group	Attendance Rate Goal = 95.0%	Attendance Rate	Met Attendance AYP	Four-Year Promoted Dropout Rate Goal = 10.0%	Four-Year Promoted Dropout Rate Previous Year	Met Four-Year Promoted Dropout AYP
All Students	93.87	98.1	Yes	10.8	11	Yes

- Not reported, less than 10 students (protects confidentiality).
- ** AYP is met if the goal is met or the goal is within the confidence interval (ensures reliability).
- N/A Not in AYP, less than 40 students (ensures reliability).
- *** AYP is met if the goal is met or there is improvement from the previous year.

Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing 2004

Alabama students in grades five, seven, and ten take the *Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing* each year to measure their writing skills. This table shows how well students met the performance standard on this test.



All Levels	Percent of Students Tested*	STATE		
		GRADE 5	GRADE 7	GRADE 10
Level I	8.13	8.13	7.66	9.13
Level II	24.48	24.48	26.54	21.87
Level III	47.91	47.91	47.58	52.88
Level IV	9.48	9.48	9.22	13.28

* Does not include special education students who took the Alabama Alternate Assessment.

Taxpayers' Report FISCAL YEAR 2003

Spending Per Student

The table shows the spending per student for the state. The letter grade compares the state's per student spending to the Southeast and Nation.

Year	Amount	Southeast	Nation
2002-2003	\$6,318.80	C-	D
2001-2002	\$5,040.46	D+	D

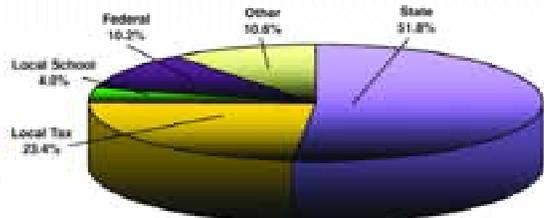
Mills Equivalent

This is the total amount of revenue collected locally for public school purposes, divided by the value of one regular system mill of ad valorem tax.

State	Grade
30.87	C

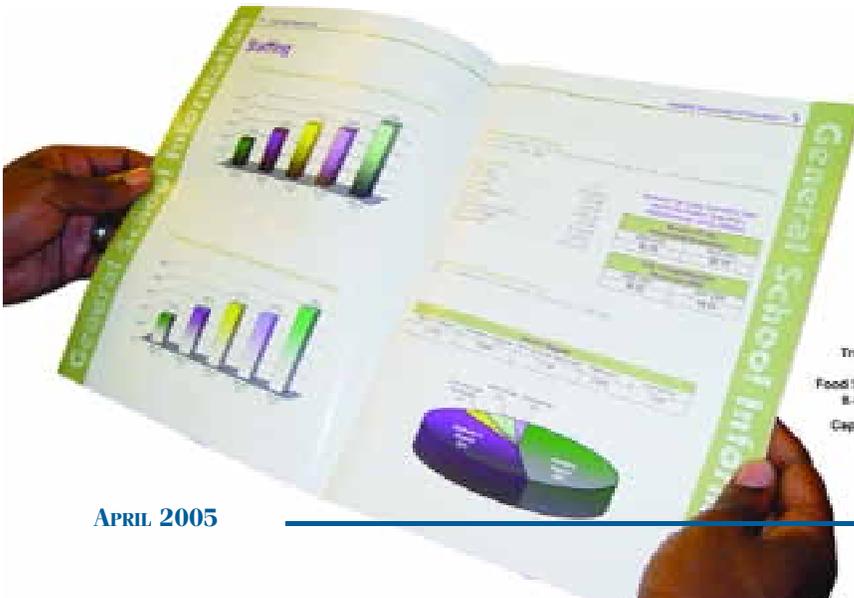
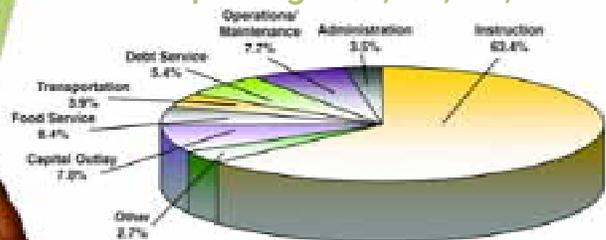
SOURCES OF SCHOOL SYSTEM REVENUES

Total Revenues = \$5,731,464,493.75



USE OF FUNDS

Total Spending = \$5,497,525,529.43



MONTGOMERY STUDENTS SHOW PATRIOTIC SPIRIT

Submitted by Renae Hill, Montgomery Public Schools

Like so many other brave men and women serving our country, the husband of **CHERYL CLARK**, the librarian at Highland Gardens Elementary School, was sent to Afghanistan six months ago. During his deployment, the staff, faculty, and students have been sending him cards and letters. In response to their kindness, **SERGEANT FIRST**



CLASS TED CLARK sent the school an American Flag along with a very touching letter. According to Clark, “the flag was flown in the face of the enemy at his base camp in Afghanistan to show them that America will never give in to terrorism.” In his letter, he also reminded the students that “one of the things that the American Flag stands for is freedom and that there is someone always on the job protecting that freedom – that someone is the American Soldier.” Highland Gardens students have since put away their old flag and replaced it with the one sent by Clark during a flag-raising ceremony March 4.

State Board of Education Member: Ella Bell, District 5
Montgomery County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Carlinda Purcell
Highland Gardens Elementary Principal: Angela James

WINTERBORO STUDENTS PLAY HARMONICA WITH TEACHER IN CHICAGO

Submitted by Sally Chastain, Talladega County Schools

History, culture, and music all came alive for Winterboro High School students recently as they were taught via distance learning by renowned musician **BILLY BRANCH**, live in Chicago. Fifth- and sixth-grade students from across the nation were given up close and personal musical instruction for a full hour as a part of a *Blues in the Schools* program offered by the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. Each student received his/her own harmonica and basic instructions as well as the challenge of practicing to learn to play well.



Branch taught students the basic notes as well as numerous sounding techniques for effectively playing the harmonica. The students played right along with Branch, and by the end of the session, were demonstrating their new skills in playing syncopated rhythms and short tunes.

The Winterboro students were able to participate in this enrichment program through funding of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant.

Distance learning is a totally interactive, audio, and video conferencing capability used daily in the Talladega County School System. Currently, 283 students countywide use this technology in daily classes to receive foreign language, advanced math, and college English composition instruction.



State Board of Education Member: Betty Peters, District 2
Talladega County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Cynthia Elsberry
Winterboro High School Principal: Kevin Maddox

CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CELEBRATE KINDNESS WEEK

The second week of March, students at Cherokee High School in the Colbert County School System celebrated Kindness Week. The school’s Random Acts of Kindness Gang took advantage of the week by planning daily kindness activities with the help of sponsor and teacher **KATHY HAYS**. The volunteer group distributed yellow ribbons and smiley faces throughout the school to remind fellow students to be nice.



According to Hays, the Kindness Gang is a very influential group in the school and their kindness acts are not limited to the one week, but rather the entire school year. Funds have been raised and donated to help victims of the tsunami and Hurricane Ivan as well as groups such as the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross. Most recently, the Kindness Gang helped a displaced family that had lost their home and all of their possessions to a fire by raising money to help them replace needed items. Additionally, the Kindness Gang helped a family in need of financial assistance pay for funeral expenses of a loved one. All the money donated came from students and faculty.

“This has a very positive effect on all of our students,” said **PRINCIPAL RICKY WILLINGHAM**. “We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Hayes’ dedication and belief that there is more to life than academics and that helping others is a vital part of the “life” experience.”

State Board of Education Member: Sandra Ray, District 7
Colbert County Schools Superintendent: Billy Hudson
Cherokee High School Principal: Ricky Willingham

GREEN VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENFORCES “NO BULLY ZONE”

Submitted by Lissa Hines, Green Valley Elementary Counselor

Seven years ago our staff decided to spend six weeks at the beginning of each school year teaching conflict resolution skills. After attending workshops and gathering materials, we developed a “Conflict Resolution Curriculum” for Green Valley – called **A-B-C-D CONFLICT SOLVING**.

A - Ask, “What’s the problem?” Use “I” messages

B - Brainstorm some solutions

C - Choose the best solution

D - DO it!!!

Teachers spend six weeks teaching six basic skills necessary for effective social problem-solving. Large posters are displayed in each classroom and around the school to remind students of the skills they have learned.

This year we decided to expand on the A-B-C-D Conflict Solving model by designating Green Valley a NO BULLY ZONE! We have a schoolwide definition of bullying that all students, faculty, staff, and parents know and understand. Plus, students participate in lessons teaching them how to handle bullying situations and how to stand up for someone who is getting bullied.

There are NO BULLY ZONE signs throughout the school. Additionally, information about bullying has been included in the *Gator Gab* (our school newsletter) and we have a NO BULLYING “spot” (commercial) on our daily closed-circuit television broadcast.

State Board of Education Member: Dr. Ethel Hall, District 4

Hoover City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Connie Williams

Green Valley Elementary School Principal: Linda Campanotta



LITERARY CHARACTERS COME TO LIFE AT HORIZON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Storybook characters made guest appearances at the second annual Horizon Elementary School Family Reading Night held March 15. Faculty, students, and community members all got into the act by dressing up as the characters from their favorite books. Little Red Riding Hood, Pippi Longstocking, Harry Potter, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, and Brer Rabbit, to name a few, showed up for the event designed to promote literacy. Huntsville storyteller **JOHN LEGGETT** was also on hand to join in on the fun as well as performers from the Madison Children’s Theatre.

State Board of Education Member: Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, District 8

Madison City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Henry Clark

Horizon Elementary School Principal: Linda McGuiness



OLIVE DODGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROMOTES AMSTI

What better way to promote the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) than to have 1,100 students holding posters line the streets outside the school as the Governor arrives? That’s what Dodge Elementary School students in Mobile did to welcome **GOV. BOB RILEY** to their AMSTI Site school on March 17.

PRINCIPAL DORIS TILLMAN felt having the student body greet the Governor outside with signs promoting AMSTI would show him just how important the state initiative is to teachers and students. Classrooms and hallways reflected components of AMSTI, providing living proof the initiative is making an effective impact with the daily implementation of the program. “Hopefully, what we have shown the Governor will convince him of the need to have AMSTI in every Alabama school,” said **ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AMSTI COORDINATOR STEVE RICKS** in a thank-you letter to Tillman.

State Board of Education Member: Randy McKinney, District 1

Mobile County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Harold Dodge

Olive Dodge Elementary School Principal: Doris Tillman



Submit your school’s or school system’s Good News story to *Alabama Education News*. If we use your story, you will receive a new Educational Ruler mousepad. [CLICK HERE](#) to send your stories and photos to Rebecca Leigh White or call 334-242-9952.



The 2005 Statewide Family Poster Contest on Parental Involvement is designed to get families thinking and talking about parental involvement and working together as a family in creating their poster. It will also serve as a springboard for local educators in engaging parents in conversations and activities regarding parental involvement.

In a letter to local superintendents dated Feb. 22, State Superintendent of Education **JOE MORTON** wrote,

“RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN ENSURING CHILDREN’S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE. IN ALABAMA, WE STILL HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO IN RAISING AWARENESS OF THE KEY ROLE PARENTS PLAY IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN. MEMBERS OF THE STATEWIDE PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAVE RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SYSTEMS BEGIN NOW TO RAISE AWARENESS THROUGH A FAMILY POSTER CONTEST.”



There will be school-level winners, system-level winners, and a statewide winner. The deadline for school- and system-level poster contests will be determined by each school system.

The deadline for the system-level entries to be submitted to the State Department of Education is May 9.

Out of the 130 school systems, 12 finalists will be selected. Of the 12 posters, one will be selected as the statewide winner and will be featured on billboards located around the state during September and October to kick off October as Statewide Parenting Month.

For further information, please contact your local school system parental involvement coordinator or [Judy Bohannon](#) in the Alabama Department of Education’s Federal Programs Section at 334-242-8199.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

The 87th Annual Alabama PTA Convention will be held Apr. 29-30 in Mobile. [CLICK HERE](#) for further information.

The 2005 Alabama Educational Technology Conference (AETC) – Classrooms: Then and Now will be held June 15-17 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. [CLICK HERE](#) for further information or call 850-906-0099.

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference will be held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN, July 13-16. More than 7,000 high school, middle school grades, and postsecondary educators will be instructed on methods to raise student performance, increase graduation rates, and prepare students for further learning and work. [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

The 2005 Mega Conference – Teaching With One Voice will be held July 19-22 in Mobile. For conference information, contact Hubert Staley at the Alabama Department of Education at 334-242-8114 or [CLICK HERE](#).

Pre-registration Deadline: Apr. 29

AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Panasonic Academic Challenge is a national high school competition that awards scholarships to winning teams. This year’s event will be held at Disney World in Orlando, June 18-21. [CLICK HERE](#) to contact Peggy B. Harrod or call 863-968-5168 or [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the Web site.

The Technology Opportunities Program promotes the widespread availability and use of advanced telecommunications technologies demonstrating how networks support lifelong learning for all Americans. \$12.4 million is available to schools nationwide. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information or call 202-482-2048. **Deadline: Apr. 27**

The Computers for Learning (CFL) program provides schools with free, available computer equipment. Federal agencies and private sector entities transfer unneeded computers and related equipment to schools while giving special consideration to those with the greatest need. To participate in CFL, [CLICK HERE](#).

EDUCATORS GATHER TO BATTLE SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Anytime there is a tragedy such as the recent school shootings in Minnesota and Texas, the focus immediately turns to safety in schools. It is important to note that educators in Alabama frequently undergo training to ensure safety in the state's public schools.

One such event occurred in Montgomery where over 550 school resource officers; state, county, and local school administrators; and law enforcement officers attended the Conference on School Violence/Terrorism on March 2. Attendees

heard **LT. COLONEL DAVE GROSSMAN** (U.S. Army-Ret.) and **DR. RANDY BORUM** discuss the causes of violent crime in our nation's schools, the threat of terrorism against



schools, and proven methods of reducing aggressive behavior of children. The central theme of the training focused on how collaboration between law enforcement and education communities can reduce the possibility of violent acts occurring in schools.

The training was sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama, the Alabama Department of Education, and the Alabama Crime Prevention Clearinghouse at Auburn University in Montgomery. **LEURA G. CANARY**, U. S. Attorney in the Middle



District of Alabama, said, "The terrorist attack on a school in Beslan, Russia, last September brought home the need for additional training of law enforcement officers and school officials in Alabama to address the issue of school violence, whether committed by students or terrorists."

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON welcomed conference attendees stressing the importance of addressing and preventing school violence. "In this day and age, it is imperative that we continue to prepare our schools for possible acts of terrorism and in-school violence," stated Morton. "One component of the State Board of Education's new goals, called the Educational Ruler, is to ensure every Alabama public school student attends a safe and disciplined school. When added with the remaining components – quality teachers, challenging curricula, and effective school leaders – our students will be prepared for college, work, and adulthood in the 21st century."

FINANCIAL INTERVENTION ENDS FOR DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Administrators from the Dale County School System received hearty congratulations for a job well done after officially being released from state financial intervention during the Alabama Board of Education monthly K-12 meeting in Montgomery on March 10. Former **DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT DR. RONNIE JACKSON** and current superintendent **PHILLIP PARKER** were on hand to receive the good news and the Board's resolution commending the system for its "cooperation and diligence in creating and maintaining fiscal responsibility and accountability."

The Dale County School System was placed on state financial intervention in March 2001 following a system financial analysis determining a total projected loss for the system of just over \$1 million in fiscal year 2001. "At that time, the Board felt it was necessary to step in and offer state assistance in bringing financial stability back to the schools in Dale County," said **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 2 MEMBER BETTY PETERS**. "Everyone at the state and system level worked hard to achieve this incredible four-year turnaround and it's so very nice to have a happy ending."

JACKIE WARD with the Alabama Department of Education Division of Administrative and Financial Services was appointed Chief Financial Officer to work with the system to become more accountable and financially solvent.

There have been a total of 13 state financial interventions of school systems to date. All but two systems have achieved a clear status.

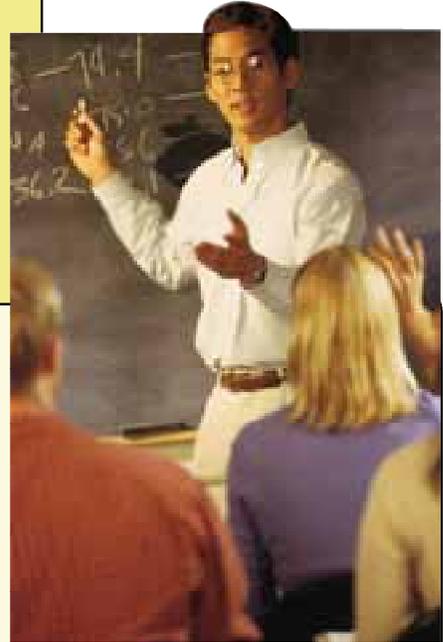
TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The 2005-2006 nominees for the Alabama Teacher of the Year Program have been narrowed to 16 of the state's most dedicated educators. From the 16, four will be selected for the interview component of the judging process. The state judges will select Alabama's Teacher of the Year in May.

Alabama's Teacher of the Year spends the majority of the school year in the public eye, presenting workshops, speaking to various groups, and serving as spokesperson for education and the teaching profession. Additionally, Alabama's Teacher of the Year is a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year award.

The 2005-2006 Alabama Teacher of the Year will be announced and honored along with district finalists at a reception in Montgomery on May 11. [CLICK HERE](#) for a listing of the 16 finalists. 🍏

12 STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALABAMA



- 1. Organizes adults into learning communities whose goals are aligned with those of the school, the system, and the state.*
- 2. Requires knowledgeable and skillful school and system leaders who actively participate in and guide continuous instructional improvement.*
- 3. Requires resources to support adult learning and collaboration.*
- 4. Uses disaggregated student data to determine adult learning priorities, monitor progress, and help sustain continuous improvement.*
- 5. Uses multiple sources of information to guide improvement and demonstrate its impact.*
- 6. Prepares educators to apply research to decision making.*
- 7. Uses learning strategies appropriate to the intended goal.*
- 8. Applies knowledge about human learning and change.*
- 9. Provides educators with the knowledge and skills to collaborate.*
- 10. Prepares educators to understand and appreciate all students; creates safe, orderly, and supportive learning environments; and holds high expectations for their academic achievement.*
- 11. Deepens educators' content knowledge, provides them with research-based instructional strategies to assist students in meeting rigorous academic standards, and prepares them to use various types of classroom assessments appropriately.*
- 12. Provides educators with knowledge and skills to involve families and other stakeholders appropriately.*

APRIL		MAY	
MATH AWARENESS MONTH CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH		MENTAL HEALTH MONTH SAFE KIDS MONTH	
4-15	Stanford 10/Alabama Reading and Math Test Administrations	2-8	Teacher Appreciation Week
10-16	National Library Week	3	National Teacher Day
14	Alabama Board of Education Meeting	11	State Teacher of the Year Announcement
22	Earth Day	12	Alabama Board of Education Meeting
28	Alabama Board of Education Work Session (Monroeville)	26	Alabama Board of Education Work Session
29-30	87th Annual Alabama PTA Convention		

TEACHER OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

*Livingston Junior High School, Sumter County Schools
State Board of Education District 5*

LORA COATS WILLINGHAM's drive to ensure parents are involved in her students education has helped earn her the honor of being selected Teacher of the Month for April. Willingham will receive \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance Company and her school, Livingston Junior High School, will receive a matching award from the Alabama Farmers Federation.

Willingham, a graduate of Livingston University (now the University of West Alabama), has been teaching since 1994. In her sixth-grade reading, writing, and social studies classes, she encourages collaboration among students to keep them motivated. She also recognizes that parents are her strongest allies and respects the important role they play in educating children.

During 2005, the Alfa Teacher of the Month program will honor one teacher from each of Alabama's eight state school board districts as well as two private school teachers and two principals. 🍏



Lora Coats Willingham



ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

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Alabama Board of Education Members

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- Dist. 2 - Betty Peters, Dothan
- Dist. 3 - Stephanie W. Bell, Montgomery
- Dist. 4 - Ethel H. Hall, V.P. Emerita, Fairfield
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- Dist. 6 - David F. Byers Jr., Birmingham
- Dist. 7 - Sandra Ray, Pres. Pro Tem, Tuscaloosa
- Dist. 8 - Mary Jane Caylor, Huntsville

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State Superintendent of Education
and Secretary and Executive Officer
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Copies available in Braille or other forms upon request.