



ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009



STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION PROPOSES K-12 EDUCATION SURVIVAL PLAN

Dr. Morton Makes Recommendations to State Board of Education on Critical K-12 Budget Issues in FY2011

Alabama K-12 public education faces two major issues. First, K-12 is underfunded. Dollars for education decreased \$1.4 billion from FY2008 to FY2010. According to CRAIG POUNCEY, Assistant State Superintendent for Administrative and Financial Services, 59 school systems have established lines of credit just to meet their monthly obligations.

Second, health and retirement costs have become disproportionately high at the state level. From 1986 to 2010, state funding for employees' health insurance increased 1,153 percent, but there has been no increase to the Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Plan (PEEHIP) single employee's premium that is still \$2 per month. The PEEHIP family coverage premium increased 41 percent, from \$95 to \$134 monthly. In comparison, from 1986 to 2009, Alabama's average teacher salary increased 112 percent.

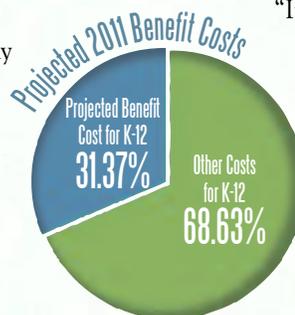
"The only way to save K-12 education is to make it a priority of funding for the state of Alabama." - STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON

Pointing out that most individual benefit costs have not changed in 25 years, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON stated,

"In a time when classrooms are hurting, when we do not have funding for reading, math, science, textbooks, or teacher supplies, we must draw the line on any new increases for fringe benefits." Morton added

that the state cannot afford to pay increasing healthcare costs at the expense of classrooms and students.

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INSIDE THIS AEN



Referencing *The Wall Street Journal*, Morton said this is not just an issue in Alabama: “No matter where you work, you’re going to pay more for health insurance. This is not a problem unique to the borders of Alabama.”

Due to a second consecutive year of proration, 11 percent in FY2009 and another 7.5 percent for the current fiscal year, Dr. Morton outlined a plan to help K-12 education survive and to reduce escalating costs of fringe benefits for public education employees. Morton made five recommendations to the State Board of Education (SBE) at the October 22 work session.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR K-12 FUNDING BEGINNING WITH FY2011 EDUCATION BUDGET 2010 REGULAR SESSION, ALABAMA LEGISLATURE

1. K-12 Education should receive, at a minimum, 70% of all expenditures approved in the FY2011 Education Budget. K-12 has 75.67% of Alabama’s students in Kindergarten through Graduate-level Programs (K-12/Postsecondary/Colleges/ Universities), but K-12 receives only 68.78% of the FY2010 Education Trust Fund Budget. Unlike colleges and universities that can increase tuition, K-12 cannot adjust for proration because K-12 cannot charge tuition..

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

BEGINNING WITH THE FY2012 EDUCATION BUDGET, THE LEGISLATURE SHALL APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PK-12 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (TWO-YEAR COLLEGES), AND FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING GRADUATE PROGRAMS, BASED ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED AT EACH LEVEL OF EDUCATION. A CONSTANT FOUR PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL EDUCATION BUDGET SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO STATE AGENCIES AND ENTITIES PROVIDING SERVICES TO EDUCATION IN ALABAMA [ALABAMA DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH, HUMAN RESOURCES, MENTAL HEALTH, ETC.].

Citing the annual debate over education funding proportions, Morton proposes basing funding on student enrollment at each level of education: K-12, postsecondary, and four-year higher

education. District VI SBE member **DAVID BYERS JR.** said, “This is an extremely generous calculation by any measure. Dr. Morton’s proposal would use the actual enrollment count and divide the budget accordingly.” If the proposed Constitutional Amendment shown below is adopted, K-12 education would receive approximately 75 percent of future education budgets based on the latest enrollment data available.

2. The Legislature should freeze the state appropriation for Public Education Employees’ Health Insurance Plan (PEEHIP) at the FY2010 level and instruct the PEEHIP Board of Directors to develop a health insurance program to match funds available. This action may include an increase in employee monthly/annual payment and/or changes in benefits, but that should be part of PEEHIP Board actions.

Morton dispelled the misconception that employee benefits are a required entitlement by quoting **DR. PAUL HUBBERT** who recently wrote retirees and shared the following statement with them: “State law does not require the Legislature to allocate or the state to pay any employee benefits.” However, Morton does not advocate a permanent freeze. Morton proposes that the Legislature make an annual determination regarding benefits. A Legislative Commission is looking at retirement and insurance costs. The PEEHIP Board will meet in December.

3. The Legislature should amend current law that establishes the minimum number of years of service required for retirement benefits to be 30 years and 55 years of age, instead of the current 25 years and no age minimum, effective for all new employees beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

4. The Legislature should amend current law related to the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) to make requirement to participate be a minimum of 30 years of



service and 57 years of age, effective for all new employees beginning with 2010-2011 school year.

5. The Legislature should amend law enacted in 1975 for all current and future Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) members to increase payments from current 5% of gross annual payroll to 6% of gross annual payroll. RSA Board of Directors should move from current 20-year funding period for retiree obligations to 30 years, which more clearly reflects the industry standard.

“My intention with these recommendations is to address how we maintain a quality education during a time of diminishing revenues. I realize these are sweeping changes that likely will ruffle more than a few feathers on some really big birds, but we are in a survival mode in K-12 education and we need immediate as well as longer term help or we stand to lose the education of many students enrolled in our schools today,” Morton said. “The last thing Alabama needs is one more high school dropout or one more undereducated high school graduate – there is very little future for either, and to do nothing in this time of crisis imperils the future of Alabama.”

Morton’s proposal will be an agenda item for the SBE meeting on November 12. If the SBE approves it, the plan will be forwarded to **GOV. BOB RILEY** for his consideration in his

Underfunded Programs in FY2010 include:

- **Alabama Reading Initiative**
- **Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative**
- **Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide**
- **School Nurses**
- **Foundation Program**
- **English as a Second Language teachers**
- **Transportation**
- **Graduation Coaches**
- **Advanced Placement**
- **Career and Technical Education**
- **National Board for Professional Teaching Standards**
- **After-School Programs**
- **Gifted Education**
- **Teacher Mentoring**

FY2011 Education Budget presented to the Legislature. The SBE cannot make these changes, but “their support is crucial in making our case to the Legislature,” said Morton. “I hope the Board will endorse it. That will help propel it down the road so we can have a serious discussion during the legislative session, which begins January 10, 2010.” ●

Proration and the Local System: Tips for Strained Budgets



The beginning of the fiscal year brought about another round of proration, set at 7.5% by Governor Riley. Cuts already made will deepen as schools try to find the balance between available revenue and current financial obligations.

Alabama Education News magazine asked **CRAIG POUNCEY**, Assistant State Superintendent of Administration and Finance, for some tips for school systems with strained budgets.

1. Local systems should only employ personnel that hold essential positions and that can be paid for by federal or state dollars.
2. Utilities often represent a large portion of a system’s financial obligation and are paid from local funds. Monitoring utility costs monthly and implementing conservation methods to reduce those overall costs is critical during financial times.
3. Local schools should reduce extended contracts or supplements to staff as opportunities allow. Contracts should be based on the amounts that the state provides.

4. Locally funded raises should be frozen and consideration should be given to changing existing policies that cost the system local dollars. Some that may need to be considered are additional personal days and/or sick leave days that are awarded above what the state provides.
5. Substitute costs should be monitored. Typically, these costs total twice the amount that the state provides. Consideration may be given to incentives that encourage perfect staff attendance.
6. Any non-essential construction or maintenance projects should be delayed. Supervise students closely so that the possibility of facility damage is minimized.
7. Transportation costs should be reduced by combining routes that may not be fully utilized. Ensure costs for extracurricular activities that require transportation such as athletic events or field trips are reimbursed based on the state’s suggested rate of \$1.25 per mile. ●

Two of Alabama's Finest Teachers Win National Award

The Milken Family Foundation presented the National Educator Award during the 23rd annual coast-to-coast tour to reward top educators with more than \$1.2 million in cash awards.



Excitement was in the air and surprise was on the faces of two Alabama teachers as they were honored with the Milken Educator Award during the second week of October. **DILHANI USWATTE** of Berry Middle School in Hoover and **STEPHANIE CHASE LEGRONE** of Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile were the 2009 recipients of the Milken Educator Award, and both teachers were overwhelmed when the surprise announcement was made.

"I'm in complete and utter shock — shock and amazement. But I'm happy and content at the same time, and humbled," said LeGrone. "Any of the teachers in Mobile County could have easily had this."

The notification was made during school disguised as an event for the State Superintendent to commend the school on its student assessment progress and to announce a major education initiative.

The same guise was set up at Hoover where Uswatte accepted the unrestricted \$25,000 financial reward and an all-expense-paid trip to the annual Milken National Education Conference next year. "With all my heart and soul, I know that this was a calling for me," Uswatte said of teaching. She was honored during the schoolwide assembly that included students, faculty, and staff, as well as state legislators, Hoover city and school officials, and a group of former Milken award winners from around the state.

Presented by Senior Vice President of the Milken Educator Awards **DR. JANE FOLEY**, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION **DR. JOE MORTON**, and DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT **DR. EDDIE JOHNSON**, the award honored the exceptional work of educators as a model for the state and nation. The Milken Family Foundation's

23rd Annual National Notifications Tour is honoring more than 50 outstanding educators and is the nation's largest teacher recognition program.

The award, sometimes called the "Oscar" for educators, recognizes teachers in the early to middle part of their career who are innovative and effective, and who are leaders in their field. Educators do not apply for the award. Rosters of potential candidates



2009 Milken Educator Dilhani Uswatte and Veteran Milken Educators during the all-school assembly at Berry Middle School, Hoover City, on October 14.

are sent to the Milken Family Foundation by state departments of education, and the foundation conducts its own research. "You don't find us," said **DR. JANE FOLEY**, Senior Vice President for the Milken Educator Awards. "We find you."

To begin, Foley presented a fun and suspenseful demonstration designed to reveal the amount of the financial award given to the teachers. After the award was given in Mobile, Dr. Eddie Johnson said, "Ms. LeGrone's talent for teaching and encouraging students is evident as we see the large outpouring of support here today. She is a positive influence for students and teachers, and is truly deserving of this tremendous award."

Stephanie C. LeGrone graduated from the University of South Alabama with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1999 and received her Master's degree in Curriculum



Each year, the Milken Family Foundation travels from coast to coast surprising teachers, principals, and specialists with \$25,000 awards because they are furthering excellence in education. Alabama joined the Milken Educator Awards program in 1998 with 25 recipients receiving \$625,000 in awards.

Educators are recommended without their knowledge to the Milken Family Foundation by an independent blue-ribbon panel appointed by each state's department of education. Awards alternate yearly between elementary and secondary educators. In recognizing these outstanding teachers with \$25,000, the Foundation hopes to raise public awareness that high-quality teachers are essential to student achievement. The award was developed to reward, retain, and attract the highest quality K-12 teachers.



and Instruction from the University of Phoenix in 2006. She is a science teacher at Mary G. Montgomery High School in Semmes, Alabama, and has worked at the school for five years. Among her many accomplishments, LeGrone was the Mary G. Montgomery Teacher of the Year for the 2008-2009 school year. Her students perform exceptionally well on Advanced Placement exams with almost half achieving a 4 or 5 on the exams. LeGrone plans to use a portion of her winning to start a fund to help students pay for AP exams when they cannot afford the cost.

"Beyond Ms. LeGrone's academic talents, she serves as a model to those with whom she comes in contact," said Mary G. Montgomery High School Principal **GEORGE ROMANO**. "It is a rare combination to have a young teacher with such talent as an educator, combined with such understanding moral and ethical principles."

Dilhani Uswatte is an eighth grade math teacher at Berry Middle School in Hoover, Alabama. She graduated from Queen's

University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, in 1997 with a Bachelor of Education degree and received her Master's degree in Education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2004. Uswatte has been chair of the math department at Berry for the last six years, along with several other administrative positions such as Transportation Administrator for the school. She also teaches Zumba, a dance aerobics class. Her extracurricular involvements and interests are many, with a focus in tutoring and volunteering for community-based organizations.

"Uswatte tells her students that she's going to make sure they understand the 'whys' of math and that 'no student of hers would just memorize the rules.' Her classes are always filled with eager students who can't wait to hear what she has planned for the lesson," said her principal, **DR. KATHLEEN A. WHEATON**. "She is an excellent teacher and an encouraging, supportive mentor to students, colleagues, and student teachers. She is the teacher we want our children and grandchildren to have."

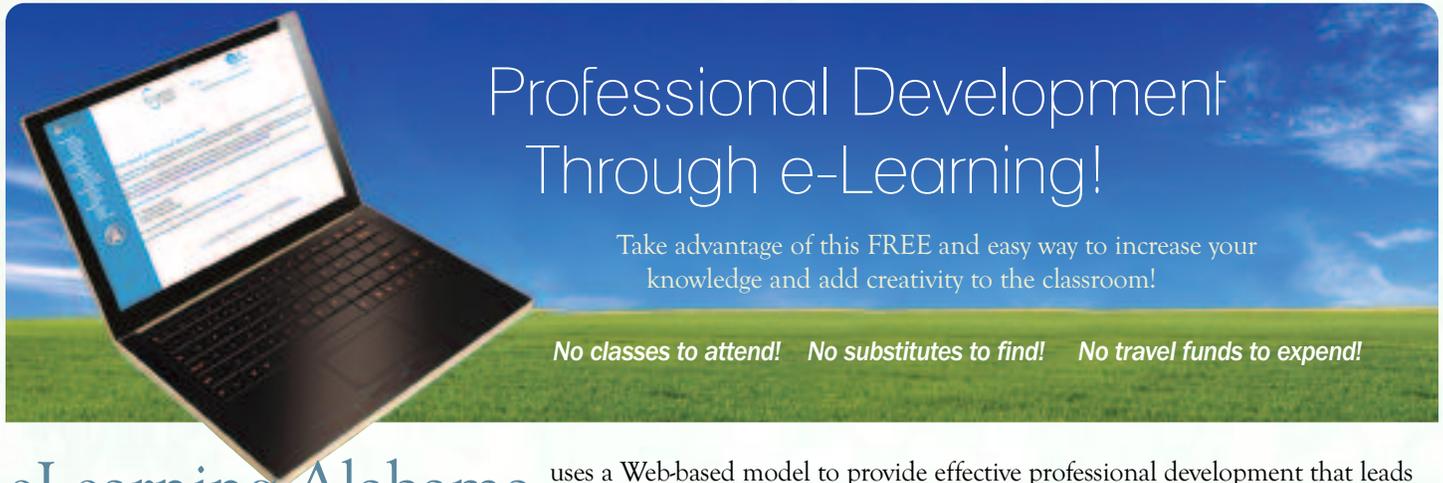
"Dilhani Uswatte exemplifies what being a professional educator is all about. She meets the needs of her students and goes the extra mile to do what needs to be done for her students to learn," Morton said. "She is a shining example of what's right in Alabama education. Teachers like Mrs. Uswatte are essential to molding and shaping not only the minds, but the character of our students. She serves

as a role model for students and teachers, greatly impacting the lives around her."

LeGrone and Uswatte also join the Milken Educator Network, a nationwide coalition of more than 2,200 top educators who have access to a variety of professional resources to help cultivate and expand innovative programs in their classrooms, schools, and districts. ●



Stephanie LeGrone, 2009 Milken Educator, Dr. Jane Foley (Milken Family Foundation) Deputy State Superintendent Dr. Eddie Johnson, and (left to right) Mike Fletcher, Robert Youngblood, Lynn McCain, and Dr. Charles Willis



Professional Development Through e-Learning!

Take advantage of this FREE and easy way to increase your knowledge and add creativity to the classroom!

No classes to attend! No substitutes to find! No travel funds to expend!

eLearning Alabama uses a Web-based model to provide effective professional development that leads to gains in teachers' content knowledge, improvements in their teaching practices, and increases in the achievement of their students. It is also an excellent way to move forward on your own professional development responsive to your schedule and needs.

eLearning Alabama is Alabama's implementation of the E-Learning for Educators Initiative, a project funded through a federal Ready to Teach grant. It is a partnership between the ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY IN MOTION PROGRAM and ALABAMA PUBLIC TELEVISION.

Participants receive 30 contact hours of professional development credit (3.0 CEUs) for successful completion. Courses are six weeks plus an orientation week. To view the entire course catalog, [CLICK HERE](#) and then click "Course Catalog" on the left side of web page.



Registration is easy through **STI PD** for any of the online teacher professional development courses:

- [CLICK HERE](#) for the **STI PD** registration page.
- Enter your **USERNAME** and **PASSWORD** (you can obtain them from your central office).
- Chose the correct **LEA** from the drop-down list.
- Select the **PD TITLES** tab at the top of the page.
- Select the link **SEARCH THE PD TITLE CATALOG**.
- Enter the course number in the box along the right margin labeled **PD TITLE NUMBER** then click the **SEARCH NOW** button at the bottom of the page.
- After the course description appears, select the link **LIST** under **VIEW SCHEDULE** along the right-hand margin.
- Scroll down the list of sessions until you find the session you wish to enroll in.
- Select your session's **ENROLL NOW** button.

Classes offered for Spring 2010 are:

- EDU4401E Web-Enhanced Lessons
- EDU4403E Virtual Field Trip
- EDU4405E Best Internet Educational Resources
- EDU4408E Teaching with Web 2.0 Tools *New*
- EDU4465E Wikis, Blogs, Podcasts, and Skypes
- EDU4475E Using Google Tools in the Classroom
- EDU4499E Teaching Your First ELLs
- EDU6611E Becoming an Online Facilitator (10 wks)

Elementary School

- ELA2413E Teaching Writing ES
- MTH2512E The Complexities of Measurement
- REA2451E Reading First: Supporting Early Reading Instr
- SCI3651E Life Science K-2
- SCI3652E Life Science 3-5

Middle/High School

- ELA3413E Teaching Writing MS
- HIS3711E WWII - Using the Movies to Teach History
- MTH3512E Intro to Functions: Using Visual Models
- REA3455E Kids, Content, and Comprehension 4-12
- SCI3653E Life Science 6-8

School and District Leaders

- EDU5501E Data-Based School Reform
- EDU5502E Planning for Curriculum Integration of Technology
- EDU5503E Internet Safety in Schools
- EDU5504E Smart Budgeting for Technology
- EDU5505E Leading Schools in a Web 2.0 World
- EDU5507E Special Students in Regular Classrooms: UDL

School Counselors (4-week courses)

- CCTI101 Building a College-Going Culture for All Students
- CCTI202 College, Career, and Academic Planning
- CCTI303 Financial Aid and College Applications

Restructuring State Assessments: Less Time – More Rigor – Greater Results

On September 10, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted the proposed five-year Alabama Student Assessment Plan based on recommendations of the Committee for Accountability and Accelerating Student Learning.

The adopted assessment changes include phasing out the Alabama High School Graduation Examination (AHSGE) by 2011-12 and replacing it with end-of-course exams instead. End-of-course exams (EOCs), or “final exams,” would test students when they’ve just completed a course and the material is still fresh on their minds.

“A student’s score on that final exam would be an embedded graduation requirement but not the sole determining factor in passing the class or in graduation,” explained **DR. TOMMY BICE**, Deputy State Superintendent of

By 2011-12, all Alabama 11th-graders could be taking the [ACT](#) college entrance exam, including a writing component. The state will assume the cost for 11th-graders to take the ACT one time, as well as EXPLORE® for 8th-graders, PLAN® for 10th-graders, and WorkKeys® for 12th graders.

The ACT does not replace the AHSGE. EOCs will replace the AHSGE beginning with entering 9th-graders of 2011-12. Entering 9th-graders prior to 2011-12 (including 2009-10 and 2010-11) will continue to take the AHSGE. Therefore, for a period of time, both EOCs and the AHSGE will be administered. Elimination of the AHSGE and the Stanford 10 (Grades 3-8) will greatly reduce assessment costs and help to balance the cost of the new assessments.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON said, “This plan gives all students the opportunity to take the ACT, including those who had never planned to take it or to go to college. Under our ACT plan, those students may discover they have the scores and the potential to go to college.”

The newly adopted assessment protocol is an overhaul to the entire testing system that will bring more efficiency, accountability, and cost-effectiveness to student assessment.

“All of these changes would not take effect until 2011-12,” said **DR. GLORIA TURNER**, Director of Assessment and Accountability. “Alabama would still use the graduation exam – the name would change while the questions would remain similar – to rate high schools annually as required by the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*.”

“These new assessments set students on a path to be career and college ready when they graduate from high school. I think it’s a great plan to prepare students to enter the workforce,” added Dr. Morton. ●

Assessment Revision Considerations



EXPLORE® and PLAN® include four multiple-choice tests: English, Math, Reading, and Science. Taking EXPLORE® helps students plan high school courses, prepare for the ACT, or choose a career direction. Taking PLAN® prepares students for the ACT and helps them get ready to succeed in college and beyond. The PLAN Student Score Report contains information about a student’s skills, interests, plans, and goals. WorkKeys® job skills assessment system measures real-world skills and connects work skills, training, and testing for education and employers.

Education. “The Alabama High School Graduation Exam would no longer be a 15-day test period under this proposal. It would be given as a final exam and would not take any instructional days away from students and teachers.”

The new assessment protocol also includes a revised ARMT which would combine the current ARMT, ASA, and ADAW into one comprehensive assessment and at the same time eliminate the need to administer the Stanford 10.

Thousands of Alabama Students Get A Glimpse Into The Future And Prepare for “Life After High School”

More than 2,700 Alabama high school students traveled to Montgomery recently to participate in two days of rigorous leadership and career development at the 2009 Joint Leadership Development Conference (JLDC), September 28-29. Students attending this event, which was held at the beautiful Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Convention Center, had an opportunity to participate in more than 20 different workshops and interactive activities. JLDC began ten years ago and is focused on preparing students for top leadership opportunities.

“It was so inspiring to see all of these students so engaged and adamant about reaching their full potential,” said ALABAMA CTSO COORDINATOR, CRAIG COLLINS. “During this year’s conference, Alabama’s seven different Career and Technical Education Student Organizations (CTSOs) and our state’s Jobs for Alabama’s Graduates (JAG) program collaborated for one united event, which focused on teaching students about financial literacy, postsecondary learning, careers, and leadership.”

Students participating in JLDC this year learned innovative leadership skills from two of the nation’s top experts – and BEN GLENN. They also had a chance to take a real glimpse into the future. Event sponsor Alabama Power displayed several interesting and cutting-edge items for the students to see including their new research car, a Ford Escape Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) – a new concept SUV being developed by Ford Motor Company.

Some of the workshops that students participated in at the conference were:

- Funding For My College
- Going to College – Where Do I Start?
- Successful Tips for Starting Your Own Small Business and Succeeding At It
- My Credit Score Was Lowered Because Of What?
- Don’t Give Your Money Away That Easy!

The following student organizations participated in JLDC this year: **DECA** (An Association of Business/Marketing Students); **FBLA-PBL** (Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda); **FCCLA** (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America); The **FFA** Organization; **HOSA** (Health Occupations Students of America); **JAG**; **SkillsUSA**; and **TSA** (Technology Student Association).

Currently, one out of every two high school students in Alabama participates in a career and technical education program. These students explore career options in more than 300 courses,



earn advanced diplomas, and receive college credit.

For more information about Career and Technical Education Student Organizations and JLDC, contact Craig Collins, Alabama’s CTSO Coordinator, at (334) 242-9111 or ccollins@alsde.edu.

Common Core State Standards Initiative

Forty-eight states, including Alabama, have agreed to take part in the effort known as Common Core, whose goal is to establish more uniform expectations for the nation's students, in contrast to the wide variations in academic standards that exist among the states today. In May, the Alabama State Board of Education approved the Alabama Department of Education's participation in developmental efforts of common standards in English language arts and mathematics. Adoption of the common core state standards is voluntary for states.

The [Common Core State Standards Initiative](#) is a joint effort by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in partnership with Achieve, ACT, and the College Board. The NGA Center and CCSSO are working closely with states in this state-led process to develop a common core of state standards in English language arts and mathematics for Grades K-12. The first step of this initiative is developing college- and career-readiness standards followed by K-12 standards.

A draft of the common core of state standards in mathematics and English language arts is available for public comment [HERE](#). The draft standards for Grades K-12 will be released in the winter of 2009/2010. CCSSO officials say they expect, and want, more public input. Send comments to commonstandards@ccsso.org and webmaster@nga.org.

Alabama Leadership Academy Presents: Collaborative Learning Teams Improving Teaching and Learning

Are you tired of trying program after program without any real results? Do you want to learn the best, most cost efficient way to improve student achievement? Then, this workshop is for you!

Come and participate in practical learning activities that can be easily replicated at your school to provide the purpose, structure, and function of collaborative learning teams. Collaborative learning teams engage teachers in job-embedded learning that focuses on improving the quality of their instruction, which translates into higher student achievement. Join a group of concerned instructional leaders and share your thoughts and exemplary practices for improving student learning as research-based information is disseminated.

The target audience is school leadership teams (principal and two teachers) from all districts, with a maximum capacity of 45. Register via STI-PD, PD Title Number: ALA091. CEUs will be granted. Sign-in is from 8 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., and the workshop is from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The presenter is ANGELA MANGUM, PH.D., from the Leadership and Evaluation Section of the Alabama Department of Education (SDE).

PART I

Montgomery: Thursday, November 5, 2009
Professional Services Center
515 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Madison: Tuesday, November 17, 2009
Madison City Board of Education
211 Celtic Drive, Madison, AL 35758

Birmingham: Thursday, November 19, 2009
Lane Professional Development Center
410 13th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35233

PART II

Madison: Tuesday, February 9, 2010
Madison City Board of Education
211 Celtic Drive, Madison, AL 35758

Birmingham: Thursday, February 11, 2010
Lane Professional Development Center
410 13th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35233

Montgomery: Thursday, February 25, 2010
Professional Services Center
515 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104



For more information, contact Angela Mangum, Ph.D. at 334-353-9251 or 1-800-846-0948 e-mail: amangum@alsde.edu.

Chambers County School System: Energy Pacesetters

At the August State Board of Education meeting, **TRUMAN ATKINS, ED.D.**, President of the Southern Division, Energy Education, Dallas, Texas, recognized the success of the Chambers County School System's energy



Shown left to right are (front row) Dr. Atkins, Victoria Leak, principal, LaFayette Lanier Elementary; Nancy Maples, principal, Huguley Elementary; Sheree Core, principal, Eastside Elementary; Board Member Jeffrey Finch, and Superintendent Leonard Riley; (second row) Board Members Mary Terry and Alane Duncan and Energy Manager Andrew Leak; (back row) Career Tech and Maintenance Director Darin Baldwin, and Board Members Bill Martin, Joe Davis and Clifford Lyons

management program and Energy Manager Andrew Leak with the Energy Pacesetter Award. From December 2007-May 2009, the school system saved over 25 percent in energy costs. The top three schools in energy savings over that period were LaFayette Lanier Elementary, Gold Star Award, with 38.55 percent savings; Eastside Elementary, Silver Star, with 30.18 percent savings; and Huguley Elementary, Bronze Star, with 28.93 percent savings. Overall, the school system has achieved a cost savings of \$393,322 since adopting the Energy Policy. In the month of April 2009 alone, the school district saved \$16,922 in energy costs.

State Board Member: Mrs. Betty Peters
Superintendent: Mr. Leonard Riley
Principals: Mrs. Victoria Leak (Lafayette Lanier Elementary), Ms. Rennie Sheree Core, (Eastside Elementary), and Mrs. Nancy Maples, (Huguley Elementary).



Gov. Bob Riley has proclaimed
FEBRUARY 1-5, 2010
as **NATIONAL GREEN WEEK 2010**

"Grow Our Own" Teach Alabama Program has first results!

When **COURTNEY GARNER** began her teaching career this year at Elvin Hill Elementary School in Columbiana she demonstrated the success of the Teach Alabama program and its goal to "grow our own" classroom teachers. The Teach Alabama program had its beginning in the Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) department at Shelby County High School, funded by a grant from the Alabama Department of Education. It started as a pilot program at SCHS and has since been replicated in approximately three schools throughout the state.



The concept of the program is to introduce high school students who think they may have an interest in a teaching career to the profession. Students acquire basic academic training in the classroom lab and later move on to internships in real-world classrooms. Mentoring teachers in field site schools participate in helping the teacher candidates to experience what it is like to be a teacher and provide opportunities for interaction with students. As an integral part of the FACS program, Teach Alabama is an outstanding example of the value of Career and Technical Education in Alabama. Miss Garner has truly returned to her roots to begin her teaching career, teaching at Elvin Hill Elementary where she received her field experience.

For more information about Teach Alabama, contact **FRANCES SCHOFIELD** at 205-682-6600 or e-mail fschofield@shelbyed.k12.al.us.

State Board Member: Mrs. Stephanie Bell, District 3 · Superintendent: Mr. Randy Fuller
Principal: Mr. Gene Rogers, Shelby County High School

Dr. Joyce Levey of Tuscaloosa City Schools Named Alabama's 2010 Superintendent of the Year

The School Superintendents of Alabama (SSA) and Classworks, an SSA Premium Business Member, recently announced that **DR. JOYCE LEVEY** is the Alabama/Classworks 2010 Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Levey was selected from nine finalists throughout the state, each of whom is an outstanding superintendent.

Dr. Levey will be honored at the Superintendent of the Year Luncheon on January 12, 2010, held during SSA's Legislative Conference in Montgomery. Classworks will provide Dr. Levey with a Superintendent of the Year ring and travel expenses to the AASA National Conference on Education to be held February 11-13, 2010, in Phoenix, AZ.



State Board Member: Gary Warren, District 7

Earn Professional Learning Units (PLUs) Online!



Sign up now for Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD) Approved Online Courses!

Promote the mission of enhancing school leadership among administrators and principals to improve academic achievement for all students by registering for Professional Learning classes. You can earn Professional Learning Units (PLUs) two ways:

1. Earn **One** PLU with a 10-Week Online Course (no cost to participants). **Title: Shared Leadership**
2. Earn **Two** PLUs with a 16-Week Online Course (no cost to participants). **Title: Reculturing for Student Success**

For more information on the above courses and many other ACLD-approved professional studies to earn PLUs, [CLICK HERE](#) then click on: ACLD Approved Professional Studies

Awards, Opportunities, and Professional Development

Junior/Senior High State Beef Cook-off (Grades 7-12). Sponsored by Alabama Cattlemen's Association and Southern Family Markets (Food World, Bruno's and Piggly Wiggly). January 16, 2010, 10 a.m., Alabama Cattlemen's Building, 201 South Bainbridge Street, Montgomery. Contact Selina Knight at sknight@bamabeef.org for complete information.

ENTRY DEADLINE: December 18

Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers **DEADLINE: January 18, 2010**

Save the Date: On January 22, 2010 · 9:00 a.m.. Michael Kaiser, President of the Kennedy Center, will present "Arts in Crisis" at the Birmingham Children's Theatre. To register, contact [Alabama Alliance for Arts Education](http://AlabamaAllianceforArtsEducation.org) () at 334-269-1435 or aaae@bellsouth.net

C-SPAN's StudentCam 2010 is a national video documentary competition that encourages students to think seriously about issues that affect our communities and our nation. Middle (Grades 6-8) and high school (Grades 9-12) students are eligible to enter. **DEADLINE: January 20, 2010**

The Kennedy Center/ National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute is a four-week program for serious student instrumentalists held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. The Alabama Alliance for Arts Education (AAAE) may recommend up to five young Alabama musicians for a fellowship. Application available on November 2 at [AAAE Web site](http://AAAE.org). **DEADLINE: January 22, 2010**

Any Given Child initiative accepts applications on a rolling basis from anyone interested in strengthening arts education in local schools. For more information, contact Donna Russell, Executive Director, [Alabama Alliance for Arts Education](http://AlabamaAllianceforArtsEducation.org), 334-269-1435 or aaae@bellsouth.net

2010 Toyota International Teacher Program to Costa Rica June 18 – July 3, 2010

Apply now for a fully funded professional development study tour in Costa Rica!



EXPERIENCE the people & culture of Costa Rica

DISCOVER one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world

EXPLORE innovative & interdisciplinary solutions to environmental issues

LEARN from experts about conservation & sustainability

CREATE original, hands-on curricula utilizing new ideas and resources

CONNECT with students and teachers worldwide

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply. **Application Deadline: January 6, 2010**

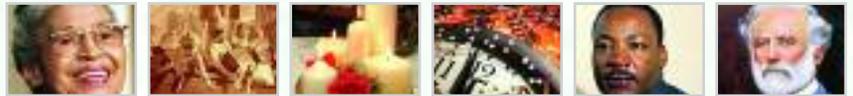
For complete information: 1-877-832-2457 · toyotateach@iie.org



- Resolution Commending Michael Bowen, Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter
- Resolutions in Recognition of 2009 Blue Ribbon Schools
- Resolution in Recognition of Paige R. Raney, East Elementary School, Cullman City School System, as Alabama's Preserve America History Teacher of the Year (School Board District VI)
- Resolution Commending Dr. Sue Blair Adams for Dedicated Service to Alabama Public Education
- Resolution Endorsing School Bus Safety Week, October 19-23, 2009

For a complete list of agenda items, visit the Alabama Department of Education's Web site www.alsde.edu under "Board of Ed."

CALENDAR



of events

DECEMBER

- Dec. 1Rosa Parks Day
- Dec. 10State Board Meeting/Work Session
- Dec. 16Boston Tea Party Anniversary (1773)
- Dec. 25Christmas (STATE HOLIDAY)

JANUARY

- NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MONTH
- Jan. 1New Year's Day
- Jan. 14Alabama State Board of Education Meeting
- Jan. 18Martin Luther King, Jr. / Robert E. Lee Birthday
- Jan. 28Alabama State Board of Education Work Session

ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

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Zion Chapel's Andrea Maness ALFA Teacher of the Month for November 2009



MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Andrea Maness of Zion Chapel High School teaches the finer points of algebra — you know, how X plus Y equals Z, etc.? But it was the "I" part that stumped her when she began teaching teenagers.

"When I first began teaching, I was very 'I-oriented.' I gave the problems in class, I showed how to work the problems, I gave the answers, I gave the assignments, I graded the assignments, I gave the tests, I graded the tests, and then I started all over again!" she says. "What a tiring and endless cycle that benefits no one!"

So Maness decided to make a change, a change that earned her recognition as Alfa's Teacher of the Month for November. As the honoree for November, she will receive \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance and her school, a part of the Coffee County School System, will receive \$1,000 from Alabama Farmers Federation.

"I prompt them with questions such as 'Why is the answer...?', 'How would the problem change if we changed this component to ...?', and 'What are other ways we can arrive at the same solution of ...?' Through this technique of guided discovery, the students tend to grasp concepts more deeply."

During 2009, Alfa Insurance and the Alabama Farmers Federation are honoring one outstanding teacher from each of Alabama's eight state school board districts, as well as two principals and two private school teachers. Application information is available under Alfa Teacher of the Month in the Ag Links section of AlfaFarmers.org.