



Alabama Education: *Moving Forward*

As educators and lawmakers brace for what is sure to be an economically challenging school year, the good news is, Alabama schools continue to head in the right direction. The recently released *No Child Left Behind* mandated Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data show Alabama schools incrementally increasing student proficiency.

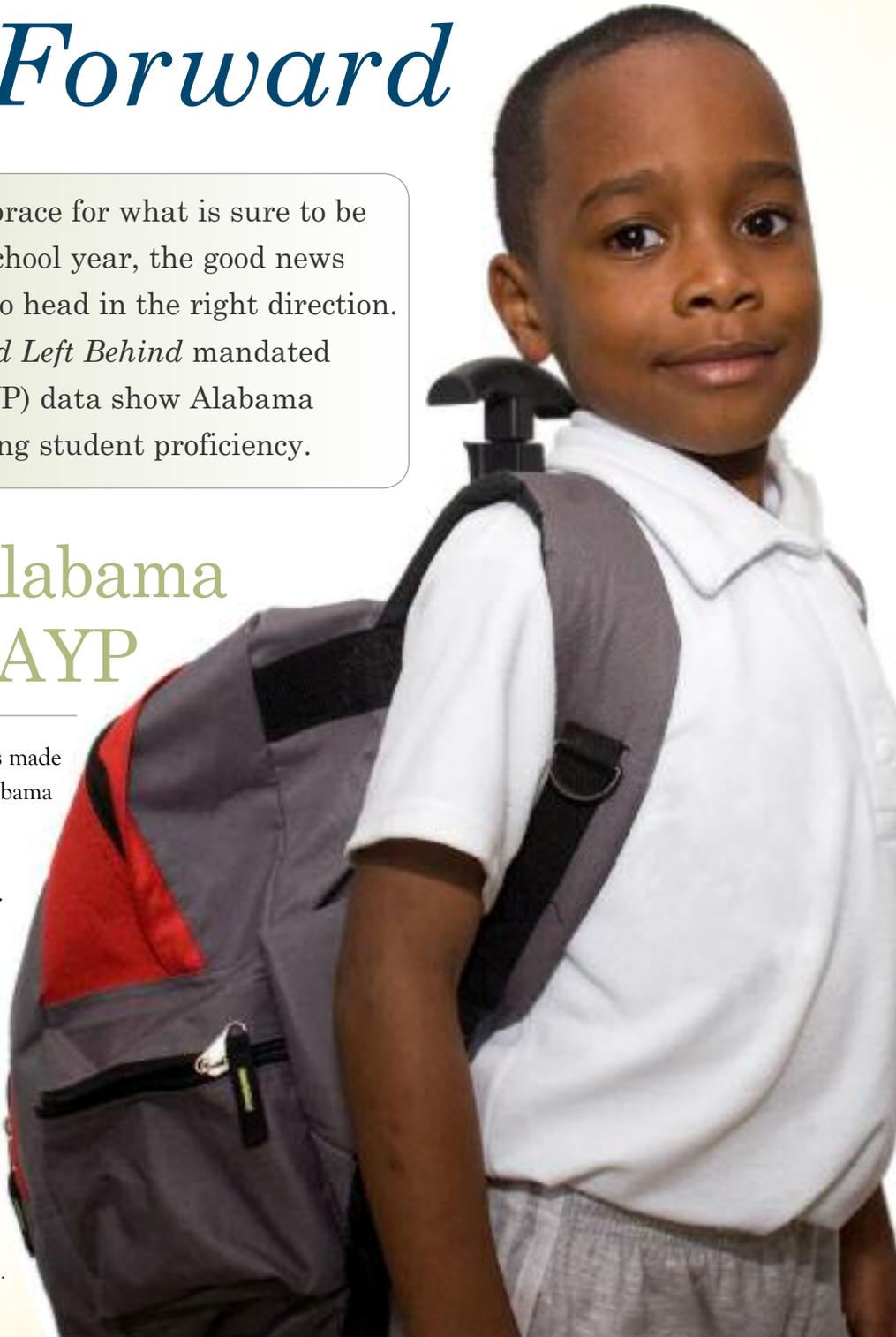
86.48% of Alabama Schools Made AYP

THIS YEAR, 1,190 of Alabama's 1,376 schools made AYP. In all, 86.48 percent of schools across Alabama met 100 percent of their goals to achieve AYP. That's three percent higher than 2008 AYP results while annual measurable objectives rose. Equally important, the state experienced a 29 percent reduction in the number of high-poverty Title I schools identified as needing "school improvement" over last year. Also, approximately 64 percent (or 119 schools) of the schools that did not make AYP this year missed it by only one goal.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON said the progress the state is making should be applauded, but makes clear

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A School is Considered to Make AYP if it Meets its Goals for All Three of the Following Components:

1. READING

Annual measurable objectives

(percent of students scoring proficient - goal varies by grade and subject)

Participation rates (percent of students participating in assessments - goal of 95%)

2. MATHEMATICS

Annual measurable objectives

(percent of students scoring proficient - goal varies by grade and subject)

Participation rates (percent of students participating in assessments - goal of 95%)

3. ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC INDICATORS

Attendance rate (goal of 95% or improvement)

Graduation rate (goal of 90% or improvement)

2008-2009 AYP SUMMARY					
	PERCENT OF GOALS MET	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS		PERCENT MEETING GOALS	
		2008-09*	2007-08	2008-09*	2007-08
A = 94.18%	100 Percent	1,190	1,143	86.48	83.61
	90 to 99.99	106	131	7.70	9.58
B = 3.05%	80 to 89.99	42	54	3.05	3.95
	70 to 79.99	17	18	1.24	1.32
C/D = 2.18%	60 to 69.99	13	11	0.94	0.80
Not Passing = 0.58%	Less than 60 Percent	8	10	0.58	0.73
	TOTAL SCHOOLS	1,376	1,367	100%	

there is still a lot of work to be done. "Every year, from now until the 2013-14 school year, the bar is going to get higher and higher. In order for Alabama to meet the expectation of having every child proficient in time, the hard work must continue and programs proven to work effectively must stay in place. Flagship education initiatives such as the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI); the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMTSI); and ACCESS Distance Learning are all vital components in the success of Alabama schools."

Of the 186 Alabama schools that did not achieve 100 percent of their individual goals, 106 made 90-99.99 percent, 42 made 80-89.99 percent, 17 made 70-79.99 percent, 13 made 60-69.99 percent, and only 8 schools statewide achieved less than 60 percent.

GOVERNOR BOB RILEY attended the State Board meeting where the AYP information was announced and gave wholehearted support to the programs and people who make it possible. "What Alabama is doing is absolutely spectacular. When you look at what teachers have accomplished over the past four or five years, it truly is remarkable," Riley said. He mentioned conversations with preeminent educators from across the country that look to Alabama as a model for education reform.



Assessments Used in Determining AYP:

- Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test (ARMT)
 - Grades 3-8 (Reading and Mathematics)
- Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE)
 - Grade 11 (Reading and Mathematics)
- Alabama Alternate Assessment (AAA)
 - Grades 3-8 and 11 (Reading and Mathematics)



Riley, who serves as the state school Board president, commented, “Alabama’s public schools have made tremendous progress during the past few years. Just five years ago, only 23 percent of schools met all their yearly progress goals. The bar was raised again this year and 86 percent of schools met all their goals. Plus, we’re seeing a decrease in the number of schools that need ‘school improvement.’ Proven programs like ARI, AMSTI, and ACCESS Distance Learning, are making a difference in teaching and learning across Alabama.”

Riley said the continued funding of educational programs must be an important function of the Legislature, and he is reminded of this by the enthusiasm and dedication shown by students, teachers, and principals across the state. He also praised the leadership of Dr. Morton for being not only a



leader for Alabama, but for the nation as well. “Dr. Morton is becoming a national leader when we talk about setting up programs as we go forward. What Alabama has done educationally has given him that credibility and legitimacy. People now turn to Alabama to help discern how they spend their federal money,” Riley said.

Morton said he hopes the success of many Alabama programs will be a testament to their own effectiveness, as

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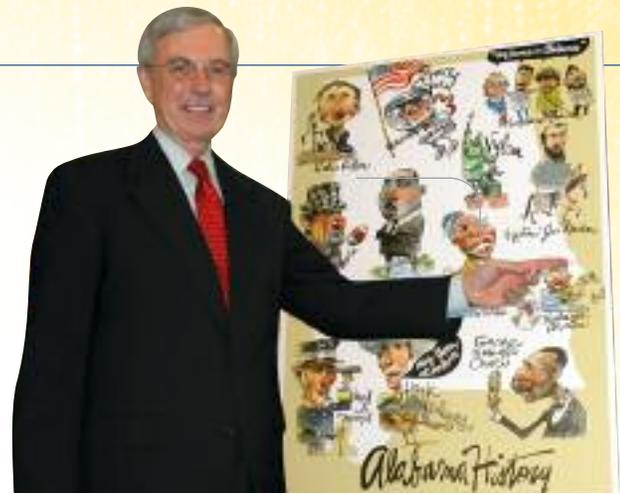
State-Assigned Student Numbers Protect Students' Identities

WHEN SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS were first issued in 1936, the federal government assured the public that use of the numbers would be limited to Social Security programs such as calculating retirement benefits. Today, however, the Social Security Number (SSN) has become the de facto national identifier. With the threat of identity theft, many schools take the initiative to stop crime and abuse of students' Social Security Numbers. Jefferson County schools have not used a student's SSN as an identifier since the late 1980s. The system now uses Software Technology Inc. (STI) to auto-number students entering the system. STI also helps with attendance, report cards, transcripts, and grade books for teachers.

At the Alabama School for Fine Arts, the student is assigned a number in STI when he/she is enrolled. In Baldwin County, last year the system ceased using a SSN to identify students. Clay County stopped using Social Security Numbers a couple of years ago, with no problems making the switch to the alternate student numbers.

PAULA REYNOLDS, Counselor and School STI Coordinator at Ashland Elementary School in the Clay County system, says, "Changing from the Social Security Number to the state-assigned identification number is more secure. Our school is very aware about printing Social Security Numbers. If reports are printed that contain Social Security Numbers, they are destroyed by shredding."

As Alabama continues into the 21st century, programs, local schools, and other education agencies know that protecting private information is paramount. ●



New Posters Bring Alabama History To Life

FOURTH-GRADE TEACHERS will have two new posters this school year to help make Alabama history a fun, learning experience for students. The Alabama Department of Tourism, in a joint effort with the Alabama Department of Education, is sending posters that showcase the state's history to more than 2,400 fourth-grade teachers. The posters were mailed the first week of August in time for the new school year.

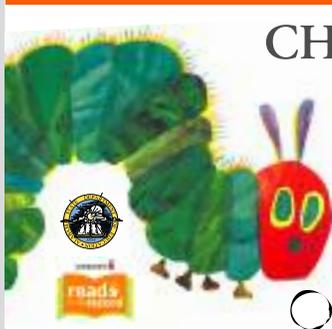
The first poster displays caricatures of Alabama legends depicted on a map of Alabama where they made history. The second poster is a replica of Alabama from 1833 that shows roads and distances along the stage and steamboat routes. It lists the Native American tribes and where they occupied the state in the early 19th Century. The poster also shows parts of Southeast Alabama when it was part of the territory of Florida.

"We are proud to work with tourism to promote our state's history," said STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON. "What a nice gift to greet students and teachers as they return to the classroom for the new school year," added Morton.

"Each figure in the caricature map is tied to an actual museum. It not only teaches children about important Alabama figures, but gives way for field trips to each of the museums," said state tourism director LEE SENTELL. "We wanted to help make learning fun for students and these tie perfectly into the Year of Alabama History tourism campaign."

Historical figures depicted include Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Helen Keller, Vulcan, Paul Bear Bryant, Country Group Alabama, Joe Wheeler, David Farragut, Hank Williams, George Washington Carver, and a Tuskegee airman. ●

Read for the Record · October 8, 2009
SAVE THE DATE!



CHOMP! CHOMP!
CHOMP!

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
is coming...

Who can participate? Everyone!
Participation and Sponsorship contact:
Judy Stone, Alabama Reading First Initiative,
334-353-1570. Media contact: Anne Graham,
Communication, 334-353-5166

College Board Praises Alabama as #1 State in Advanced Placement Progress

Raising Rigor, Getting Results: Lessons Learned from AP Expansion in Alabama

Alabama's minority enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) courses increased 113 percent in the state's six pilot schools, according to "Raising Rigor, Getting Results," a report from the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices. Alabama is one of six pilot states in the NGA effort to expand AP participation. Over a two-year period, AP student enrollment experienced a 65 percent increase in the pilot states and minority student enrollment jumped 106 percent. AP performance also increased in Alabama, which was one of two states distinguished nationally. Alabama saw the largest increase in the percentage of African American students scoring at mastery – from 4.5 percent up to 7.1 percent.

The NGA awarded a \$500,000 grant to Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Nevada, and Wisconsin to target one urban (Huntsville City) and one rural (Butler County) school system. Gov. BOB RILEY increased the budget for AP, adding \$3.5 million over two years. Alabama also received a National Math and Science Initiative Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Grant for \$13.2 million over six years to improve math and science education.

"The NGA AP Expansion Grant allowed us to pilot a comprehensive strategy for expanding access to AP courses for traditionally underrepresented students," said CAROL K. CRAWFORD, program director, A+ College Ready. "In 2008, Alabama saw the largest increase in the percentage of African American students receiving qualifying scores on internationally recognized AP exams. I knew we could do it! Our schools have integrated instructional changes into their school improvement process," said Crawford.

ALABAMA'S PHENOMENAL AP GROWTH

Thanks to a \$13.2 million National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) grant, Alabama's A+ College Ready program implemented a pilot in 2008 aimed at improving AP participation and performance in 12 schools – eight in Jefferson County and four in Montgomery County. In 2008-2009, these 12 schools posted an 81 percent increase in passing scores on AP exams in math, science, and English, with minority students' passing scores increasing 67 percent.

MORE AP GOOD NEWS FROM COLLEGE BOARD

JENNY KRUGMAN, vice president, College Board Southern Regional Office, said, "Alabama's AP growth percentages are amazing. Alabama public school students are outperforming their peers nationwide. Alabama continues to be a leader and model for other states in AP participation and performance."

ALABAMA IS THE #1 STATE

Alabama's AP students continue to excel in participation and performance, showing more growth than anywhere in the nation. Compared to all other states,

Alabama had the greatest one-year percentage increase in number of AP exam-takers and number of exams given. Alabama had the greatest one-year percentage increase in number of 3-5 scores, except for the District of Columbia. Since 2005, the number of AP exam-takers in public schools increased 108.6 percent, and the number of 3-5 scores increased 71.1 percent.

From 2008 to 2009, the number of AP exam-takers increased 24.5 percent, compared to 7.5 in public schools nationwide, while the number of 3-5 scores grew 21.1 percent (9.4 nationwide).

AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION

The state's African American students outscored their peers nationally, and African American AP participation has increased 300 percent since 2005. From 2008 to 2009, the number of AP exam-takers grew 47.4 percent (13.2 percent increase nationwide), the number of AP exams increased 66.8 percent (compared to 13.9 nationwide), and the number of 3-5 exam scores increased 36.3 percent (compared to 19.4 nationwide).

HISPANIC STUDENTS IN ALABAMA

AP participation among Hispanic students in Alabama public schools has soared 200 percent since 2005. From 2008 to 2009, Alabama's Hispanic AP exam-takers increased 18.1 percent (compared to 13.6 nationwide), and the number of AP exams given to the state's Hispanic students increased 21.3 percent (13.7 nationwide). ●

A+ COLLEGE READY PROGRAM SCHOOLS

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Clay-Chalkville High School
Gardendale High School
Hueytown High School
Jefferson County
International Baccalaureate
Minor High School
Pinson Valley High School
Pleasant Grove High School
Shades Valley High School

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Brewbaker Technology Magnet
Robert E. Lee High School
Loveless Academic Magnet
Program (LAMP)
Booker T. Washington Magnet
High School





State Board of Education Meetings Now Available as Podcasts

IN AN EFFORT to broaden the audience of those interested in the work and processes of the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education (SDE) Communication

Department has begun to employ more technology. Now, those seeking to know the decisions of the State Board can log on to the [SDE Web site](#) and hear podcasts of Board meetings shortly after they occur.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON said the use of podcasts for board meetings is just another level of transparency that is being provided to the public so they can keep abreast of what is happening in public education.



“Podcasting allows many organizations who cannot be here in person to establish a presence at board meetings and news conferences”

~ Acting Director of Communication
Michael Sibley

In addition to podcasting State Board meetings, several press conferences and media briefings are also being posted online. Teleconferencing technology is also being used to provide media and school systems audio and video access to conferences they might be interested in. MICHAEL SIBLEY, acting Director of Communication, said the use of videoconferencing is beneficial for school officials and media outlets that are sometimes restricted by distance and time.

“In our current economic climate, many organizations have neither the human or financial resources to physically send someone two or three hours away to Montgomery,” Sibley said. “Becoming familiar with and taking advantage of this type of technology helps establish a presence for those who cannot be here in person.”

Audio podcasts of all State Board meetings starting in January 2009 have been uploaded to the [SDE Web site](#) under the ‘Board of Ed’ button and the ‘Podcast’ link. Also, video of SDE officials speaking on such subjects as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and numerous other topics can be viewed [HERE](#).

“It’s important that the public stay in tune to what is going on in public education. There are other mediums, of course, but this allows those who wish the opportunity to hear for themselves how our State Board meetings are conducted,” Morton said. “It is also good for accountability and clarity that anyone, at any time, can go back and hear exactly what was said. We work on the behalf of the people of Alabama – in particular the children. This just allows us another method of opening our doors to them.”

Free Flu Shots at Alabama Public Schools

[THE CENTERS FOR Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) recently issued updated school guidance regarding H1N1 flu. The vaccine should be available in October or November. The Alabama Departments of Education and Public Health are partnering to offer free, voluntary H1N1 flu vaccinations for students, faculty, and staff at public schools.

H1N1 vaccinations are recommended but not mandated. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON said, “This program is strictly voluntary. We will require students to have written permission from a parent or guardian.” Dr. Morton also advised that the CDC no longer recommends school closure and that local officials will make that decision on a case-by-case basis.

“The goal of our efforts is to reduce the spread of influenza in school and to minimize the disruption of normal classroom activities,” said DR. CHARLES WOERNLE, Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). “We intend to complete



this process in the minimum amount of time possible once the vaccine arrives.” Frequent H1N1 updates are posted

online by the CDC, ADPH, and SDE. Logistics for the school vaccination clinics will be announced as soon as the vaccine becomes available.

“I think we can have a systematic plan – with very little classroom disruption – to offer it to every child in every public school in Alabama,” said Dr. Morton.

Photo: James Gathany, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Governor Bob Riley speaks during a ceremony at the State Capitol where he honored three Alabama middle schools. Photo Courtesy of the Governor's Office.



Students examine emergency response equipment, enjoy hands-on activities, and learn from professional and volunteer responders at the 2008 "Be Ready Day."

Three Alabama Middle Schools Win National Academic Achievement Award

THREE very special Alabama middle schools recently received a national honor for their academic accomplishments and comprised three of only seven middle schools in the entire nation to receive the **Making Middle Grades Work Gold Award for Improved Achievement**. The schools were selected out of 350 middle grade schools

HOKES BLUFF MIDDLE SCHOOL (Etowah County School System)
FAIRVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL (Cullman County School System)
ATHENS MIDDLE SCHOOL (Athens City School System)

in 22 states. All three were honored with the award from the Southern Regional Education Board for improvements in reading, math, and science. To mark the achievement, **GOVERNOR BOB RILEY** honored the schools at a ceremony in the State Capitol. **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON**, the principals of the three middle schools, and their local superintendents attended the event.

"To have three of the seven schools in the country receiving this award says a lot about how much progress we're making in Alabama when it comes to education. With programs like the Alabama Reading Initiative, AMSTI, ACCESS Distance Learning, and First Class Pre-K, students are making historic gains and achieving more than ever. It's these school leaders' hard work, and the work of the students and faculty at each of their schools, that we honor today," said Governor Riley.

"With only seven schools recognized nationally, three are in Alabama. To have three Alabama public schools out of the entire country singled out for the Gold Award, the highest honor for middle schools, is amazing, but not surprising. Alabama is a national leader and our educators continue to demonstrate what can be accomplished by working together for children," said Dr. Morton.

*Hokes Bluff Middle School (Etowah County) · Principal: Dr. Marguerite W. Early
 Superintendent: Michael A. Bailey · State Board Member: Dr. Mary Jane Caylor (District 8)*

*Fairview Middle School (Cullman County) · Principal: Dr. Susan Creel Patterson
 Superintendent: Mr. L. Hank Allen · State Board Member: David F. Byers, Jr. (District 6)*

*Athens Middle School (Athens City) · Principal: Mike Bishop
 Superintendent: Dr. Orman L. Bridges · State Board Member: Dr. Mary Jane Caylor (District 8)*

Alabama Prepares for "2009 Be Ready Day"

THE Alabama Department of Homeland Security, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency invite you to the 2009 Be Ready Day event. To be held in Florence, Alabama, at McFarland Park, professional and volunteer responders from across the state will teach your students how to 'Be Ready' for any type of disaster.



From preparing emergency kits to developing a communication plan for their family, this event will demonstrate to students the importance of being prepared.

The event will be **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.** Admission is **FREE**, so sign up today and let your students learn skills they will need for life!

Contact **BROOKE FUSSELL** in the Governor's Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Office at 334-954-7456 or at Brooke.Fussell@servealabama.gov.

This event is brought to you by the Be Ready Alabama campaign as part of National Preparedness Month. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information on Be Ready Alabama.



Students from Woodstock Elementary (Bibb County) recently won in the 2009 ThinkQuest Competition sponsored by Oracle. The team researched the question: How has rock and roll impacted today's society?

Leadership Academy Prepares Educators

THE CULLMAN County School System recognizes the importance of developing and supporting administrators and aspiring administrators and the school system is doing just that through its Leadership Academy. The Academy was designed using the model of the highly successful and internationally renowned National Staff Development Council's Academy.

Six Cullman County administrators are either graduates or current participants of the NSDC Academy experience and the system is dedicated to building a solid core of highly trained facilitators in order to replicate that experience right in its own backyard! Working as a tightly-knit collaborative team, the staff developed the Cullman County Schools Leadership Academy.

"The focus of everything we are doing is to improve student learning," says BRANDON PAYNE. "We have built leadership capacity and expertise through the National Staff Development Council's Academy, and now we're building that capacity and expertise through the Cullman County Leadership Academy."

State Board Member:

David F. Byers, Jr., District 6

Cullman County School Superintendent:

Mr. L. Hank Allen

Alabama Third-Graders Rock and Roll Their Way to an International Win

HOW HAS ROCK AND ROLL IMPACTED TODAY'S SOCIETY? Students from Bibb County's Woodstock Elementary posed that question and took top honors for [Let's Rock and Roll](#) in the 2009 ThinkQuest Competition. The Woodstock third-graders won first place in the 15 and under division in the Narrative Competition, which challenges student teams to publish their ideas on topics of global importance using the [ORACLE® Education Foundation \(OEF\)](#) ThinkQuest Projects platform.

Of the six teams winning either first or second in all categories, there was only one other U.S. team. Alabama competed with 1,200 teams from 26 countries, including Brazil, India, Puerto Rico, Singapore, and South Africa. Teams had approximately four months to research and publish their entries using OEF's ThinkQuest Projects platform. An international panel of volunteer judges reviewed the entries and selected first- and second-place winners in three age divisions.

"These students developed skills that are critical for success in the 21st century while producing outstanding educational resources that will benefit their peers globally," said CLARE DOLAN, vice president, Oracle Corporate Citizenship.

Alabama team members: Chase Medders researched 1950s music, instruments and artists. Drew Smith and Tori Treadway researched the 1960s and 1980s respectively.

"We are proud that an Alabama team achieved first place in the ThinkQuest Competition," said DR. MELINDA MADDOX, Director of Technology Initiatives, Alabama

Department of Education. "These students collaborated with peers thousands of miles away in Brazil and India to develop a multicultural narrative about the impact of rock music on society. This is truly an outstanding accomplishment in an international event that demonstrates mastery of 21st century skills in a globally competitive world."

Other 2009 award-winning topics ranged from the history of chocolate to child labor in Turkey.

State Board Member: Gary Warren, District 7

Bibb County School Superintendent: Dr. Don Elam

Woodstock Elementary School Principal: Mrs. Andrea Essman

Team Coach: Kristen Lightsey

ORACLE
ThinkQuest Education
Foundation



The Promise

by Yung Thi Bui-Kincer
2009-2010 Alabama Teacher of the Year
and Secondary Teacher of the Year

There is an inherent human tendency to categorize things in the world around us. We want to take chaos and make some sense of it. Maybe that is why we are always drawn to statistics. Numbers always seem to grab people's attention and education is a goldmine of numbers. Here are some numbers that prevail in our educational system:

- 5,447 students dropped out of Alabama schools in 2008
- 1.2 million students drop out every year in America
- 40% of teen moms in Alabama will not complete high school
- 80% of prisoners in America are dropouts

What are some of the reasons why we have these numbers? In Robert Balfanz's paper titled "What Your Community Can Do to End Its Drop-Out Crisis: Learnings from Research and Practice," he addresses the sources of why students drop out of school.

1. Life events that happen outside of school.
2. Students becoming frustrated and bored with school and feeling that dropping out or getting a GED is their only course of action.
3. Students being withdrawn from school, transferred to other schools, or dropped from the school rolls because they are or perceived to be difficult, dangerous, or detrimental to the success of the school.
4. Students experiencing repeated failures in school.

As the 2010 Alabama State Teacher of the Year, I have two goals. My first goal is to help bring more information and attention to educators and community leaders about our graduation rate in Alabama and what we are doing to increase that rate. We have many wonderful programs that are in place to help

our students succeed. Programs such as the First Choice plan and supporting policies such as Credit Recovery, PASS, and graduation coaches, all of which help guide students through high school; Jobs for Alabama's Graduates (JAG), which is implemented in 19 school systems statewide and is an effective program serving at-risk students; Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI), which brings math and science training to teachers and resources to the students; and A+ College Ready, a program to increase student participation in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and improve performance on AP exams in math, science, and English. All of these programs are put in place in Alabama to help our students prepare for our global economy and help propel Alabama's educational system to the top in the country.

My second goal is to reach out to students and speak to them on a much more personal level. Being an immigrant to this country and experiencing poverty, racism, abuse, failures, and ultimately survival and success, I want to inspire students to take advantage of their education to help them overcome their own obstacles. I want to share my personal stories and why pursuing education gave me the chance to succeed. I want to inspire those students who are struggling to know that there is hope and to inspire those students who are succeeding to know they have the responsibility to help others.

In order to help our students meet their educational goals and increase our graduation rates, educational and community leaders must take an honest look at the reasons why students are not performing well in school and therefore dropping out. Programs that consistently show improvement in student success should be supported. Educational and community leaders need to inform parents and students about the data that helps to support education and the programs that aid in student success. For instance: Public

- AP exams taken in English, Math, and Science at the 12 A+ College Ready Program Schools increased from 830 in 2008 to 2,508 in 2009 - a 202% increase.
- Alabama outpaces the nation in AP participation and scores.
- Alabama's number of test-takers is 24.5 % compared to the nation's 7.5%. The number of students scoring 3-5 on the AP test is 21.1% in Alabama, compared to 9.4% nationally.
- 100% of schools that are AMSTI-trained scored higher than schools that are not.

education holds the promise of equal educational opportunities no matter the race, religion, or ability of students. As educational leaders and role models, we must do everything in our power to make sure all children have access to this promise. ●

State Board Member: Ella B. Bell, District 5
Montgomery County Superintendent: Barbara Thompson



THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT - Governor Bob Riley

DISTRICT 1 - Randy McKinney, Vice President, Gulf Shores

DISTRICT 2 - Betty Peters, Dothan

DISTRICT 3 - Stephanie W. Bell, Montgomery

DISTRICT 4 - Ethel H. Hall, Vice President Emerita, Fairfield

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DISTRICT 6 - David F. Byers Jr., Birmingham

DISTRICT 7 - Gary Warren, Haleyville

DISTRICT 8 - Mary Jane Caylor, President Pro Tem, Huntsville

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION AND SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER - Joseph B. Morton

The Alabama State Board of Education BOARD BRIEFS

MAY 2009

- Resolutions Commending the 2009-2010 Alabama Teacher of the Year, the 2009-2010 Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year, and the 2009-2010 District Teachers of the Year
- Resolution Recognizing Alabama Public Television's 2009 Young Heroes
- Resolution to Adopt EDUCATEAlabama as the Personnel Evaluation System for Alabama's Teachers

JUNE 2009

- Resolution Establishing a Passing Score for the Biology Subject-Area Test of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam
- Announce Intent to Repeal Chapter 290-3-3, Teacher Education-Professional Services; and Announce Intent to Adopt New Chapter 290-3-3, Teacher Education-Professional Services
- Resolution Commending Dennis Veronese, Recipient of the Robert L. Morton Award
- Resolution in Recognition of Jesse Schmitt, Monrovia Elementary School, Madison County Schools, 2009 Recipient of Anne Frank Outstanding Educator Award

JULY 2009

- Public Hearing for Alabama Administrative Procedures Act, Amend Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 290-4-1, Education Accountability, to Include the Educator Code of Ethics, and vote to adopt.
- Election of Vice President and President Pro Tem for the Alabama State Board of Education
- Announce Intent to Repeal the Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 290-6-1, and Adopt a new Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 290-6-1, Pertaining to Career and Technical Education
- Announce Intent to Amend the Alabama Administrative Code, Rule 290-2-1.01, Annual Apportionment of Foundation Program Funds, and Rule 290-2-1.04, Annual Apportionment of Public School Funds
- Resolution Commending Betty Blackwell, "Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter," July - September 2009

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

Awards, Opportunities, and Professional Development

[Alabama 21: ARRA Competitive Grant Guidance](#)

DEADLINE: September 15

[\\$1.75 Million for Genomics Education](#). Apply for LICOR Biosciences grant to support hands-on education in Genomics. **DEADLINE:** September 30

[2009 Weightless Flights of Discovery Program](#) for Public Middle School Math and Science Teachers

[Mayfield Fun & Learning](#) for teachers and kids includes fun facts, craft ideas, agriculture and dairy resources, and nutrition lesson plans and activities for children in Pre-K through upper elementary grades.

Training for Alabama's New Teacher Evaluation Process

Get trained on EDUCATEAlabama, Alabama's new teacher evaluation process!

Professional Study Topics: The EDUCATEAlabama Process, Alabama Quality Teaching Standards, Building Trust and Conducting Classroom Observations, Dynamic Dialogue and Evaluator First-Hand Knowledge, and Building a Collaborative Professional Culture. **Professional Study Design Includes:** one Face-to-Face Awareness Session, five Web-based Modules, and three Face-to-Face Collaborative Meetings. For more information, contact Tammy Starnes at tstarnes@alsde.edu or 1-800-846-0948.





S E P T E M B E R

PTA Membership Month
 Food Education Safety Month 
 Library Card Sign-Up Month
 College Savings Month
 September 7 Labor Day (State Holiday)
 September 10 State Board Meeting
 September 14-19 ... Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week
 September 24 State Board Work Session

O C T O B E R

 Parental Involvement Month
 School Bus Safety Month
 Computer Learning Month
 Child Mental Health Month
 October 8 State Board Meeting
 October 12 Columbus Day (State Holiday)
 October 22 State Board Work Session
 October 31 Halloween



See Textbook Concepts Come to Life at the Birmingham Museum of Art

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS: AMERICAN ART FROM THE YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Oct. 4, 2009 – Jan. 10, 2010

Student tours for Grades 2-12: Tuesdays-Fridays, 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

Discount student tickets (\$6) and docent-led tours: Rhonda Hethcox, 205-254-2318 or tours@artsbma.org.

Teacher workshop: September 19, 8:15 a.m.-1 p.m.

FREE Teacher Preview Day: October 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., (must show school ID)

Pre-visit classroom presentations: Kristen Greenwood, 205-254-2856 or kpgreenwood@artsbma.org

Exhibit resources and lesson plans available [HERE](#).



Alabama Education News

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