



September 2012 · Issue I

ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

The electronic newsletter of the Alabama State Department of Education

8 out of 10 dropouts end up in prison.	page 2	Stay in School Campaign Kicks Off
Alabama Leadership Academy Fellow Program	page 3	
WFD MONTH Workforce Development Month	page 4	Workforce Development Month
Student-Made Christmas Ornaments Sought	page 5	

From the Superintendent

The Alabama State Board of Education took a bold and progressive step last week in its unanimous vote to approve Alabama's PLAN 2020 ESEA Flexibility Request to *No Child Left Behind*. In making this move our State Board has set a new benchmark for our students as we move from the one-size-fits-all measure of status known as Adequate Yearly Progress to one of growth toward College- and Career-Readiness with multiple pathways to achieve individual and collective goals.

The year before us will be one of transition without fear of sanctions and rankings but one where we begin the return of instruction and assessment to the classroom where depth of understanding replaces test preparation and anxiety. It will be a return to the recognition that the effective classroom teacher led by an effective instructional leader are the two variables that have the most potential impact on student success and where our greatest investment must be focused. It will also be a return to the education of the whole child where academics, career and technical education, the arts, athletics, and a host of other equally as valuable areas of study hold value in our accountability system. Finally, it will be a return to a system that values innovation and creativity rather than conformity and where being bold and innovative is celebrated, rewarded, and leveraged across our state.

You can review the entire flexibility request at www.alsde.edu under "Hot



Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education

public education in Alabama to return its focus to meeting the needs of ALL children with a goal of Every Child a Graduate – Every Graduate Prepared.

Topics," and I urge you to familiarize yourself with it over the next few weeks as it will guide our work for years to come. I would also urge you to reach out to your State Board members and thank them for their willingness to challenge the status quo and create an opportunity for

New Nutritious Meal Patterns Now in All Schools!

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) now offers a host of

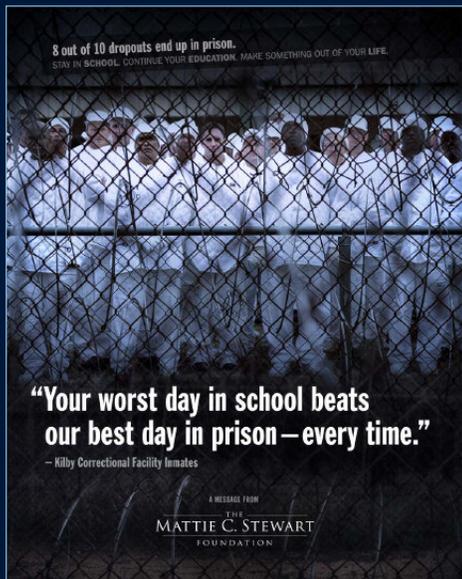
healthy foods and drinks in cafeterias. Currently, the ALSDE is working on two PSAs and radio spots to help parents and students become aware of the additions to breakfast and lunch meals.

Students will enjoy more lean

meats, more servings of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain breads, and less fried food—now we've got baked sweet potato French fries!

Get the word out about the healthy additions to school breakfast and lunch meals! Click for a [parent letter](#) and [poster](#) and a Child Nutrition [brochure](#).





“Stay in School” Campaign Kicks Off

Every 26 seconds, a child decides to drop out of school. That’s more than 1.2 million students each year. Eight out of 10 students who drop out of school end up in prison. These staggering facts opened the door for the “Stay in School” Campaign, created by the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation, and the campaign is comprised of a media blitz designed by o2ideas, Inc., including outdoor bulletin boards, posters, print ads, PSAs, radio spots, and T-shirts.

Thanks to the partnership between the Alabama State Department of Education, Alabama Department of Corrections, and the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation, students across the state of Alabama will gain a true understanding of why staying in school is so important. The goal of the campaign is to influence students to graduate from high school and to pursue a two- or four-year degree.

Contact the [Mattie C. Stewart Foundation](#) or [Communications](#) at the ALSDE if you would like to post videos or other campaign materials to your Web site to help promote this worthy cause. Let’s all do what we can to help keep students in school!

Increasing Numbers of Alabama Students Take ACT

Plan 2020 Incorporates ACT Assessments to Ensure College- and Career-Readiness

College- and career-readiness continues to increase among ACT-tested high school graduates in Alabama, with more public high school students – 33,541 – taking the ACT according to the ACT’s annual [Condition of College and Career Readiness Report](#).

In the 2013-2014 year, Alabama public school students in the eleventh grade will take the ACT free of charge. This roll out of ACT-associated assessments began with the use of EXPLORE in the 2010-2011 school year for the eighth grade class and PLAN in 2012-2013 for the same group of students, now in the tenth grade. WorkKeys will be given in the twelfth grade to same group of students.

“There is significant work going on here in Alabama, as well as the other states, to implement a set of high-quality academic expectations that define the knowledge and skills students should master by the end of each grade level in order to be on track for success in college and career. This ACT report affirms the reason why we are

moving our state work toward a new goal of college- and career-preparedness for all students,” said **Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education.**

ACT defines college- and career-readiness as the knowledge and skills needed to be successful. ACT College Readiness

Benchmarks specify the minimum scores needed on each ACT subject-area test (English, math, reading, and science) to indicate that a student has a 50 percent chance of earning a grade of B or higher in a typical credit-bearing, first-year college course in that subject area (English composition, college algebra, introductory social science, and biology).

The 2012 [ACT Public Data Report](#) shows:

- Alabama’s average ACT Composite Score is 20.1, compared to the national average of 21.1.
- Sixty-eight percent of Alabama’s public high school graduates met one or more benchmarks.
- Seventeen percent of Alabama’s public school graduates met or surpassed all four benchmarks.

Alabama’s Five-Year Trends	
Year	# Students Tested
2007	28,006
2008	29,219
2009	29,894
2010	30,949
2011	32,179
2012	33,541

Follow the Alabama Department of Education on Facebook and Twitter!

Friend or follow the Alabama Department of Education and get access to the most up-to-date information, press releases, event photos, videos, links, and much more! Links to all social media sites can also be found on our [webpage](#).



The Alabama State Department of Education Announces the Alabama Leadership Academy Fellows Program (ALAFP) Pilot!

Recognizing that the quality of schools is greatly influenced by the capabilities of the principal, the Alabama Leadership Academy Advisory Council (ALAAC), which is comprised of representatives from several educational stakeholder groups, convened in December of 2011. Members were charged with the task of creating a statewide program that would support the professional learning and development of principals as outstanding instructional leaders who are equipped with the knowledge and skills that are necessary for increasing student achievement among all students in Alabama. As a result, the ALAAC developed goals and adopted a curriculum for the Alabama Leadership Academy Fellows Program (ALAFP). This premier two-year program is modeled after the Fellows Program created by Dr. Diane Murphy, Executive Director of the Educational Leadership Center for the Wiregrass (ELCW). The ELCW Fellows Program has been instrumental in advancing the instructional leadership skills of principals and improving student learning outcomes throughout the Wiregrass for nearly four years.

To recruit participants for the ALAFP, all superintendents were invited to submit application packets for principals they thought would benefit from the program. After the applications were submitted, an ALAAC subcommittee reviewed the applications and selected ten candidates from districts located in nine different regional inservice center areas to form the 2012 Cohort of the ALAFP (see list of Fellows below).



ALAFP Summer Leadership Institute



The ILCs maintain regular communication and provide onsite support to Fellows by conducting a minimum of four site visits throughout the year that are purposefully designed to facilitate school improvement and address the individual needs of Fellows and their schools. Fellows and ILCs also jointly participate in four face-to-face, job-embedded professional learning seminars during the year that engage them in activities, discussions, observations, and projects that are framed around effective research-based practices and strategies. In addition, Fellows are encouraged to invite district-level staff to participate in sessions that benefit all administrators by providing access to experts and meaningful networking opportunities. Upon the successful completion of the Fellows Program, Fellows and ILCs will receive Professional Learning Units (PLUs) that are approved by the Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD).

To learn more about the Alabama Leadership Academy Fellows Program, visit the Alabama Leadership Academy [webpage](#) or contact [Dr. Angela Mangum](#), Alabama State Department of Education, Office of Teaching and Leading, at 334-242-9962.

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>System</u>
Deborah Bolden	Gillard Elementary School	10-Mobile County
Reeivice Girtman	Eufaula Elementary School	9-Eufaula City
Ann Jackson	Memorial Park Elementary School	1-Jasper City
Anne Lambert	Brewton Elementary School	11-Brewton City
Michael Manning	Corner School	5-Jefferson County
Mark Mason	Priceville High School	2-Morgan County
Kenyetta Miller	Morningview Elementary School	8-Montgomery County
Missy Nolen	E.R. Dickson Elementary School	10-Mobile County
Raquel Payne	Paul W. Bryant High School	4-Tuscaloosa City
Callie (Beth) Scott	Boaz Elementary School	3-Boaz City

The ALAFP has several research-based components which, when combined, provide a comprehensive program that strategically facilitates the growth and development of school principals (Fellows) and ensures that their learning is relevant and applies to their daily responsibilities as instructional leaders. Each Fellow is paired with an Instructional Leadership Coach (ILC) who is a successful practicing principal (see list of ILCs below).

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>System</u>
Constance Burnes	Wilkerson Middle School	5- Jefferson County
Concetta Burton	Byrd Elementary School	8- Selma City
Sonia Carrington	Rocky Ridge Elementary School	5- Hoover City
Lydia Davenport	Heritage Elementary School	3- Madison City
Marguerite Early	Southside High School	6-Etowah County
Earl Leonard	West Morgan Elementary School	2-Morgan County
Teri Tomlinson	George Hall Elementary School	10-Mobile County
Lisa Williams	Anna F. Booth Elementary School	10-Mobile County
Brent Zessin	WS Harlan Elementary School	11-Covington County

Digital Learning Going VIRAL

Hearing a lot about digital learning?

Well, it's only gaining momentum and changing the face of classrooms everywhere.

In fact, now there is a national day of awareness in February called "Digital Learning Day." In its first year, the participation in Digital Learning Day was extremely high among educators, prompting a second year with even more ideas to broaden the awareness and impact of digital learning. On the special day's website, teachers are invited to, "Join the wave of education champions who seek to engage students, celebrate and empower teachers, and create a healthy learning environment, personalized for every child." The next Digital Learning Day is **February 6, 2013**, so mark your calendar!

Smart phones aren't just helping us be more productive, they're more fun – with apps that help us post funny photos and moments of satirical inspiration on our social networks, watch the latest viral video, and play games virtually with friends during our short breaks.

The Alabama State Department of Education hosts the Alabama Virtual Library and recently purchased 109 online resources from Oxford University Press. These resources are free for all public school educators, universities, technical schools, and students to access.

Alabama will continue to see more rollouts of tech-savvy classroom products and practices, particularly as the department's Plan 2020 strategy is implemented. State Superintendent Dr. Tommy Bice is encouraging education leaders to utilize more digital technology and resources to improve the learning environment of Alabama's public schools.

Story Courtesy of [A+ Education Partnership](#).

Today's Students Will Be Tomorrow's Leaders



Since 1882, our nation has celebrated Labor Day, which honors the American workforce and its great impact on the global economy. Beginning this year, the Alabama State Department of Education has started a new annual celebration – Alabama Workforce Development Month – to honor our state's commitment to preparing students for future career success.

"We want our students to be prepared for both postsecondary learning opportunities and the real world of work," says Alabama's new Workforce Development and Career Technical Education Director Philip Cleveland. "This month-long celebration will emphasize the important role of workforce development in the future success of students."

Current research shows that 46 percent of small and medium-sized employers nationwide report difficulty in finding qualified employees for their high-skill employment opportunities.

The primary goal of Workforce Development Month (WFD) is to make all Alabamians more aware of the important employment-related



skills that students are learning in our state's classrooms. Special activities are being planned statewide.

In 2011, Alabama had the lowest unemployment rate of any state in the Southeast. Ten different Regional Workforce Development Councils have been established in Alabama to develop strategic plans and comprehensive systems to support local economic growth and development.

Earlier this year, Governor Bentley joined top executives from Airbus, and national economic leaders, in formally announcing Airbus' decision to make the state of Alabama the site for its first U.S.-based production facility. Governor Bentley also announced a new agreement with Austal USA, which promises to provide thousands of new career opportunities in Alabama.

The United States must continue to develop its future workforce:

- 75 million baby boomers are approaching retirement age.
- Approximately 8,000 "baby boomers" per day turn age 60.



Because of the strong partnerships that exist between Alabama's business and education communities, students are graduating and becoming top professionals.

To learn more about Alabama WFD Month, contact Alabama State Department of Education Career and Technical Education Information

Specialist Ed Crenshaw at 334-353-5220, or visit www.alcareertech.org.

Alabama Association of School Boards Webinar - Open Meetings Act Refresher



School boards, board attorneys, board secretaries, and others in education are accustomed to the Alabama Open Meetings Act. Yet there is always the possibility of inadvertently missing a nuance or making an unintentional misstep. Join AASB and attorney Woody Sanderson on **Sept. 18**

from **11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.** to brush up on the board's requirements under the law to do the public's business in public. Develop a true understanding of when executive sessions are permitted, what the notice requirements are, what deliberation means, and more! [Register Now!](#)

Free Resources for Schools!

The state of Alabama is providing 20 Oxford Reference titles and 82 Oxford Scholarship Online titles for use in every public library, K-12 school, community college, and university library in the entire state! If you are at a university or library in Alabama, click on the titles below to go straight to your desired resource and your IP address will be recognized with full free access. Not at a university or library? Get the full free access through the Alabama Virtual Library!

Librarians should check out the [Librarian Resource Center](#) to find training tools, promotional materials, and other exciting resources to help use these products in their libraries.

Good health should be on every back to school list

Good health and learning go hand in hand. Poor health can lead to chronic absences, academic failure and lost work time for parents. Back to school is an excellent time to schedule your children's annual checkups, an important part of a healthy family and lifestyle. Alabama's Community Health Centers (CHCs) are conveniently located in your community and provide comprehensive, coordinated and affordable medical, dental and prevention services that your family needs to stay healthy.

To find your local community health center or for assistance with health coverage enrollment

call 1.888.75CARE1 or visit www.alaaccess.com

brought to you by
accessalabama
a program of the Alabama Primary Health Care Association



Handmade Christmas Ornaments Sought for Governor's Mansion

Governor and Mrs. Robert Bentley will open the historic Alabama Governor's Mansion for Christmas tours on **December 3, 10, and 17, 2012**, from **5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**. Admission is totally free!

The theme this year is "Tribute to Alabama," and local designers have been asked to decorate in a way that represents one of the great features of our state. The John Blue Hill House, located next door, will also be open for tours. The Governor's goal is to let this house represent the children of Alabama, and he would like to decorate it with handmade ornaments.

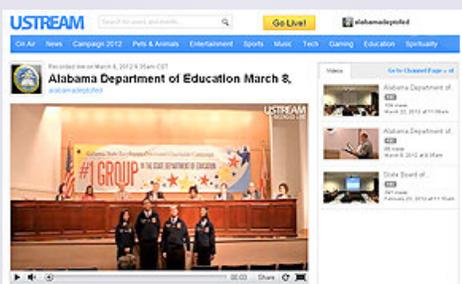
Please help by sending in handmade Christmas ornaments from your class! You can do one class ornament or send in several, but all will be used in the design. This will allow the creativity of all Alabama students to shine, and allow everyone to be a part of the Christmas season.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Heather Hannah by telephone at 334-834-3022 or by [e-mail](#). Ornaments are needed by November 20 in order to incorporate them in the decorating of the house. Mail them to 1142 South Perry Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104, c/o Heather Hannah.

Celebrate the holiday season with Alabama's children!



State Board of Education Meetings Now on Ustream.tv!



See your State Board of Education in action - Online at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/alabama-department-of-education>. See LIVE video every second and fourth Thursday of the month or watch the archived videos anytime you want (different days in July, November, and December).

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- President – Gov. Robert Bentley
- District 1 – Randy McKinney
- District 2 – Betty Peters
- District 3 – Stephanie Bell, Vice President
- District 4 – Yvette M. Richardson
- District 5 – Ella B. Bell, President Pro Tem
- District 6 – Charles Elliott
- District 7 – Gary Warren
- District 8 – Mary Scott Hunter

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

AEN EDITORIAL STAFF

Managing Editor: Dr. Michael O. Sibley
Contributing Editors: Ed Crenshaw | Malissa Valdes
Graphic Artists: Mary Nell Shaw | Charles V. Creel

Contact **Alabama Education News**
334-242-9950 (p) · 334-353-4682 (f)
aen@alsde.edu (e) · www.alsde.edu (w)

Alabama Education News
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

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

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

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

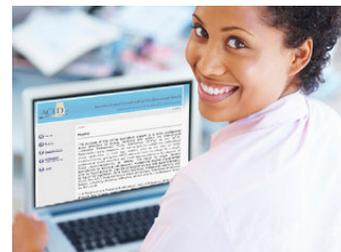
Need ACLD PLUs? Don't hesitate, start today!

Professional Development Your Way (PDYW) @ EDVANTIA 2012-2013 Schedule

To register and participate in the EDVANTIA professional studies, participants must have an active STI PD account! If you need an STI PD account, please contact your school system's STI PD Manager. If you are not employed in an Alabama public school, you must contact Lori Newton, State Department of Education, at 334-353-1118 or send an [email](#). Edvantia cannot create an STI PD account for you.

Reculturing for Student Success STI PD Title Number: **PLUACLD045**

This **16-week** online professional study provides participants with the knowledge and ability to promote and monitor a high-performance learning culture that promotes success for all students by collaboratively developing and monitoring strategic structures focused on success for all students and exploring and developing core beliefs that support distributed accountability and produce high-performance learning. Participants will earn 2 ACLD PLUs upon successful completion.



Registration Dates	Start – End Dates
10/8/2012 – 10/29/2012	11/5/2012 – 3/01/2013
12/17/2012 – 1/07/2013	1/14/2013 – 5/10/2013
4/1/2013 – 4/15/2013	4/22/2013 – 8/16/2013

Shared Leadership STI PD Title Number: **PLUACLD044**

This 10-week online professional study will provide participants with the knowledge and ability to utilize knowledge to plan for and sustain continuous school improvement in classrooms, schools, and school systems/local education agencies (LEAs). This professional study is facilitated and supported through Edvantia's course management platform. Participants will earn 1 ACLD PLU upon successful completion

Registration Dates	Start – End Dates
9/10/2012 – 9/24/2012	10/1/2012 – 12/14/2012
11/26/2012 – 12/10/2012	12/17/2012 – 3/6/2013
2/18/2013 – 3/4/2013	3/18/2013 – 5/31/2013
5/6/2013 – 5/27/2013	6/03/2013 – 8/14/2013

Additional Professional Study Opportunities

If you are interested in other professional study opportunities approved by the Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD), go to www.leadershipalsde.com. Then, click **SEARCH**. Once you find a professional study of interest, contact the provider listed on the **ADDRESS BOOK** to register.