FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2015

Montgomery, Ala. – The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has issued a statement to all City and County superintendents concerning the posted test results of the 10th Grade ACT Plan assessment given last year.

Due to an error in data calculation by the ALSDE, the test scores published on January 20, 2015 were incorrect. Since then, the test scores have been corrected, validated, and will be reposted to the ALSDE website, www.alsde.edu in the Data Center under Assessments Reports on Tuesday, February 17, 2015.

Specifically, the ALSDE inadvertently used preliminary benchmarks when calculating results on the 10th Grade ACT Plan, instead of the final benchmarks. As a result, the new statewide level of student proficiency increased by 10 percent in English (from 51% to 61%) and increased by two percent in math (from 17% to 19%). Both the preliminary and final benchmarks in Science remained the same, so there was no change in reported Science scores.

State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Tommy Bice said although the number of students proficient in English and math shifted upwards, there remains much to do in the challenge to make sure students are prepared for career and/or college.

“It is important to remember these scores reflect a new assessment with more rigorous academic expectations than the previous Alabama High School Graduation Exam. These new assessment results create a new baseline, aligned with the expectations of our technical schools, two-year and four-year colleges and business and industry and are to be used to design instructional programs and curriculum at the local level to continually move students toward college and career readiness” Bice said.”

Bice said the ALSDE accepts full responsibility for the error in reporting inaccurate testing data, and has put in place procedural safeguards to insure that all data released is reviewed and validated prior to release. That said, he is confident that students are now being assessed by a balanced and meaningful system that informs parents and students, while assisting teachers with strategic instructional plans to ensure every child graduates and that they graduate prepared.

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