FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 2015

AUGUST IS CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT MONTH
Students and Educators Engaged in Real-World Learning

Montgomery, Ala. - One of the foundational goals of public education is to educate and equip the next generation of citizens, our students, with a strong understanding of their civic and governmental responsibilities.

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is designating the month of August 2015 as Civics and Government Awareness Month in all public schools across the state to bring awareness to this important learning goal.

The ALSDE calls on school leaders to participate, if possible, in activities customized to meet the individual and collective needs of students and the teachers, support staff, and administrators who teach, assist, and lead them on a daily basis. Civics and government learning standards are found in all grades, with emphasis in 7th grade and 12th grade.

Students and educators are also invited to visit the Alabama Statehouse to see government in action during the Special Session of the Alabama Legislature. The School Superintendents of Alabama (SSA) organization is helping to organize the visits. Please contact SSA at 334-262-0014 for more information.

Educators can use this month to:
• Review the roles and responsibilities of local school board members, State School Board Members, County Commissioners, and City Council members.
• Visit a meeting conducted by any of the above governmental entities.
• Invite school board members and other elected or appointed officials to visit a classroom in one or more of their schools.

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- Review the three branches of state government and focus on the roles and responsibilities of their State Representatives and Senators in the Alabama Legislature.
- Invite their legislators to visit a classroom in one or more of their schools.
- Review the structure of the three branches of federal government and focus on the roles and responsibilities of the U.S. Congress and Alabama’s Congressional delegation.

“We all have a civic responsibility to become involved in the present and future of our individual communities, our state, our nation, and our world. It begins by becoming aware and using your civic responsibility,” said Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education.

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