



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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**ALABAMA AWARDED \$2 MILLION NATIONAL GRANT  
TO ASSIST RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH  
COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION**

**Montgomery, Ala.** – Alabama has received exciting news! Top state officials were notified today by the U.S. Department of Education that Alabama has been selected for a special national grant, which will assist in funding the innovative *Pathways for Alabama Computer Science* (PACS) initiative. The total amount of this grant is \$2,381,949.

This grant, which is a part of the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program, will assist in expanding K-12 student computer literacy. A primary focus of the initiative will be Alabama students in Grades 9-12, and those in rural and underrepresented communities.

PACS will initiate a statewide high school pathway of computer science (CS) courses, primarily for high-need schools (Title 1) in rural areas of the state.

*This innovative initiative was developed through a partnership between A+ College Ready, The University of Alabama, Tuskegee University, Haynie Research and Evaluation, Mercedes-Benz International, and the Alabama State Department of Education.*

A vital part of PACS annually will be the summer “CS Professional Development” week of experiences offered to Alabama teachers, school counselors, and local education administrators. Educators will learn about best practices and strategies to encourage broader student participation in computer science-related careers.

Also, this grant will allow six inservice centers, located near some of the state’s most rural areas to support year-round teacher interaction through professional learning communities and classroom coaching.

Opportunities for student learning will include an Algebra course integrated with CS information (Bootstrap), and two rigorous courses (*Exploring Computer Science* and *AP CS Principles*). Students may also be invited to participate in supplementary learning experiences including the *Summer Institutes* and specialized study sessions offered at participating regional inservice centers.

To learn more about the state’s PACS program, contact Alabama State Department of Education Administrator Dawn Morrison at 334-694-4762 or [dmorrison@alsde.edu](mailto:dmorrison@alsde.edu).

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