October is Parent Visitation Month

ALSDE is encouraging all districts and schools to host events, small meetings or visits for parents to come and see how great our schools are!

Because parent involvement – now more than ever – is such a critical factor in determining the success or failure of students and schools, the Alabama State Department of Education recognizes the need for ongoing, meaningful parent involvement. The Department is promoting Statewide Parent Visitation Month in October.

It is intended as a community effort – a time for schools, businesses, community agencies, churches, and government to turn their attention to the important role of parents in the education of their children. We extend an invitation for all schools and school systems to become a part of this important statewide event.

Check out our Guide and helpful links to inform the parents in your district of Parent Visitation Month!
The PTA Parents’ Guide to Student Success (listed below in English and Spanish) was developed in response to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics that more than 45 states have adopted. (To find out if your state has adopted the standards, visit CoreStandards.org/In-The-States.) Created by teachers, parents, education experts, and others from across the country, the standards provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and career. National PTA® created the guides for grades K-8 and two for grades 9-12 (one for English language arts/literacy and one for mathematics).

PTAs can play a pivotal role in how the standards are put in place at the state and district levels. PTA® leaders are encouraged to meet with their school, district, and/or state administrators to discuss their plans to implement the standards and how their PTA can support that work. The goal is that PTAs and education administrators will collaborate on how to share the guides with all of the parents and caregivers in their states or communities, once the standards are fully implemented.

Parent Guides

Two-page Parents’ Guide to Student Success
Color versions of the two-page Parent Guides

Four-page Parents’ Guide to Student Success
Black and white versions of the four-page Parent Guides

Four-page Parents’ Guide to Student Success
Color versions of the four-page Parent Guides

Additional Resources

Parents’ Guide to Student Success – Frequently Asked Questions PDF

Parents’ Guide to Student Success – Frequently Asked Questions

The Guide includes:

• Key items that children should be learning in English language arts and mathematics in each grade, once the standards are fully implemented.

• Activities that parents can do at home to support their child’s learning.

• Methods for helping parents build stronger relationships with their child’s teacher.

• Tips for planning for college and career (high school only).
Alabama GRIT is a team of Alabama parents, educators, business leaders, military personnel, and other civic leaders who work together to ensure all of Alabama’s children have an opportunity to graduate from any of Alabama’s schools prepared for real life.

**GOT GRIT?? (first ... read the pledge)**

I believe that every child should be able to attend a great school in Alabama that expects more from its students and ensures every graduate is prepared for life after graduation – whether one is starting college or a career.

Alabama has a plan to meet that goal beginning with the implementation of Alabama College and Career Ready Standards – academic benchmarks designed to raise student expectations to higher levels, build upon the gains our students and teachers are making in the classroom and keep our schools moving forward.

I pledge to stand with the many parents, military families, business leaders, educators, community advocates and others whose GRIT and perseverance are ensuring that our students graduate with the life skills needed to succeed in their chosen career path.

*(then, if you agree ...) Join Team GRIT and sign the pledge!*
Showcasing Real Learning –
Alabama College and Career Ready Standards

Common Core, or as we know it, the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards (AL CCRS), is a hot topic and will continue to be into the Fall and Spring. To help educate and inform educators, parents and students, ALSDE is showcasing what real learning in the standards looks like with the Alabama CCRS of the Week.

This is sent out each Monday to all districts, on the ALSDE webpage, Pinterest, Facebook and Twitter pages and to our partners in education to include: School Superintendents Association, Alabama School Boards Association, Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools and Alabama GRIT (Graduate Ready, Impact Tomorrow).

Please repost on your website, social media or email to friends! Click on ad for a larger printout.

ELA Common Core Resources for Elementary Educators
In a follow up to the Back to School edition last week, Edutopia is providing resources for implementing the Common Core in the new school year as teachers and students head back to the classroom. This list from Edutopia includes seven great resources created by various education organizations – everything from webinars to personalized lessons in ELA for grades 3-12. Click here to read more!