November 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice State Superintendent of Education

RE: American College Testing (ACT) QualityCore Training

As you know, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has provided ACT QualityCore for all school districts. The QualityCore offers resources for increasing the rigor of existing high school courses in order to better prepare all students for college and career readiness. Currently, teachers have access to the resources for Algebra I, Geometry, English 9, and English 10. In addition, the ALSDE has adopted ACT’s College and Career Readiness System of Assessments. This includes EXPLORE, PLAN, QualityCore, ACT (2013-2014), and WorkKeys (2014-2015), which provide a longitudinal, systematic approach to educational and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation.

ACT offers a five-day professional development training to assist teachers in the effective use of the QualityCore resources. Many of you have expressed the desire to have teachers attend this training, but have found it to be cost-prohibitive. We are pleased to inform you that QualityCore training will be provided free of charge to select applicants in each region of the state. Each school district is encouraged to nominate at least one math teacher and one English language arts teacher to participate in this training. There will be no stipend, travel, or substitute reimbursement associated with this training. This is an optional training opportunity for your district.

The dates for the first three days of the training are January 15-17 or January 29-31, 2013, depending on location. Details about the nomination process and training have been provided to the leader of your College- and Career-Ready Standards Implementation Team. For more information about nominating someone from your district, you may contact Ben Hicks (bhicks@alsde.edu). Please submit nominations by December 12. Superintendents will receive notification of selected applicants. Teachers will be contacted directly about how to register once the participant list is finalized.

In the summer of 2013, the ALSDE will provide summer workshops focused on implementation of College- and Career-Ready Standards. Some teachers who attend the QualityCore workshops will have the opportunity to serve as facilitators for these summer workshops.

If you have additional questions, you may contact Tod Beers (tbeers@alsde.edu) or Judy Stone (jstone@alsde.edu).

TRB:JSS:TH
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