October 8, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: County and City Superintendents of Education
    Deans of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
      State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Status Report on Implementation of Recommendations from the Alabama Commission on Educator Preparation, Licensure, and Entry into the Profession (ACEPLEP)

I am pleased to announce that the universities listed below have been authorized to provide a reduced course hour option leading to Class A certification in instructional leadership that is open to individuals who hold a valid Alabama Class A certificate and meet program admission criteria. We anticipate that other universities will be added to the list in the near future.

Alabama A & M University
Alabama State University
Auburn University Montgomery
Samford University

The University of Alabama
University of North Alabama
University of West Alabama

On another topic, I am pleased to affirm that I have made limited funds available to each of our 27 educator preparation institutions that wishes to move forward toward implementing edTPA as a performance assessment to be completed during student teaching or the internship. A separate announcement has been sent to each dean. My intent is that we will implement the same performance assessment instrument statewide for all individuals completing initial certification programs at Alabama colleges and universities, as well as for individuals participating in alternative approaches to earning a professional certificate.

Finally, we are working on the details to provide an alternate way to document content knowledge for individuals who apply for Alabama certification based on holding a professional educator certificate from another state in a subject for which Alabama offers comparable certification. Our plan is to do so if either of two conditions is met: (1) The applicant met the other state’s content knowledge test requirement for issuance of a certificate endorsed for the subject(s) issued by the other state and for which Alabama certification is sought; OR (2) While holding a valid professional educator certificate endorsed for the subject(s) for which Alabama certification is sought, the applicant
documents three full years of full-time teaching experience in the subject(s) endorsed on the certificate, in the state that issued the certificate, and within ten years of applying for an Alabama certificate. Members of my staff are working with legal counsel to revise our educator testing policy. The new policy statement and selected certification forms will be sent to each local education agency (LEA) and educator preparation institution in the near future.

If you have questions, please contact our staff member assigned to your LEA or institution.

TRB:JAM

cc:    Mrs. Sherrill W. Parris    Dr. Jendia S. Grissett
      Dr. Jayne A. Meyer    Dr. Anna T. Kozlowski
      Mrs. Sarah P. Justiss

FY15-2010