



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice  
State Superintendent of Education

February 25, 2016


Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

**MEMORANDUM**

Governor  
Robert Bentley  
President

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

Matthew S. Brown, J.D.  
District I

**FROM:** Thomas R. Bice   
State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters  
District II

**RE:** Alabama Public Charter School Law Informational Sessions

Stephanie Bell  
District III

On March 19, 2015, Governor Robert Bentley signed the *Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act*. This Act allows authorizers to establish and oversee the operation of public charter schools subject to the requirements of this Act. Charter school authorizers are local boards of education that register with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.

Yvette M.  
Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV  
President Pro Tem

The ALSDE is pleased to offer three informational sessions for local education agency (LEA) personnel and local school board members who want to learn more about the process for becoming a public charter school authorizer and the guidelines that have been established for such. The informational sessions are as follows:

Ella B. Bell  
District V

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	SESSION
Monday, March 14	10 a.m.—12 Noon	Lincoln Center Gym 901 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North Birmingham	<b>SDE-PCS20161 – Session 1</b> Overview of Public Charter School Authorizer Process
Wednesday, March 16	10 a.m.—12 Noon	Mobile County Professional Development Center, 1 Magnum Pass/ Cypress Auditorium Mobile	<b>SDE-PCS20161 – Session 2</b> Overview of Public Charter School Authorizer Process
Friday, March 18	10 a.m.—12 Noon	Montgomery Professional Learning Service Center 515 South Union Street Montgomery	<b>SDE-PCS20161 – Session 3</b> Overview of Public Charter School Authorizer Process

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
District VI

Jeff Newman  
District VII  
Vice President

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.  
District VIII

Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D.  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

These informational sessions will explain best practices for quality charter school authorizing and review established guidelines. Applicable personnel in your LEA who wish to attend should register for one of the informational sessions using the registration number listed in the chart above by **Monday, March 7, 2016**, via the STIPD Web site. Local school board members who wish to attend may register by contacting Ms. Beverly Davis via e-mail at [bevDavis@alsde.edu](mailto:bevDavis@alsde.edu) or calling telephone number 334-353-1815 by **March 7**. There is limited seating available, so attendance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. If interest is more than seating capacity at any location, an afternoon session will be

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added. If a session has reached capacity when personnel try to register, please have someone contact Ms. Davis as noted above.

If you have any questions regarding these informational sessions or other public charter school issues, please contact Mrs. Logan Searcy at (334) 353-2154 or by e-mail at [lsearcy@alsde.edu](mailto:lsearcy@alsde.edu) or Mrs. Kimi Riggins at (334) 353-8620 or by email at [kriggins@alsde.edu](mailto:kriggins@alsde.edu).

TRB/LWS/BAD  
cc: Local School Board Members  
**FY16-1005**