



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.  
Interim State Superintendent  
of Education

June 28, 2016

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**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Philip C. Cleveland *PCC*  
Interim State Superintendent of Education

**RE:** Third Grade Cursive Writing – Lexi’s Law – Act 2016-352  
(House Bill 218)

On May 11, 2016, Governor Robert Bentley signed Act #2016-352 (House Bill 218). This amendment to Section 16-6B-2, *Alabama Code* (1975), requires that beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, instruction in handwriting for elementary school students shall include instruction in cursive writing by the end of the third grade year. The Act puts into statute that instruction in handwriting shall include cursive writing so that students are able to create readable documents through legible cursive handwriting by the end of the third grade. It also requires each local board of education to certify on an annual basis to the State Board of Education that the applicable schools in the school district are meeting the cursive writing requirements.

Classroom instructional plans for when and how to teach cursive writing are developed at the district level. As you are creating local curriculum and determining proficiencies for cursive writing, please ensure that you are addressing the following Language standards in the 2015 Revised *Alabama Course of Study: English Language Arts* to assist in meeting the requirements outlined in the above Act:

- Kindergarten - Language Standard 37.a.  
Print many uppercase and lowercase letters
- First Grade - Language Standard 37.a.  
Print all uppercase and lowercase letters
- Second Grade - Language Standard 36.e.  
Form uppercase and lowercase letters in cursive (Alabama-added standard)
- Third Grade - Language Standard 38.g.  
Write legibly in cursive (Alabama-added standard)

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In order to make legible and fluent cursive writing an easy and automatic skill, students should be provided with many opportunities to experiment and practice writing in cursive at school and at home. For example, students can practice cursive writing across the curriculum in response journals, learning logs, writer's notebooks, exit slips, admit slips, letters, inquiry logs, mathematics logs, study guides, essays, open-response questions, lab reports, research assignments, etc.

In order to certify to the State Board of Education that the cursive writing requirement has been met, beginning in June 2017, we ask that you use the link below and complete the form including the names of the applicable schools in your district and their respective proficiency percentages in cursive writing. Proficiency in cursive writing will be defined by each district. This form should be submitted on an annual basis by the end of June of each subsequent year.

Alabama State Department of Education Third Grade Cursive Writing Documentation Link:  
<http://goo.gl/forms/1drqST2V7E6V1Aux2>.

If you have any further questions, you may contact Ms. Gay Finn, Education Administrator, Instructional Services Section, at [gfinn@alsde.edu](mailto:gfinn@alsde.edu) or via telephone at (334) 353-1191.

PCC/GF/LM

cc: Dr. Mark Kirkemier; Mrs. Shanthia M. Washington; Mrs. Robin A. Nelson;  
Ms. Gay Finn

**FY16-2074**