



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION




Ed Richardson
Interim State Superintendent of Education

March 21, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Ed Richardson 
Interim State Superintendent of Education

RE: The Graduation Rate and College and Career Readiness Gap

Many of Alabama’s public schools have a serious issue that must be addressed immediately—the gap between certain high schools’ Graduation Rate and the College and Career Readiness Rate.

On the February 2018 Statewide Prototype Report Card the Graduation Rate was 87 percent and the College and Career Readiness Rate was 66 percent, producing an unacceptable gap of 21 percentage points. Regrettably, that is not true of all schools. Some schools have a gap approaching 60 percentage points. In fact, a few high schools only have one in four graduates who accomplish one of the six College- and Career-Ready Standards.

Based upon the above, I am asking every superintendent of education with one or more high schools that exceed the state average and have a College and Career Readiness Rate below 66 percent on the February 2018 Prototype Report Card to submit to me no later than April 13 a plan for improving the College and Career Readiness Rate.

This is one of the most serious issues facing our schools. Failure to address this issue immediately will only result in more high school graduates and their families being led to believe they are ready for the next step in their lives when they are not—harm public education and depress our state’s economic growth.

Join me in using all available resources and efforts to “Close the Gap.” Please use the following link to log onto the AdvancED website and create your plan in the ASSIST platform: <https://cas.advanc-ed.org/cas/login>. Directions for creating goals and plans in ASSIST may be found here: <http://www.advanc-ed.org/sites/default/files/documents/state-resources/Goals%20and%20plans.pdf>.

ER:LAK

Attachments

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Ed Richardson
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