MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Ed Richardson, Ed.D., Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Alabama Bicentennial Schools

December 14, 2017

On December 14, 2019, the State of Alabama will celebrate its 200th birthday. Between now and then, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission is commemorating the anniversary with numerous activities and initiatives that will engage citizens of all ages in remembering our past and planning for our future. Among the most significant and far-reaching bicentennial efforts is a focus on K-12 education. The Alabama Bicentennial Education Committee, co-chaired by Mr. Steve Murray, Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and Mrs. Karen Porter of the Alabama State Department of Education, has created hands-on professional development for teachers and new digital resources for classroom use.

Today, Governor Kay Ivey announced a third element, the Alabama Bicentennial Schools Initiative. The initiative is a significant component of the Alabama Bicentennial Education Committee’s commitment to engaging students, educators, schools, and communities in Alabama’s bicentennial celebration. All of your schools will have the unique opportunity to participate in the bicentennial celebration. Up to 200 schools will be selected to be Alabama Bicentennial Schools. During commemoration ceremonies to be held in Montgomery on December 14, 2019, 21 schools will have the honor of being recognized as an Alabama Bicentennial School of Excellence.

Alabama Bicentennial School applications are due on March 31, 2018. Alabama Bicentennial School designations will be announced during the week of May 14, 2018. Final reports are due by August 1, 2019. The Alabama Bicentennial Schools of Excellence will be announced on October 1, 2019.

I strongly support the work of the Alabama Bicentennial Education Committee and encourage you to share this information with all school administrators in your district so that every school can participate in this exciting and historic opportunity. Attached please find details about the Alabama Bicentennial Schools Initiative and how schools in your district may participate. For more information go to the official Web site of the Alabama Bicentennial at www.Alabama200.org.

ER:KP:TH
Attachment
cc: Mrs. Jay Lamar
    Mr. Steve Murray
    Dr. Barbara J. Cooper
    Mrs. Shantia Washington
    Mrs. Karen Porter

FY18-2028
Take, O take the gift and giver.
   Take and serve thyself with me,
   Alabama, Alabama,
   I will aye be true to thee.
   “Alabama”: Julia S. Tutwiler (1868)

INTRODUCTION

On December 14, 2019, the State of Alabama will celebrate its 200th birthday. Between now and then, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission is commemorating the anniversary with a host of activities and initiatives that will engage citizens of all ages in remembering our past and planning for our bright future.

Among the most significant and far-reaching bicentennial efforts is a focus on K-12 education. Projects created and supported by the Alabama Bicentennial Commission Education Committee include both hands-on professional development for teachers and the creation of new, easily accessed digital resources for classroom use.

A third program, Alabama Bicentennial Schools, encourages all K-12 schools to connect their classrooms with their communities to foster an appreciation for the vital role of civic engagement in the life and work of a strong community and state.

By participating in the program, all public, private, and home schools are eligible to receive a gubernatorial proclamation, a bicentennial flag, and bicentennial-themed school resources for the 2018-19 academic year.

Up to 200 participants will be designated as Bicentennial Schools and will receive a $2,000 grant to support their project. Of those, three high-achieving schools from each Alabama Congressional district will be recognized as Bicentennial Schools of Excellence during commemoration ceremonies held in Montgomery on December 14, 2019.
PARTICIPATING IN ALABAMA’S BICENTENNIAL

The Alabama Bicentennial Commission Education Committee encourages all schools to participate in the commemoration of the state’s bicentennial.

Every public, private, and home school can request a gubernatorial proclamation signed by Gov. Kay Ivey, a bicentennial flag, and bicentennial-themed school resources and supplies.

Educational resources include a timeline of state history, posters, as well as online lesson plans and digital curricular resources. Information about bicentennial projects—including statewide traveling exhibitions, virtual fieldtrips, and summer reading programs—will be announced as they become available.


ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL SCHOOLS

Public, private, and home school networks can apply to be designated an Alabama Bicentennial School during the 2018-2019 academic year. Applicants must partner with community organizations on a project that addresses a local need or opportunity and demonstrates civic engagement and community involvement.

Projects must be completed during the 2018-2019 academic year but may include components that last beyond the bicentennial period. Up to 200 schools will be selected to be Alabama Bicentennial Schools.

Schools selected for the Alabama Bicentennial School designation will receive a $2,000 grant. Grants are awarded at the same time as the designation and are designed to support implementation of bicentennial projects and activities.

ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

Based on project reports, twenty-one schools—three from each of Alabama’s seven state Congressional districts—will be recognized as Bicentennial Schools of Excellence. These schools will participate in commemoration ceremonies in Montgomery on December 14, 2019, and be recognized by the governor. More information about submitting reports and the School of Excellence selection process will be posted at www.Alabama200.org.
ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL SCHOOLS PROJECTS

The goal of the Alabama Bicentennial Schools designation is to support project-based learning that develops civic engagement and responsibility. Successful projects will connect schools with their community and result in an outcome that has value to both.

Projects should identify a need or opportunity in the community that can be addressed over the course of the 2018-19 academic year. If appropriate, proposals will include a plan for continuing the project beyond the bicentennial period.

Partners should include community organizations or stakeholders related to the need or opportunity being addressed. Possible partners include local governments, businesses, civic and cultural associations, youth groups, or other community organizations.

Possible projects include, but are in no way limited, to the following:

- Community beautification project or garden
- Local history documentation through oral history, cemetery, or historic structure survey
- Enrichment or learning activity with a nursing home or assisted living facility
- Tutoring project to help parents, grandparents, or neighbors complete GED
- Repair, stabilize, clean up community building or space
- Address a concern in the community, such as water quality or community health

APPLICATION AND TIMELINE

Applications are due on March 31, 2018. Bicentennial School designations will be announced during the week of May 14, 2018. Final reports are due by August 1, 2019.

The Bicentennial Schools of Excellence will be announced on October 1, 2019. Those selected will be invited to Montgomery on December 14 to participate in the bicentennial commemoration and be recognized.

For more information and to apply, visit www.Alabama200.org.
BICENTENNIAL SCHOOL APPLICATION CHECKLIST

☑ Bicentennial Proclamation
   Your school has applied for and/or received a signed bicentennial proclamation. Proclamations should be publicly displayed to indicate a commitment to participate in the commemoration of Alabama’s statehood.

☑ Description of Project
   Your application includes a brief description of the proposed project that is designed to increase student civic engagement. Your project is grade and age appropriate.

☑ Community Input and Involvement
   Your application used demographic and/or academic data to help inform and design your project. Your application includes evidence of community involvement.

☑ Statement of Purpose
   Your application describes why the project is important to your school and community and how the project will impact your school and community now and into the future.

☑ Indicators of Success
   Your application includes three to five indicators of success. Possible indicators include parental involvement numbers, documented partnerships, student assessments, etc.

☑ Steps to Success
   Your application includes a monthly timeline of the steps to be taken between August 2018 and August 2019 that will make your project a success.

☑ Resources Required
   Your application includes the people, partnerships, equipment, training, materials, supplies, and services that your project will require.

☑ Approximate Total Cost
   Your application includes an itemized list of all estimated costs and an estimated total cost.

☑ Deadline
   Your application is submitted by March 31, 2018, and will be implemented during the 2018-19 academic year. Final reports must be submitted by August 1, 2019. Deadlines cannot be extended. Bicentennial School designations will be announced May 14-18, 2018.
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<th>2 pts.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project development based upon requirements</strong></td>
<td>Community participation, demographic, or academic data is <strong>missing, unclear, or irrelevant</strong> to the project.</td>
<td>Community participation, demographic or academic data are included but are stated <strong>inconclusively</strong> or their correlation to the goals of the project is <strong>weak</strong>.</td>
<td>Community participation, demographic, or academic data are <strong>clearly stated</strong>, and their correlation to the goals of the project is <strong>strong</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project description and statement of purpose</strong></td>
<td><strong>Description is missing, unclear, or irrelevant to the project. Project is not grade or age appropriate.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Description demonstrates weak relevance</strong> to the project assessment efforts. <strong>Project is somewhat grade or age appropriate.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Description demonstrates strong relevance</strong> to the project assessment efforts. <strong>Project is grade or age appropriate.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Measuring project success</strong></td>
<td>Measures are <strong>missing, unclear, or incomplete.</strong></td>
<td>Measures are <strong>included, but they are poorly described or weakly matched</strong> to project goals.</td>
<td>Measures are <strong>clearly stated and match</strong> project goals; moreover, supporting details are <strong>included.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Timeline</strong></td>
<td><strong>Timeline is missing, unclear, or incomplete.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Timeline is somewhat clear and includes some project descriptions and proposed outcomes.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Timeline is clear and matches both project description and proposed outcomes.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Budget</strong></td>
<td>Budget and resource requirements <strong>lock details or contain serious “padding.”</strong></td>
<td>Budget and resource requirements are <strong>generally listed with some “padding.”</strong></td>
<td>Budget and resource requirements are <strong>clearly detailed with no evidence of “padding.”</strong></td>
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ALABAMA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
1. Project Development

Meet with the community leaders, school leadership, and other stakeholders to develop a project which will
1. Improve engagement and discussion between the community and students
2. Encourage civic understanding among students by providing a project-based learning experience
3. Show whole-school curriculum involvement and commitment to the project

Use demographic and/or academic data to inform and design the project.
(PLEASE NOTE: This may be a piece of information that you can use in your School Improvement Plan.)

Develop a survey or questionnaire, or provide an opportunity for a community meeting, PTA meeting, or visits by community members/leaders that will indicate community-school involvement in creation of the project.
Give a brief description of your project.

Maximum Allowed: 250 words. Currently Used: 0 words.

2. Statement of Purpose
Describe why this project is important to your school and community.
Include both the current or future impact that you believe this project will have upon the school and/or community.

Maximum Allowed: 250 words. Currently Used: 0 words.

What grades will be participating in this project?
[Check All That Apply]

☐ K  ☐ 1  ☐ 2  ☐ 3  ☐ 4  ☐ 5  ☐ 6  ☐ 7  ☐ 8  ☐ 9  ☐ 10  ☐ 11  ☐ 12

3. Indicators of Success
List three to five indicators that will be used to measure the success of the project.

Examples of possible indicators include the following:
• Parental involvement numbers
• New significant, documented partnerships with the community
• Student assessments
• Increase in volunteer hours
• Creation and/or completion of a significant project
• Faculty and cross-curriculum planning, training, and implementation
• Student participation in a state or national competition
• Participation in professional development by teachers designed to increase understanding of Alabama’s history and of its role in the United States
4. Projected Timeline
Provide a monthly timeline (beginning August 2018) of steps that must be taken to plan and complete the project by the due date (August 2019).

5. Required Resources
Develop a list of individuals, partnerships, equipment, training, materials, supplies, services, and in-kind services that will be required to complete the project.

6. Approximate Total Cost
Upload an estimated, itemized list of the total cost of the project from the information required above.

Attach a File
Choose File
No file chosen

Total Cost
$  
Dollars  Cents