

ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

MARCH 2004

WHAT'S INSIDE ...

- Alabama's New & Improved Public School Report Card
- Alabama's CSFO Gains International Recognition
- Good News in Alabama Schools
- New Curriculum Program Takes Flight

ALABAMA'S NEW & IMPROVED PUBLIC SCHOOL REPORT CARD

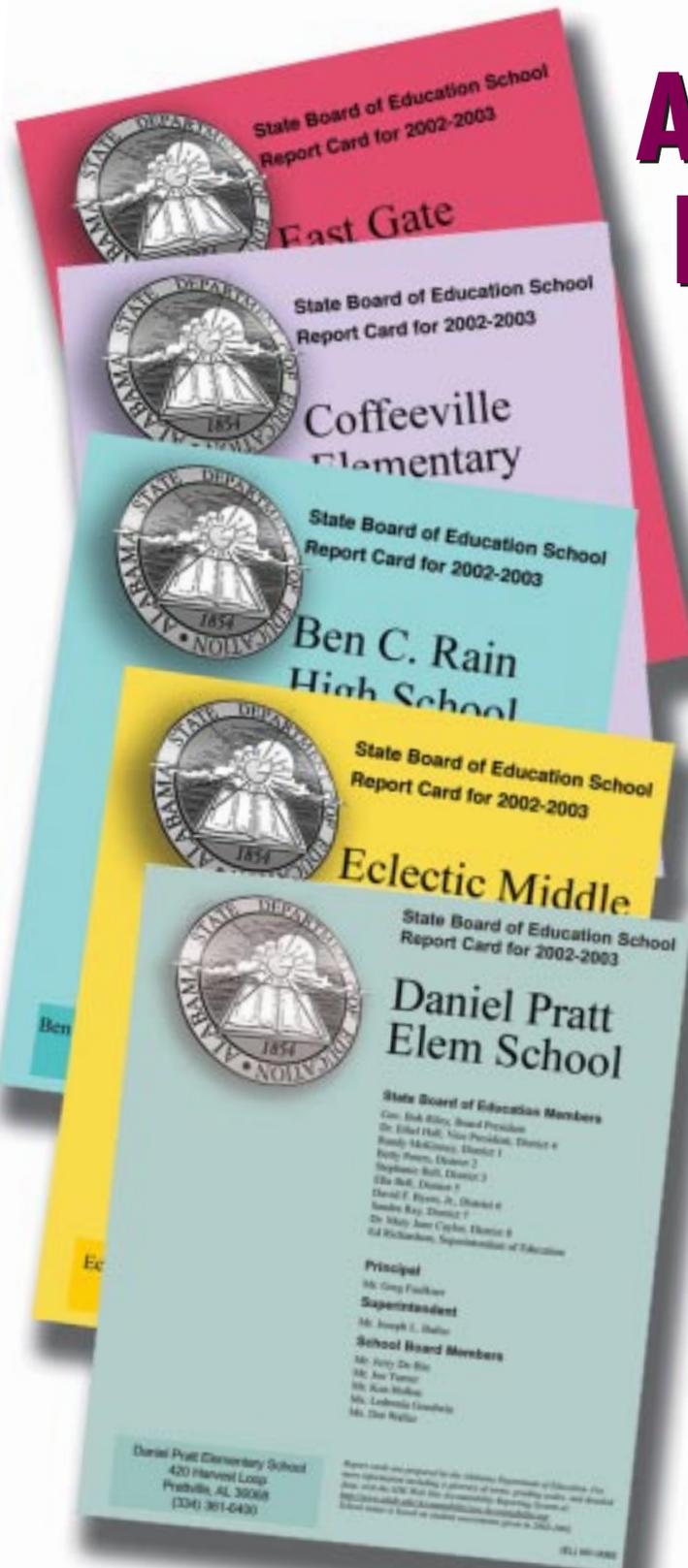
“PUBLIC EDUCATION IS A KEYSTONE OF DEMOCRACY. AS A RESULT, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO HAVE EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND INFORMATION ON HOW WELL OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE PERFORMING AS WELL AS TO IDENTIFY AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT. THIS REPORT CARD REFLECTS THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF OUR STATE'S TEACHERS, SUPPORT STAFFS, AND ADMINISTRATORS WHO HELP OUR CHILDREN BECOME MORE PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.”

— INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
DR. JOSEPH B. MORTON

Helping parents, students, and community leaders better understand how their local schools work is a strong commitment of the Alabama Department of Education. The all-new edition of the 2002-2003 School Accountability State Report Card, released Feb. 26, does just that, summarizing details of public schools in an easy-to-understand format. School system and individual school report cards were also released in conjunction with the new state report card.

The [2002-2003 School Accountability State Report Card](#) is a comprehensive state summary that includes statewide results as well as breakout information for each of Alabama's 129 school systems. Report card items grade schools across the state from an A to F on more than 30 indicators ranging from academic achievement to financial support. Additionally, charts, tables, and graphs measure how well students, schools, and school systems perform.

(Continued on Page 4)



ALABAMA'S CSFO GAINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Tough financial times require effective money management to positively impact student achievement. Alabama's required certification program for chief school finance officers (CSFOs) does just that by promoting the highest standards of school business management practices and improving local school systems' fiscal accountability.

"This program has been of tremendous help to our local school systems and continues to be one of which we can all be proud," said **ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION ROBERT MORTON**. "Additionally, we're very proud the program was recently recognized by the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International."

The state's 129 public school systems are required to have a CSFO who meets the qualifications and certification requirements established by the Alabama Department of Education. This requirement was approved by the Alabama Board of Education on May 8, 2003.

Alabama is one of only 13 states in the nation requiring certification or licensure for top school business officials. The program was developed through the cooperative efforts of the Administrative and Financial Services Division of the Alabama Department of Education and the Alabama Association of School Business Officials (AASBO). It meets the stringent criteria for continuing education credit designated by the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy for participating certified public accountants throughout Alabama. The University of Alabama College of Continuing Studies offers the program to school business officials throughout the state.

Additionally, AASBO is providing a mentoring program for new CSFOs, which will provide support and advice as needed upon request. Morton explained, "This sharing of knowledge and experience will help better utilize the limited financial resources available to local school systems. Veteran school finance officers will voluntarily serve school systems by answering questions via telephone or e-mail. On-site assistance will be provided on a very limited basis and only with written approval from the superintendents in both participating school systems."

The listing of mentors, jointly compiled by the Alabama Department of Education and AASBO, will be available in the near future.

[Click here](#) for more information. 🍏

MEMBERS OF AASBO JOINED WITH ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF TO RECEIVE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION. (BOTTOM, L-R) AASBO PRESIDENT MARCENA BRYSON, NANCY HAMILTON, TRISH MCLANEY, AND ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION ROBERT MORTON. (TOP, L-R) INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION DR. JOSEPH B. MORTON, LINDA MCGHEE, BILLY HOOKER, AND DAVID SMITH.



BOARD BRIEFS

FEBRUARY AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDED:

- ✦ Passed Resolutions Recognizing Brenda Levert and Nancy Hollis as 2003 Mathematics Presidential Award State Finalists
- ✦ Passed Resolution Designating March "Arts Education Month" in Alabama Schools
- ✦ Passed Resolution Recognizing Alabama's Certification Program for Chief School Finance Officers
- ✦ Appointed 2004-05 Social Studies State Textbook Committee
- ✦ Extended Approval of Teacher Education Programs, University of South Alabama, Mobile
- ✦ Passed Resolutions Recognizing the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, 2004 State Honorees and Distinguished Finalists



Adamsville Elementary School won the state's 2003-04 International Reading Association's Exemplary Reading Program Award, promoting literacy through member organizations in 99 countries. The annual awards recognize outstanding reading and language arts programs in public and private schools throughout North America.

Criteria is based on the school's overall reading program, integration of speech and writing with reading instruction, school leadership, the school's stock of reading materials, and test scores. Four years ago, Adamsville Elementary was designated an Alabama Reading Initiative Site. 🍏

STATE BOARD MEMBER: DR. ETHEL HALL, DISTRICT 4
JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: PHIL HAMMONDS
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: LAURA VANN

INTERNATIONAL READING AWARD



Buying and selling stocks and mutual funds give many people a case of nerves, but not so for 28 Dale County High School seniors who competed against 478 teams in a nationwide stock market competition and took first place.

The 10-week competition, which includes a number of defense department schools overseas, is called the National Stock Market Simulation.

The student teams, taught by economics teacher **WAYNE WOOD**, claimed the top 11 places in the stock market game. 🍏

STATE BOARD MEMBER: BETTY PETERS, DISTRICT 2
DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: DR. RONNIE JACKSON
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: LARRY BENNETT

NATIONAL STOCK MARKET GAME



Congratulations to Alabama's 2003 state finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the nation's highest honor for K-12 math and science teachers.

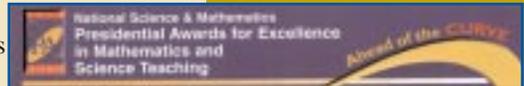
Alabama's 2003 State Finalists are **BRENDA LEVERT**, who teaches seventh- and eighth-grade math at the Academy for Academics and Arts, Huntsville City Schools, and **NANCY HOLLIS**, who teaches AP Calculus, Precalculus, Honors Algebra II, and Algebra II at Spain Park High School, Hoover City Schools.

Alabama's 2003 state finalists will compete with finalists from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and U.S. Department of Defense schools. The White House will announce the nation's Presidential Awardees in March. 🍏

For more information, [click here](#).
STATE BOARD MEMBER: DR. MARY JANE CAYLOR, DISTRICT 8
HUNTSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: DR. ANN MOORE
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: WILBERT BROWN

STATE BOARD MEMBER: DAVID BYERS, DISTRICT 6
HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: DR. JACK FARR
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: WILLIAM BROADWAY

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS



Brenda Levert



Nancy Hollis



Demonstrating compassion for others has gained one Alabama public school student a 2004 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. The annual awards honor students in Grades 5-12 who exemplify community spirit for outstanding acts of volunteerism.

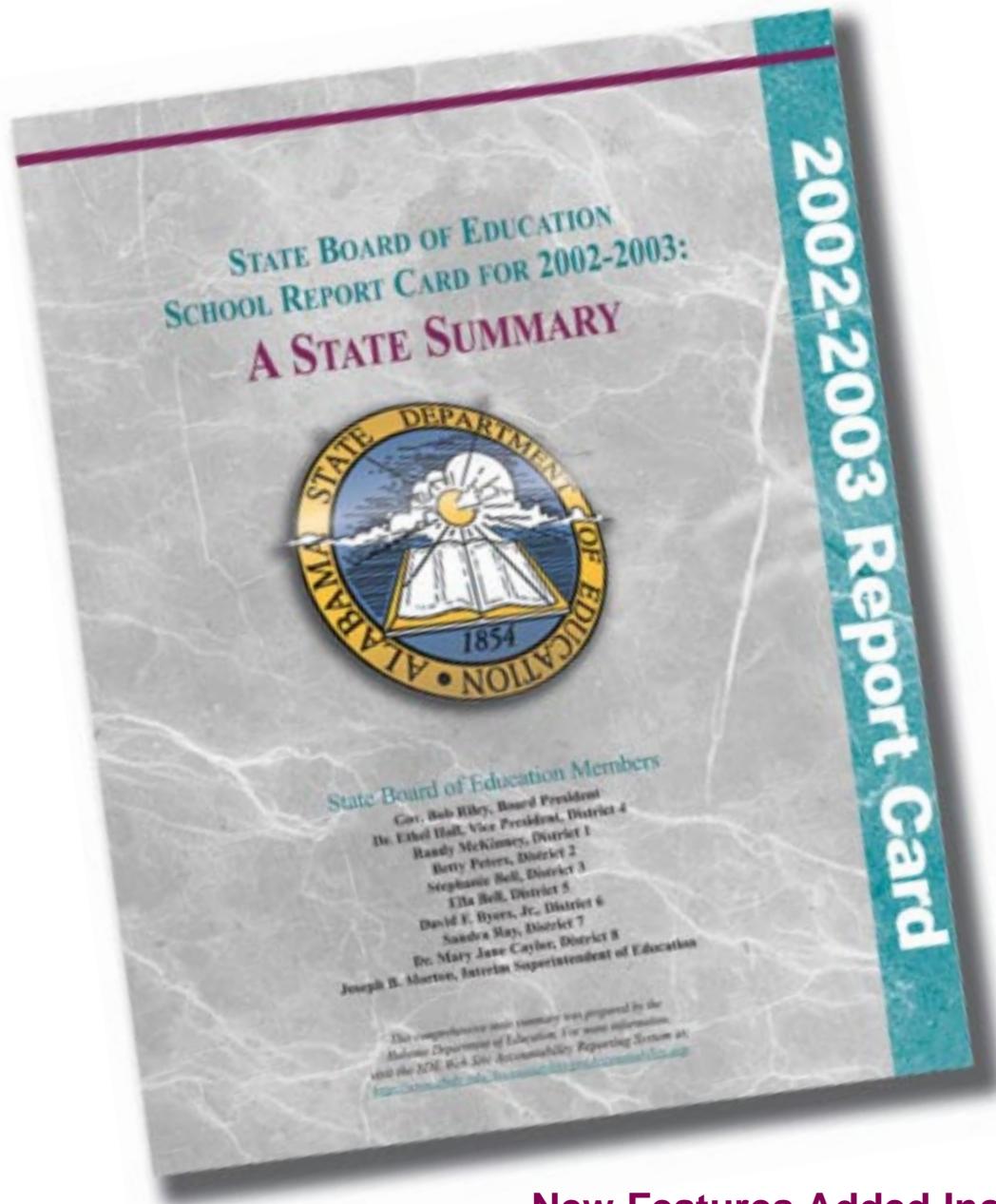
Thirteen-year-old **HALEY EVANS**, a seventh-grader at J. Larry Newton School in Baldwin County, was nominated by the Girl Scout Council of the Deep South for starting a program to provide fun activities and useful items to local nursing home residents.

For more information, [click here](#). 🍏
STATE BOARD MEMBER: RANDY MCKINNEY, DISTRICT 1
BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: DR. FARON HOLLINGER
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: SUELLEN BRAZIL

PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT AWARDS



E-mail your school's or school system's GOOD NEWS story to rwhite@alsde.edu.



New Features Added Include:

- ✓ More Indicators
- ✓ Expanded Career and Technical Education Information
- ✓ School Transfer Option Availability
- ✓ New Online Companion to Printed Cards

(Continued from Page 1)

Each version of Alabama’s School Accountability Report Cards is divided into three basic components: General School Information, Academic Performance, and a Taxpayers’ Report. As with last year’s report, revisions continue to be made to better meet requirements of the federal *No Child Left Behind* law.

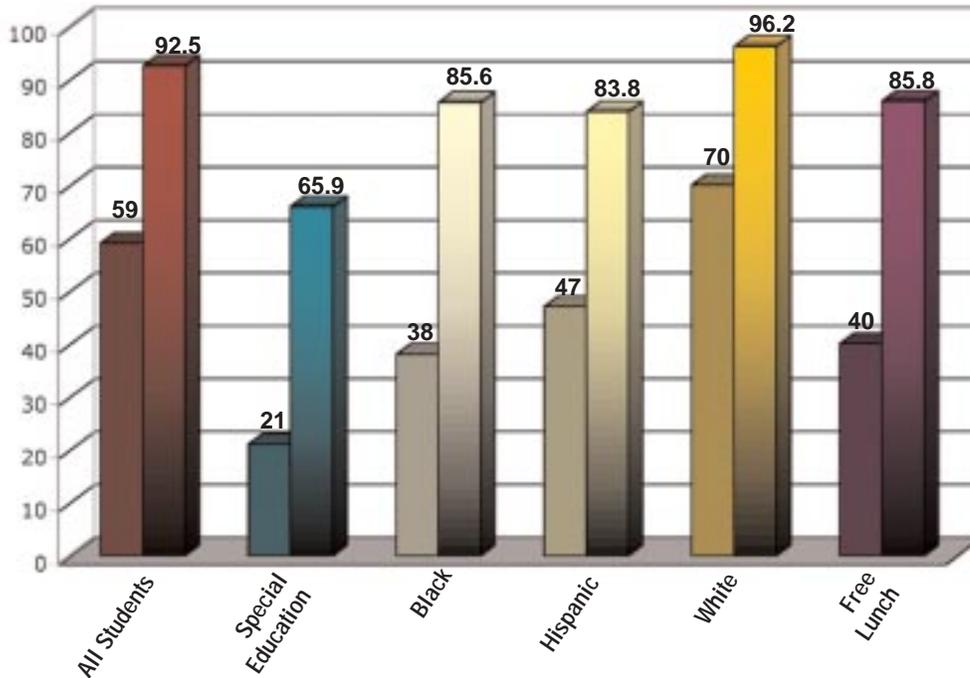
The Alabama Department of Education began

producing school accountability report cards in 1996. Four years later, Alabama became the first state in the nation to require public schools to send easy-to-read report cards with letter grades home to parents.

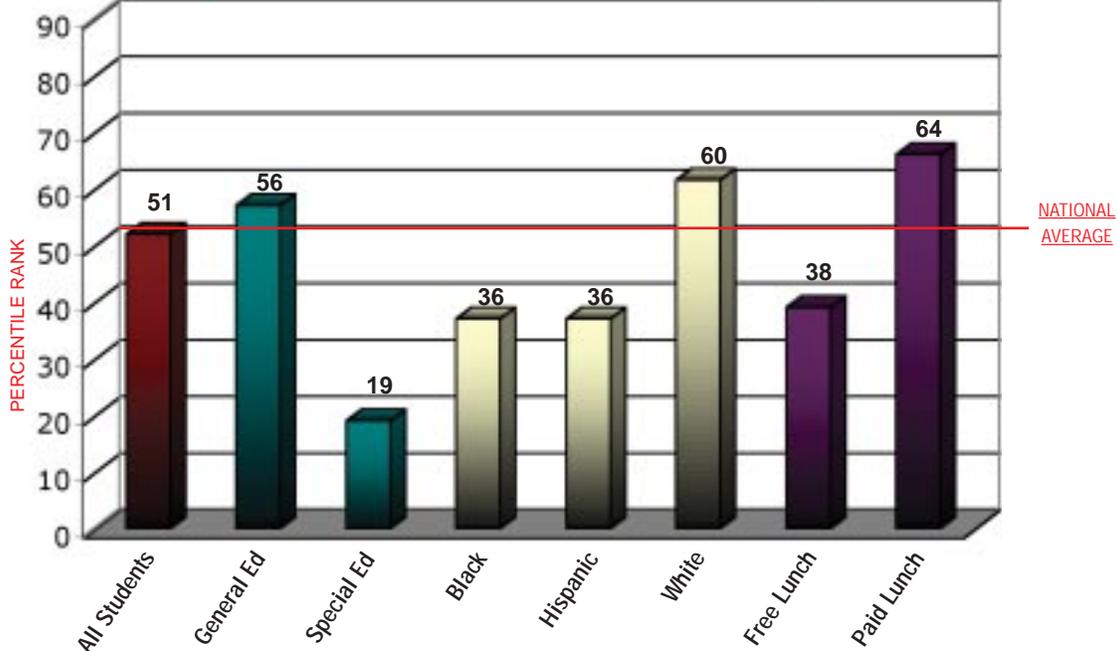
In addition to the comprehensive state summary, there are multiple versions of report cards. Elementary, Middle, High, and K-12

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXAM 2003
Percent Passing All Parts

(Left column is 11th Grade/Right column is 12th Grade)



STANFORD ACHIEVEMENT TEST — GRADES 3–8
Average Percentile Across Grades and All Subjects Tested



(Continued from Page 5)

schools each receive customized report cards. Many results compare the individual school to the combined performance of schools within the local system and state. Additionally, a report card is prepared for each school system. It shows the combined results for all the schools in the local system and compares those results to the state.

More than 800,000 school and system report cards were distributed statewide. **GOVERNOR RILEY** and the state Board of Education are requesting every principal send school report cards home the next time students

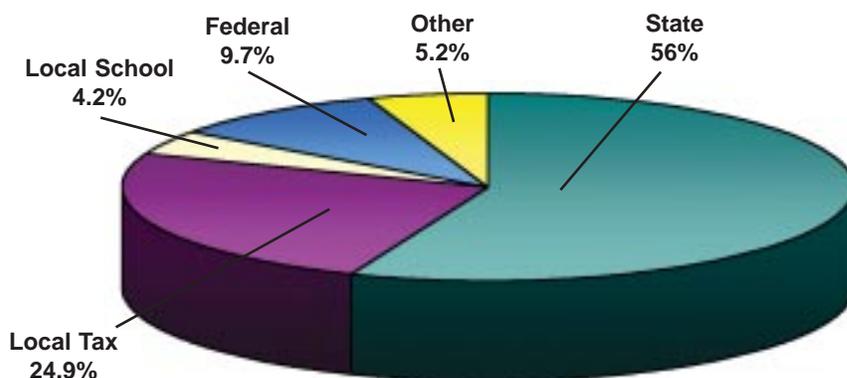
receive individual report cards.

“When parents open the report cards, they will find data on enrollment, spending per student, school revenues, academic performance, safety and discipline, staffing, career and college, and student access to technology,” said State Board of Education District 7 member Sandry Ray. “It is important data educators, parents, and community members need to help ensure no child is left behind.”

[Click here](#) for complete report cards for the state, each school system, and public schools. 🍏

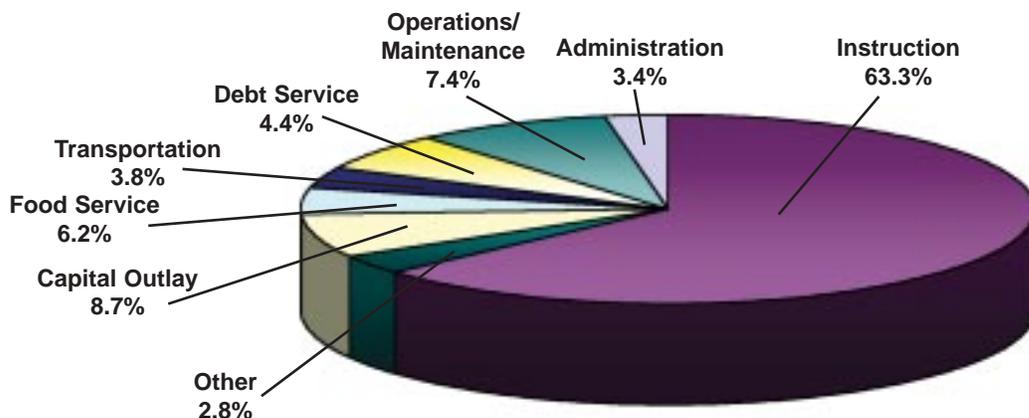
SOURCES OF SCHOOL SYSTEM REVENUES

Total Revenues = \$5,366,087,471.99



USE OF FUNDS

Total Spending = \$5,288,631,578.72





SUPERINTENDENT'S ART EXHIBIT KICKS OFF MARCH AS ARTS EDUCATION MONTH

Representatives from the Alabama Department of Education announced the winners in the 26th Annual State Superintendent's Arts Exhibit during an awards ceremony held at the State Capitol, Saturday, Feb. 28.

Artwork entries were received from over 200 K-12 students from across the state. Each school system was encouraged to submit student artwork in each of the two categories for each grade division. 🍏

INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION DR. JOSEPH B. MORTON DISPLAYS THE "BEST OF SHOW" WINNING ENTRY.

CATEGORY I: TWO-DIMENSIONAL WORK

(may include painting of any medium, drawing of any medium, or mixed media)

CATEGORY II: PHOTOGRAPHY OR GRAPHIC DESIGN

(computer-generated work)

DIVISION 7-8, CATEGORY I

- 1st Place – Allie Dean, Jefferson County Schools
- 2nd Place – Samantha Cooke, Covington County Schools
- 3rd Place – Woods Parker, Thomasville City Schools

DIVISION 7-8, CATEGORY II

- 1st Place – Grace Moss, Auburn City Schools
- 2nd Place – Hannah Hill, Gadsden City Schools
- 3rd Place – Ahmad El-Bahesh, Guntersville City Schools

DIVISION 9-10, CATEGORY I

- 1st Place – Meghan Strickland, Troy City Schools
- 2nd Place – Carol Agola, Madison City Schools
- 3rd Place – Yide Zheng, Tuscaloosa City Schools

DIVISION 9-10, CATEGORY II

- 1st Place – Amanda Carpenter, Madison County Schools
- 2nd Place – Brittany Ledbetter, Marshall County Schools
- 3rd Place – Jennifer Hoots, Montgomery County Schools

DIVISION 11-12, CATEGORY I

- 1st Place – Allison Bramlett, Mountain Brook City Schools
- 2nd Place – Paul Tierney, Madison City Schools
- 3rd Place – Mallory Stanhope, Florence City Schools

DIVISION 11-12, CATEGORY II

- 1st Place – Mila Dreher, Mountain Brook City Schools
- 2nd Place – Thomas Irby, Athens City Schools
- 3rd Place – Amanda Foran, Auburn City Schools

BEST OF SHOW

Matthew Hastings, Madison City Schools

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Tyler Shouse, Marshall County Schools

NEW CURRICULUM PROGRAM TAKES FLIGHT

The Alabama Department of Education is partnering with Alabama Power to bring a new learning tool to the state's classrooms. It teaches students about a significant part of Alabama and American history. *Patriots & Pioneers*, an educational packet developed by a panel of teachers from across the state, is designed to help educators teach Alabama students in Grades 4-12 about the Tuskegee Airmen.

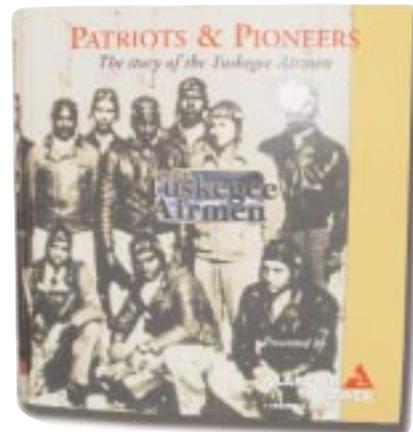
The lesson plans conform to Alabama Course of Study criteria, and are being distributed to more than 3,000 public school



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN HERBERT "GENE" CARTER AND CARROLL WOODS FIELDLED QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES AND THOSE WHO SERVED WITH THEM DURING WORLD WAR II.

classrooms and libraries statewide. Each packet contains a VHS copy of *The Tuskegee Airmen*, a documentary telling the story of the groundbreaking African-American fliers, their fight against fascism overseas during World War II, and their struggle against racial prejudice at home.

Patriots & Pioneers was unveiled Feb. 11, during news conferences at Forest Avenue Elementary School in Montgomery and Shades Cahaba Elementary School in Homewood. The news conferences were a special treat for the fourth-grade students in attendance because they had the opportunity to meet two retired Tuskegee Airmen. Lt. Col. HERBERT "GENE" CARTER of Tuskegee and Maj. CARROLL WOODS of Montgomery fielded questions from the students about their accomplishments and those who served with them during World War II. Carter and Woods are among the fliers profiled in *The Tuskegee Airmen*, the documentary film included in *Patriots & Pioneers*. 🍏



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

The 29th Annual Alabama School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, March 22-26, at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa, is for professionals involved in the enforcement, prevention, identification, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of chemical abuse and dependency. [Click here](#) for registration information.

The USA Today 2004 All-USA Teacher Team is a recognition program for K-12 educators. Team members serve as representatives of outstanding teachers across the nation. [Click here](#) to visit their Web site. **Deadline: April 19**

The Alabama PTA 86th Annual Convention will be held in Montgomery, April 23-24. [Click here](#) for further information.

The Leadership Academy for Math, Science, and Technology (LAMST), July 12-16, in Huntsville, will offer training to help schools improve math and science instruction in Grades K-5 in regions not served by the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI). School teams, each composed of a school principal, math teacher, and science teacher, can participate in the academy. For more information about LAMST, including an application form, [click here](#) or call Cindy Hester at 334-353-9151.

AWARD AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Horace Mann Scholarships for Educators provide funds to help teachers continue their education. Applicant must have a minimum of two years' teaching experience. [Click here](#) for program guidelines and an online application form or call 1-800-999-1030. **Deadline: May 15**

Sidewalk's Student Filmmaking Competition is open to students in Grades 7-12. [Click here](#) to get it online or call Catherine at 205-324-0888 for further information. **Deadline: April 30**

Education's Unsung Heroes Awards Program recognizes K-12 educators for their innovative teaching methods, creative educational projects, and ability to make a positive influence on the children they teach. For more information, [click here](#). **Deadline: April 30**

TEACHER OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

*Mountain Brook High School, Mountain Brook City Schools
State Board of Education District 6*

THERESA CORLEY is the Teacher of the Month for March. Representing State Board of Education District 6, Corley is a chemistry teacher and science department chairman at Mountain Brook High School in the Mountain Brook City School System. Corley and her school each receive \$1,000 from ALFA Insurance Co. and the Alabama Farmers Federation.

Corley has earned National Board Certification in Chemistry, the Conant Award for High School Chemistry Teaching from the American Chemical Society, and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for Secondary Science. The Presidential Award, the nation's highest honor for math and science teachers, is bestowed by the National Science Foundation and the White House.



THERESA CORLEY

Corley's teaching philosophy is based on meeting the individual needs of students by engaging them with interesting, hands-on experiments. "Chemistry is everywhere in our daily lives," she said. "I want science to come alive and be interesting to all students, regardless of their diverse learning styles or ability levels." Corley has transformed chemistry from a dreaded subject into a fun learning adventure. To help students master complicated chemistry concepts, Corley's classes conduct experiments such as concocting slime on Halloween, making chemical pie at Thanksgiving, and celebrating Mother's Day with "weather flowers." 🍏



No Child LEFT BEHIND

The U.S. Department of Education has established a toll-free resource line to update superintendents on the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. The resource line – 1-888-NCLB-SUP or 1-888-625-2787 – is staffed weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Superintendents: [click here](#) to e-mail your inquiry.

The NCLB resource line offers information about all facets of the education reform law, including accountability and measuring school progress, supplemental educational services such as tutoring, public school choice options, Reading First grants, and details on the highly qualified teachers provisions of the law. [Click here](#) for NCLB information online.

MARCH



ALABAMA COMMUNITY EDUCATION MONTH ARTS EDUCATION MONTH	
1-4/16	Alabama Alternate Assessment Administration Alabama Occupational Diploma Portfolio
14	English Language Acquisition Test
6	Praxis II Administration
8-12	Alabama High School Graduation Exam Administration
11	Alabama Board of Education Meeting
25	Alabama Board of Education Work Session

APRIL



2-3	Alabama Technology Student Association State Conference	3
5-16	Stanford 10 Administration Alabama Reading and Math Test Administration	10
8	Alabama Board of Education Meeting	
14-15	FBLA State Conference	
17	Praxis II Administration	23
22	Alabama Board of Education Work Session	24
25	SkillsUSA-VICA State Leadership & Skills Conference	30



VOL 27 • NO 7

March 2004

ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

Alabama Board of Education Members

Gov. Bob Riley, President

Dist. 1 - Randy McKinney, Gulf Shores
Dist. 2 - Betty Peters, Dothan
Dist. 3 - Stephanie W. Bell, Montgomery
Dist. 4 - Ethel H. Hall, Vice Pres., Fairfield
Dist. 5 - Ella B. Bell, Montgomery
Dist. 6 - David F. Byers Jr., Birmingham
Dist. 7 - Sandra Ray, Tuscaloosa
Dist. 8 - Mary Jane Caylor, Huntsville

Joseph B. Morton,
Interim State Superintendent of Education
and Secretary and Executive Officer
of the Alabama Board of Education

Editorial Staff - (334) 242-9950

Managing Editor - Mitch Edwards
Editor - Rebecca Leigh White
Contributing Editor - Anne Graham
Graphic Artist - Mary Nell Shaw

The Alabama Department of Education publishes *Alabama Education News* (USPS 387-290) monthly except for June, July, and December. Editorial offices are located in the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery 36130-2101. *Alabama Education News* is composed by the Department of Education's Communication Section and printed by EBSCO Media of Birmingham. Periodicals are postage paid in Montgomery and at an additional mailing office.

This publication, authorized by Section 16-2-4 of the Code of Alabama, as recompiled in 1975, is a public service of the Alabama Department of Education designed to inform citizens and educators about programs and goals of public education in Alabama.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Alabama Education News*, Alabama Department of Education, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101.

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or age. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972: Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8444.

Copies available in Braille or other forms upon request.