



ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

OCTOBER 2006

ALABAMA SCHOOLS GET BIG REWARDS



It's an old saying that the best way to feel rich is to count the things that money can't buy ...

Fortunately, hundreds of Alabama public schools will experience both, receiving financial rewards as well as what money can't buy – student achievement! Officials at the Alabama Department of Education have determined five major categories of schools that have shown exemplary strides in improving student achievement and overcoming the challenge of reducing achievement gaps between Alabama's defined student populations. A total budget of almost \$3 million from state and federal sources (\$2,467,250 - state

and \$448,777 - federal) is available for these rewards.

The Rewards Committee, comprised of Alabama educators and stakeholders, developed the plan for distribution to Alabama's public schools. Using information from 2005-2006 student test data released in August, the committee determined which schools were eligible for recognition and monetary rewards in the areas of *Torchbearer Schools*, or schools that are *Advancing the Challenge, Meeting the Challenge, Exceeding the Challenge*, and/or *Addressing the Challenge*.

The monetary rewards are unrestricted

and will be made available to individual schools to be used however the faculty determines. Statewide there are:

- 22 Torchbearer Schools
- 52 Advancing the Challenge Schools
- 138 Meeting the Challenge Schools
- 136 Exceeding the Challenge Schools
- 125 Addressing the Challenge Schools
(schools may meet more than one category)

The criteria listed on the following page were used to identify schools eligible for rewards based on 2005-2006 test data.

(continued on page 2)

CASH REWARDS ARE UNRESTRICTED AND WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS TO BE USED HOWEVER THE FACULTY DETERMINES.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New School Bus Law ~ 3 • Good News in Alabama Schools ~ 4 • Voting for Equity ~ 6
CONTINUED ONLINE: Teacher of the Month • Visit www.alsde.edu

Monetary rewards were based on these criteria using 2005-2006 test data:



EXCEEDING THE CHALLENGE SCHOOLS

STATEWIDE TOTAL: \$680,000

School with subgroup whose percent of students scoring proficient in reading and math exceeded its state counterpart. *(School will receive a monetary reward for each subgroup.)*



ADVANCING THE CHALLENGE SCHOOLS

STATEWIDE TOTAL: \$416,000

School where percent of students scoring advanced in reading and math exceeded state percent scoring advanced. *(School must have at least an 80% poverty rate.)*



MEETING THE CHALLENGE SCHOOLS

STATEWIDE TOTAL: \$1,168,000

School that met AYP for two consecutive years. *(School must have at least an 80% poverty rate.)*



ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE SCHOOLS

STATEWIDE TOTAL: \$379,700

School with subgroup that closed the achievement gap in percent of students scoring proficient in reading and math by at least 15% when compared to its state counterpart. *(School will receive a monetary reward for each subgroup.)*



TORCHBEARER SCHOOLS

STATEWIDE TOTAL: \$220,000

School meeting multiple criteria including poverty, high test scores, and making AYP for two consecutive years.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON said although there is no amount of money that can equal the priceless gift of education, this much-deserved reward is a token of appreciation for the diligent efforts of these school administrators, teachers, and students.

“Meeting the rigid demands of No Child Left Behind is an accomplishment in and of itself. Couple that with the additional circumstances of poverty and other challenges to some schools and the goals are even harder to attain,” Morton said. “These significant accomplishments address the fact that every child can learn and achieve a much higher level of greatness in the years ahead.”

The only stipulation for spending the reward money received is that the teachers and principal collectively decide what to do with it, and some have found ways to enhance their teaching experience.

SHARON WINDHAM, Federal Programs Coordinator in Cullman City Schools, said the teachers at East Elementary School received a reward last year and decided to go high-tech with their funds. “East

Elementary bought multi-media projectors for each of their teachers to enhance their instruction time in the classroom,” Mrs. Windham said. “This was a wonderful incentive for the school – the teachers were thrilled that each teacher could get the projectors. Without those funds we would not have been able to do that.”

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) establishes firm objectives for schools across America to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). In Alabama, schools and systems are evaluated based on student performance on Alabama content standards, attendance rates (elementary and middle schools), and drop-out rates (high schools). Depending on any combination of variables of subgroups and grade levels, a school and/or school system could have anywhere from 5 to 39 AYP goals. The ability to reach these goals gets more difficult each year as the number of students who must reach the objective increases. The goal of NCLB is for all students to achieve grade-level proficiency in reading and mathematics by 2013-14. 🍎



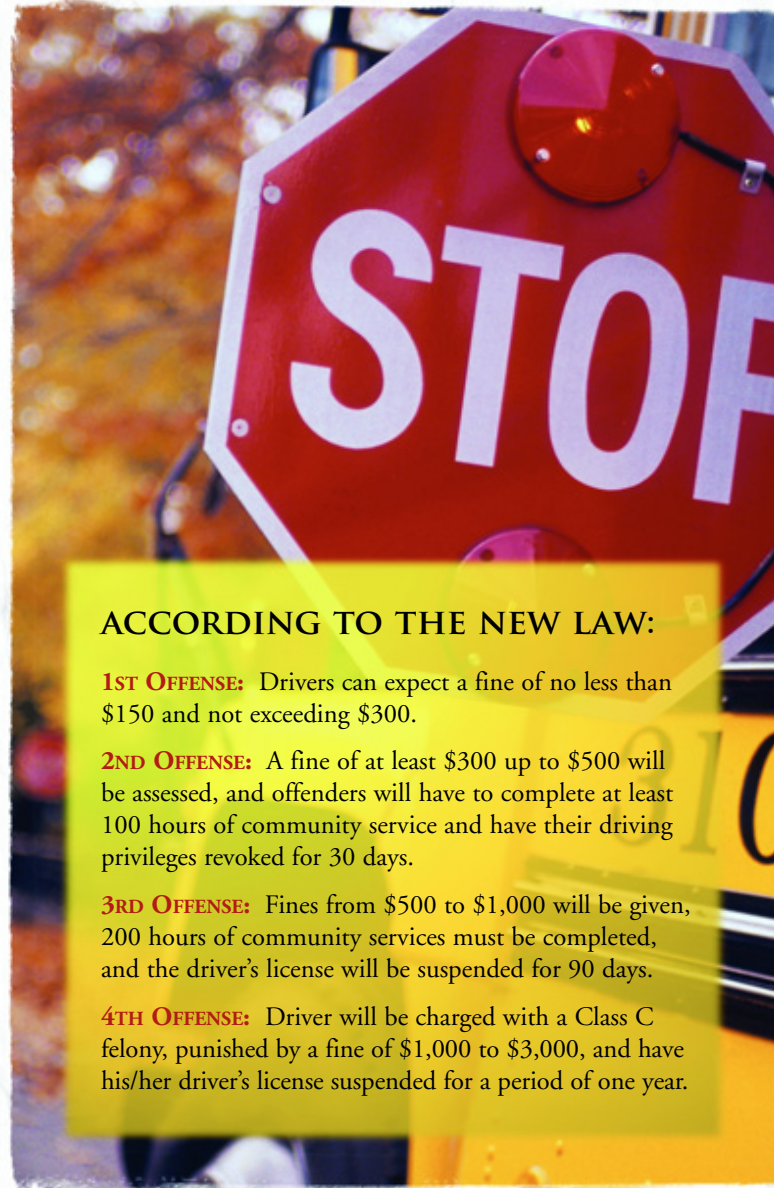
ALABAMA'S NEW SCHOOL BUS STOP LAW

“Be Aware! Cross with Care” during National School Bus Safety Week, October 15-21. Be aware, Alabama’s new illegal passing law goes into effect on Oct. 1, 2006. For the protection of children, Alabama lawmakers are sending a message to motorists who unlawfully pass school buses. The bill was sponsored by **REP. RANDY DAVIS**, R-District 96, and **SEN. TED LITTLE**, D-District 27.

GOV. BOB RILEY signed the bill with hopes that public knowledge of more severe penalties will curb this deadly violation and keep students safe from irresponsible motorists. “The most dangerous part of a school bus ride is when the bus stops to load or unload students. Motorists who illegally pass a stopped school bus have injured or killed 11 Alabama children since 1998. No child or family should ever experience such a tragedy,” Riley said. The law increases penalties for drivers who illegally pass a school bus while it is stopped to load or unload children on any road – highway, roadway, school property, or private road. Penalties will increase incrementally with each new offense. For illegally passing a school bus, a driver can be fined up to \$3,000, charged with a Class C felony, and have his or her driver’s license suspended for one year.

“We have more than 7,000 school buses on the road in Alabama every school day, with more than 350,000 students going to and from school every day. The law will be uniform throughout the state and progressive in its punishment. The more you violate the law, the more severe your penalty on a progressive basis,” said **JOE LIGHTSEY**, State Pupil Transportation Director for the Alabama Department of Education. “Local school system transportation coordinators, school bus drivers, and state and local law enforcement have been very receptive and they are well trained on the new law. Now, educating the public about the new law will be key to its implementation.”

According to an Illegal Passing Survey from the Alabama Department of Education, there were 1,862 documented illegal passes of school buses on one day in 2005. Be aware, keep our children safe. For more information, contact Pupil Transportation at 334-242-9730 or [CLICK HERE](#). 🍏



ACCORDING TO THE NEW LAW:

1ST OFFENSE: Drivers can expect a fine of no less than \$150 and not exceeding \$300.

2ND OFFENSE: A fine of at least \$300 up to \$500 will be assessed, and offenders will have to complete at least 100 hours of community service and have their driving privileges revoked for 30 days.

3RD OFFENSE: Fines from \$500 to \$1,000 will be given, 200 hours of community services must be completed, and the driver’s license will be suspended for 90 days.

4TH OFFENSE: Driver will be charged with a Class C felony, punished by a fine of \$1,000 to \$3,000, and have his/her driver’s license suspended for a period of one year.



ALABAMA CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERSTATE SYSTEM

Alabama Department of Transportation (DOT) Offers Online Resources, Commemorative Vehicle

The Eisenhower Interstate System turns 50 this year, and the Alabama Department of Transportation (DOT) is making resource material available to teachers to help commemorate this engineering and construction marvel.

A 50th anniversary commemorative vehicle also is available for a limited number of free appearances. An Alabama DOT employee would be available to talk about Alabama’s interstate system, answer questions, and encourage students to pursue transportation-related careers.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the teacher resource material or request the 50th anniversary commemorative vehicle (click on the interstate 50th anniversary logo) or call 334-353-6554.

Alabama’s portion of the interstate system consists of nearly 1,000 miles. Nationwide, the interstate system consists of nearly 47,000 miles. Interstate construction in Alabama began in late 1956, with the mainline portions of the system completed in the early 1990s. Today, interstate construction continues in Alabama to complete future Interstate 22, which will connect Birmingham to Memphis.



GOOD NEWS IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Paine Intermediate's morning news show, WPIN (Paine INtermediate), began broadcasting on the very first day of school. The young news crew dedicates their mornings to writing news scripts, creating PowerPoint presentations, preparing sets, and conducting reports. "We have to be ready to go on the air by 8:05 every morning," says 4th-Grader **LAUREN SMITH** as she readies the microphones and the lights on the set. "Sometimes that is not easy!" Lauren and her co-worker, 5th-Grader **ALEX PETERSON**, know the stress that technical difficulties can cause in their preparations. "Like the day that our camera's wire had a short in it," offered Alex. "We had to change things around really fast, because we only work with one camera instead of two!"

Despite the technical difficulties, the show goes on. It is aired in every classroom at Paine Intermediate. Morning announcements, birthdays, the Pledge of Allegiance, the lunch menu and special guests and/or reports are part of every production. "The students who work in the studio are determined to make the show go well," said **KRISTI STACKS**, the teacher who supervises WPIN. "**MADISON SNOW**, a 4th-Grader, sends me e-mails of possible scripts over the weekends. Each night when **JULIANNA PIERCE** and her mother eat dinner, they discuss humorous anecdotes that would make the script more entertaining. Dedication like this definitely adds to the show." Student response has been tremendous. Faculty and students love beginning their day by watching a few of their own on the tube.



State Board of Education Member: David F. Byers, Jr. – District 6 • Superintendent: Dr. Suzanne Freeman • Principal: Beth Bruno



LEWIS AND CLARK EXPLORATION ESSAY WINNERS

Two students at Fayette County High School explored new ground when they entered a national essay contest on Lewis and Clark – winning and representing Alabama at the Youth Rendezvous in North Dakota. Last spring, English and History teacher **SHARON SMITH** had all of her students write an essay on Lewis and Clark (following the guidelines of the essay contest) and submitted her favorite three, two of which won. **ADAM MILLS** and **TYLER HARRIS**

both wrote exceptional essays and became two of the ten students to represent the state of Alabama at the Youth Rendezvous in North Dakota, an event centered on the 200th anniversary of the Corps of Discovery and the Exploration of the West. Ten students from each state were selected to participate. The

event, including transportation, was an all-expense paid trip to North Dakota on August 13-18, 2006. Through multiple activities and events, the students got to follow the Lewis and Clark trail, experience American Indian culture, and discover military history first hand.

"They had a great experience in North Dakota – an experience they normally wouldn't have had," Smith said. "They are honestly outstanding young men."

*State Board of Education Member: Sandra Ray – District 7
Superintendent – Ms. Reba Anderson
Principal – Mr. Radford Hester*



PSAT PERFECTION!

Perfection is never easy to come by. However, Hoover High School student **HAO MENG** proved it is possible by his performance on last year's PSAT, a preliminary test for the SAT college entrance test. The 17-year-old senior received the highest grade possible, a perfect 80 in reading, math and writing. Meng represents a small group of students who aced the examination with only 183 of 1.4 million students who took the test nationwide making a perfect score. Although the academic feat is impressive, it is a testament to how Meng approaches academics as he is ranked No. 1 in his class of 551 students, holds a 4.6 grade point average, and is president of the National Honor Society. As if those accomplishments weren't enough, Meng plays the viola and has been named to Alabama's all-state orchestra for the past five years. He has also fenced for the past six years and won the national championship in a men's foil junior fencing competition in Atlanta last year. Meng, a native of China, moved to the United States when he was only four years old. He credits both his mother and his teachers for making sure he received a great education.



*State Board of Education Member: Dr. Ethel Hall – District 4
Superintendent – Mr. Andy Craig
Principal – Mr. Martin Andrew Nalls*



MOBILE, VESTAVIA HILLS, AND AUBURN TEACHERS WIN NATIONWIDE HONOR MICROSOFT INNOVATIVE TEACHERS FORUM SELECTS ALABAMA EDUCATORS

Teams from three Alabama schools have been selected for the Microsoft U.S. Innovative Teachers Forum in Redmond, Washington. Microsoft's Innovative Teachers Program sponsors regional forums around the world to recognize and reward outstanding educators. Teams from Calcedaver Elementary School, Vestavia Hills Elementary School East, and Wrights Mill Road Elementary School all were chosen and are part of the Alabama Best Practices Center's Powerful Conversations Network. Over the past year the three schools took part in the Best Practices Center's 21st Century Learning Initiative, underwritten by a Microsoft grant. The initiative is a professional development program to help teachers use tools and strategies so students develop the skills they will need in the workplace. Called 21st Century skills, they include digital-age literacy, problem solving, effective communication, and high productivity. The forum's selection criteria emphasized projects that incorporate technology in the learning process.

Microsoft chose 28 schools from around the nation to participate in the Innovative Teachers Forum. Alabama had more schools selected than any other state with the exception of Washington, the home of Microsoft. The program provides classroom learning and professional development resources, and it recognizes and rewards teachers who demonstrate exemplary use of technology in the classroom.

*State Board of Education Members: Randy McKinney – District 1
David F. Byers, Jr. – District 6, and Betty Peters – District 2
Superintendents: Dr. Harold Dodge, Dr. Jamie Blair, Dr. Terry Jenkins*



SESSIONS ANNOUNCES \$1.9 MILLION GRANT FOR GADSDEN PRESCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM

U.S. SEN. JEFF SESSIONS recently announced the Gadsden Board of Education will receive a \$1,895,395 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to improve area preschools. The grant, which is administered through the Early Reading First Program, will enable the Gadsden City school district to implement Project SEES, Start Education Early for Success. Project SEES aims to enhance existing preschool programs in order to ensure children enter kindergarten with the proper reading and language skills. The program will be offered in six elementary schools and the Even Start Family Literacy Center. The schools are Oscar Adams, C.A. Donehoo, George W.



Floyd, W.E. Striplin, Ray Thompson and Walnut Park.

Funding will allow the Gadsden Board of Education to add an additional classroom at each site, which will help accommodate the 139 currently enrolled preschool students and the 120 students on the waiting list. "I am pleased to announce this grant for Gadsden's Project SEES," said Sessions, member of the Senate Health and Education Committee. "Building reading and language skills in young students is vital to their academic success." Sen. Sessions serves on four committees – Armed Services; Judiciary; Budget; and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP). He also chairs the Republican Steering Committee.

*State Board of Education Member: Dr. Mary Jane Caylor – District 8
Superintendent – Mr. Bobby G. Russell*



SHOWME CHARACTER

This school year will be the second year of implementation for the Baldwin County Public Schools' "ShowMe Character" federal research project. The ShowMe Character study is a four-year grant awarded by the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education.

Thirty-two Alabama district schools will participate this year. The remaining Baldwin County public schools will enter the project in 2007-2008.

Each participating school has a special character education school leadership team comprised of the principal, a counselor, two teachers, and two community members. Each school is also assigned a part-time character education coach (former educator) who provides character education curriculum resources along with consultations and professional development. The staff of ten character education coaches provides a wealth of knowledge and insight and is vital to the success of the program.

ShowMe Character focuses on many factors that help create caring school communities, including adult role models, service learning projects, staff development, character trait identification and definition, and community participation. Schools concentrate on developing student traits such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Ethical values are continually taught and modeled throughout the school and integrated into classes.

State Board of Education Member: Randy McKinney – District 1 · Superintendent – Dr. Faron Hollinger



Don't Wink in the Dark!



Remember to shine a bright light on all of your school's (and system's) outstanding academic and civic endeavors! Having great news happen at your school and not sharing it with the others is like winking the dark - you're the only one that knows you're doing it!

Send story ideas and photos (if possible) to **Michael Sibley** at msibley@alsde.edu for possible inclusion in *Alabama Education News*. It's read by your peers and business leaders across the state each month during the school year. So brag a little ... and share the "Good News."



EQUITY: GETTING IT RIGHT ON NOVEMBER 7

by Joseph B. Morton,
State Superintendent of Education

Equity is a short word with a long meaning. The dictionary meaning is ... justice according to natural law or right; specifically, freedom from bias or favoritism. Try applying that definition to funding public education in Alabama and you get a more realistic definition – every child enjoys equity; some just get treated more equally than others.

On November 7, Amendment 2 gives Alabama voters the opportunity to balance its equity house and, for voters residing within the boundaries of 101 school systems, to vote “YES” and not pay a single dollar more in taxes. The answer to two key questions explains how this inequity has developed and how it can be remedied.

HOW DID THIS “EQUITY” ISSUE BEGIN? In 1995, the Alabama Legislature adopted a law that, among other things, required each local school system to pay from local property taxes the proceeds of 10 mills of property tax for the education of its students with the state of Alabama matching those funds with 90% of the remaining cost. Today, there are 101 school systems meeting this legislative mandate and they are paying their fair share from property tax revenues.

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, there are 30 school systems that do not have 10 mills of property tax devoted to fund their local schools. Some have 7 mills, others 8, and a few even 9 or 9.7, but none of these 30 systems have 10 mills of property tax for school expenses. However, to be able to share in the state’s appropriation of 90% of the cost these school systems must produce the equivalent of 10 mills of tax from any source of revenue they may have. Hence, the underfunding of schools through property taxes has caused them to divert funds from other tax sources (usually a local sales tax) in order to meet the “match” necessary to receive the

state funds. This funding format leaves them with less money to address local school needs. Did students in these 30 school systems create the problem? Did teachers, did support workers, did superintendents, did school board members cause this problem? No, the problem was created by voters in those 30 school systems who either never were given the opportunity to vote on the full 10 mills or voted against a local referendum. A school system that currently collects 7 mills should be collecting 3 additional mills for a total of 10 mills. The increased cost to taxpayers in those 30 school systems on a \$100,000 home will be computed based on their deficit from 10 mills. The formula is an increase of \$10 per year on a \$100,000 home for each full mill they have less than 10. The maximum increase is 3 mills, and the

minimum increase is .3 mills (see chart at left).

HOW CAN THIS “EQUITY” ISSUE BE FIXED? Amendment 2 on the November 7 ballot is a statewide constitutional amendment that gives every voter in Alabama the opportunity to better fund education in those 30 school systems not currently meeting the 10-mill requirement. By voting “YES,” Alabama voters can help students in those 30 school systems receive a better education and not raise their own taxes by even one dollar if they reside in one of the 101 school systems already paying their fair share.

Listed at left are the 101 school systems paying their fair share whose citizens can vote “YES” and help the children in Alabama’s noncompliant school systems while not having to pay one more dollar of their own taxes. Also listed are the 30 school systems that can be helped by voters statewide requiring them to pay their fair share and at the same time help their own students receive a better education.

November 7 is Alabama’s one chance to make sure that all of Alabama’s students are treated equitably and not have some to continue being treated more equal than others. 🍏

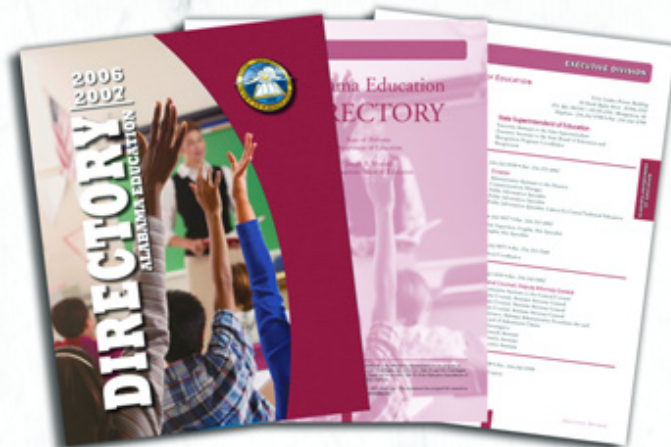
THESE 101 SCHOOL SYSTEMS ALREADY PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE— NO NEW TAXES FOR THESE SCHOOL SYSTEMS!				THESE 30 SCHOOL SYSTEMS ARE NOT PAYING THEIR FAIR SHARE— ALL SCHOOL SYSTEMS NEED TO PAY 10 MILLS!	
School System	Mills	School System	Mills	School System	Mills
Albertville City	15.5	Lauderdale County	18.0	Autauga County	7.0
Alexander City	15.0	Lee County	21.0	Andalusia City	7.0
Annisston City	14.8	Leeds City	30.1	Arab City	7.5
Attalla City	15.0	Lowndes County	15.0	Athens City	8.5
Auburn City	24.0	Macon County	32.0	Barbour County	7.0
Baldwin County	12.0	Madison City	27.0	Bibb County	7.0
Bessemer City	23.3	Madison County	16.0	Blount County	9.0
Birmingham City	28.0	Marshall County	17.5	Chilton County	9.0
Boaz City	25.0	Midfield City	24.7	Conecuh County	9.5
Brewton City	12.0	Mobile County	33.5	Covington County	7.0
Bullock County	18.5	Monroe County	10.0	Crenshaw County	8.0
Butler County	12.0	Morgan County	17.1	Cullman County	7.0
Calhoun County	23.5	Mt. Brook City	52.9	Dale County	9.0
Chambers County	13.7	Muscle Shoals City	20.0	Daleville City	8.0
Cherokee County	22.0	Oneonta City	16.5	Dothan City	8.0
Choctaw County	14.0	Opelika City	24.0	Elmore County	7.0
Clarke County	15.5	Opp City	12.0	Fayette County	7.0
Clay County	13.5	Oxford City	38.0	Hale County	7.0
Cleburne County	17.0	Ozark City	23.0	Houston County	8.0
Coffee County	17.0	Pell City	13.5	Jackson County	7.0
Colbert County	12.0	Perry County	18.0	Lamar County	7.0
Coosa County	12.0	Phenix City	28.5	Lawrence County	9.0
Cullman City	17.5	Pickens County	11.2	Limestone County	8.5
Dallas County	11.5	Piedmont City	20.0	Linden City	8.0
Decatur City	22.0	Randolph County	12.0	Marengo County	8.0
DeKalb County	14.5	Roanoke City	12.0	Marion County	7.0
Demopolis City	18.0	Russell County	17.5	Montgomery County	7.0
Etba City	16.0	Russellville City	17.8	Pike County	9.7
Enterprise City	16.0	Saint Clair County	13.5	Tuscaloosa County	9.5
Escambia County	19.0	Scottsboro City	14.5	Walker County	8.0
Etowah County	15.0	Selma City	23.3		
Eufaula City	20.0	Sheffield City	19.0		
Farfield City	34.1	Shelby County	30.0		
Florence City	25.0	Sumter County	13.8		
Fort Payne City	14.5	Sylacauga City	10.0		
Franklin County	10.0	Talladega City	10.0		
Gadsden City	22.0	Talladega County	13.0		
Geneva City	11.4	Tallapoosa County	15.0		
Geneva County	11.4	Tallassee City	13.0		
Greene County	14.0	Tarrant City	26.2		
Guntersville City	17.0	Thomasville City	15.5		
Haleyville City	12.0	Troy City	10.7		
Hartselle City	17.1	Trussville City	30.1		
Henry County	12.0	Tuscaloosa City	21.0		
Homewood City	37.5	Tuscumbia City	20.5		
Hoover City	43.1	Vestavia Hills City	48.9		
Huntsville City	27.5	Washington County	12.0		
Jacksonville City	18.5	Wilcox County	10.0		
Jasper City	10.5	Winfield City	17.0		
Jefferson County	30.1	Winston County	12.0		
Lanett City	13.7				

On November 7, Alabama voters can vote “YES” on Amendment 2



EDUCATION RULER WINDOW DECALS

In October 2004, the State Board of Education summarized its goals and objectives into one concise guide that can be clearly understood and implemented in Alabama's public schools. It's simply called **THE EDUCATION RULER**. Over the last two years the Department of Education has worked to get the Education Ruler message out to educators, legislators, business/community leaders, parents, students, and many others. Posters, cards, education directories, mouse pads, voice mail greeting messages, and presentations have been successfully used to convey the message. Add to that growing list the latest effort: *window decals*. This highly visible decal easily applies to the inside of a vehicle's window and won't leave a sticky residue. It's a great way to show support for Alabama's public schools!



2006-2007 ALABAMA EDUCATION DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

The *new* and *improved* Alabama Education Directory 2006-2007 is now available! Revised formatting and expanded content makes it easier to locate the people and resources you need. Printed copies for \$20 and CD copies for \$10 are available by calling Claire Hall in the Alabama Department of Education's Purchasing Office at 334-242-9763. An updated quarterly version of the Directory may also be downloaded free at www.alsde.edu.

Professional Development and Resources

Alabama Instructional Leadership Standards Seminars

Suggested Participants: LEA Administrators and Teacher Leaders

Date: Thursday, October 5 – Mobile

Essential Tools for First-Year Principals

Suggested Participants: First Year Principals

Dates: Wednesday, October 4 – Birmingham

Tuesday, October 17 – Mobile

Wednesday, October 25 – Madison

Wednesday, November 1 – Montgomery

A Culture of Success:

Raising Student Achievement the Torchbearer Way

Suggested Participants: LEA School Leadership Teams

Dates: Wednesday, October 18 – Mobile

Tuesday, October 24 – Montgomery

Thursday, October 26 – Madison

Thursday, November 2 – Birmingham

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for ALL events

Awards and Opportunities

Applications are being sought for **Alfa's Teacher of the Month Program**. Teachers in State School Board Districts 8, 7 and 6 should submit applications to the State Department of Education by Oct. 16. Winners receive a cash award of \$1,000 and \$1,000 to each of their schools in January, February and March of 2007, respectively. Details and deadlines for other districts, principals, and private school teachers are available by [CLICKING HERE](#) under Ag Links or by contacting Ann Starks, (334) 242-9700 or astarks@alsde.edu.

Target stores are offering a special program aimed specifically at field trips. [CLICK HERE](#) and apply for a **Target Field Trip Grant** through November 1, 2006. You could receive one of 800 grants of \$1,000 to do something amazing with your class.

The Academic Competitiveness (AC) Grants and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants are worth between \$750 and \$4,000 to qualified Pell Grant-eligible students. Students can [CLICK HERE](#) to receive more information for both grant programs or call 1-800-4FEDAID (or 1-800-433-3243).

Now in its 12th year, the **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** are looking for more top youth volunteers in Alabama. Students in Grades 5 – 12 who are community volunteers are candidates for this distinguished award. Winners for 2007 will be announced on February 13. [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

The **Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program** provides U.S. primary and secondary school teachers and administrators with the opportunity to participate in three-week study visits to Japan and to return home with a follow-on plan designed to introduce Japanese culture to American students. The deadline for the 2007 JFMF program is December 7, 2006. [CLICK HERE](#), e-mail jmf@jie.org, or call 1-888-527-2636 for more information.

The McWane Center in Birmingham has a new collection of fun and interactive exhibits that engages visitors to see and experience the many ways science works to help us better understand ourselves, our world, and find solutions to our problems. **ScienceWorks** is comprised of four thematic areas: Illusions, Animation, Environment, and Technology.



Editorial Staff - (334) 242-9950
 Managing Editor - Mitch Edwards
 Editor - Michael O. Sibley
 Contributing Editors - Anne P. Graham
 Ed Crenshaw
 Graphic Artists - Mary Nell Shaw
 Charles V. Creel

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.

SEPTEMBER BOARD BRIEFS



ALABAMA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

- Gov. Bob Riley, President
- Dist. 1 - Randy McKinney, Pres. Pro Tem, Gulf Shores
- Dist. 2 - Betty Peters, Dothan
- Dist. 3 - Stephanie W. Bell, Montgomery
- Dist. 4 - Ethel H. Hall, V.P. Emerita, Fairfield
- Dist. 5 - Ella B. Bell, Montgomery
- Dist. 6 - David F. Byers Jr., Birmingham
- Dist. 7 - Sandra Ray, Vice Pres., Tuscaloosa
- Dist. 8 - Mary Jane Caylor, Huntsville
- Joseph B. Morton, State Superintendent of Education and Secretary and Executive Officer of the Alabama Board of Education

- 📄 Approved Resolution Proclaiming October 2006 as Statewide Parent Visitation Month in Alabama
- 📄 Approved Resolution Recognizing the Family of Thomas Falkner for winning the Poster Contest on Parental Involvement
- 📄 Approved Resolution Commending Schools for Accountability Rewards for School Year 2005-06
- 📄 Approved Resolution Proclaiming October 1-7, 2006, as the Week of the Classroom Teacher in Alabama
- 📄 Announce Intent to Amend Alabama Administrative Code Rule 290-4-1-.01 Pertaining to Education Accountability
- 📄 Announce Intent to Adopt as an Emergency Rule Amended Alabama Administrative Code Rule 290-3-2.04-.03 ER Pertaining to Renewal Requirements

For a complete list of agenda items, visit the Alabama Department of Education's Web site www.alsde.edu under Board of Education.

OCTOBER

9-Columbus Day (STATE HOLIDAY)

STATEWIDE PARENT VISITATION MONTH • SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH
 CHILD MENTAL HEALTH MONTH • COMPUTER LEARNING MONTH

12-Alabama State Board of Education Meeting
 15-21-Teen Reading Week

26-Alabama State Board of Education Work Session

28-Statue of Liberty's Birthday (1886)

NOVEMBER

1-National Family Literacy Day • 7-General Election
 9-Alabama State Board of Education Meeting/Work Session

10-STATE HOLIDAY • 11-Veteran's Day

CHILD SAFETY & PROTECTION MONTH

12-18-American Education Week/Geography Awareness Week
 13-19-Children's Book Week

15-America Recycles Day
 23-Thanksgiving (STATE HOLIDAY)