



ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

APRIL 2010



ALABAMA'S READING SCORES IMPROVE

Alabama's 8th-grade Reading scores improve significantly and 4th-grade Reading scores keep historic pace (despite more difficult standards)

IN 2007, Alabama made an indelible footprint in National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) history by making higher gains in fourth-grade Reading than any other state in the nation and in the history of NAEP's state-level Reading assessment. Now, the recently issued NAEP report indicates Alabama's fourth-grade readers are maintaining the gains previously made in Reading advancements and eighth graders are continuing to improve. The 2009 NAEP Report shows Alabama's eight-point gain in Grade 4 from 208 in 2005 to 216 in 2007 remains steady in spite of the changes made to the reading assessment.

Informed by the latest scientific research and extensive input from education experts, the 2009 framework for the reading assessment used more

high-quality literature and a broader range of text types to challenge students. This included poetry and assessing vocabulary in a new way that shows students understand the meaning of words used in a passage. More so than in the past, the assessment asks students to draw conclusions and evaluate the quality of arguments. The new framework has also led to changes in the descriptions of achievement levels to reflect the reading processes used by students when interpreting, critiquing, or evaluating text. Nonetheless, NAEP still measures reading comprehension so the trend line can be maintained.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON said the 2009 NAEP score of 216 in fourth-grade reading is evidence

The 2009 NAEP report shows Alabama's 8th Grade reading scores increased by **3 POINTS**

that the previous significant gains were not an isolated incident, but rather

confirmation of sustained improvement. He pointed out the

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gains were repeated with a new set of fourth-graders who were selected by a random sampling. “We’ve always known that improving reading was going to be a challenging task. What is important to notice is that the 2009 NAEP data



proves the gains we have made are not an anomaly; they would have been validated by the state holding its ground even if the circumstances were identical,” Morton said. “However, the fact that the NAEP standards have been raised and we still match 2007’s scoring in fourth-grade Reading and are up three points in eighth-grade Reading is simply more indication that, while we still have a very long way to go, we are consistently moving in the right direction.”

The eighth-grade Reading scores in Alabama increased three points since 2007 from 252 to 255 – in what NAEP officials consider a statistically significant improvement. The nation increased only one point during this same time period. Increased scores were seen in only nine states: Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Utah.

In 2002, the difference between Alabama and the national average in fourth and eighth grades was 10 points (Grade 4 national average, 217, Alabama 207 – Grade 8 national average 263, Alabama 253). Alabama has closed that gap considerably. In 2009 the national average for fourth-graders was 220 compared to Alabama’s average of 216 – a four-point difference. The eighth grade gap has also reduced with a national average of 262 compared to Alabama’s 255 – a seven-point difference.

Morton said the NAEP results are indicative of the effort that has gone into making reading a top priority in Alabama education. “Reading is the cornerstone to all learning. Solid reading and comprehension abilities are essential to excel in math, science, the arts – all other areas of understanding,” Morton said. “Effective programs such as the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) combined with the will of teachers, administrators, parents, and students, can make Alabama a national leader in reading reform which, in turn, positively affects academic progress in other areas as well.”

Results are reported by average scale scores (on a 0-500 scale). NAEP assesses a representative sample of students in grades four and eight from each state every two years.

All schools participating in the assessment are selected by NAEP, not the state Department of Education, and all assessments are administered by individuals selected by NAEP. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. ●

K-12 COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS RELEASED

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS could transform American education, replacing the patchwork of standards written by local educators in every state.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a joint effort of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers led by governors and chief state school officers in 51 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. In May 2009, the Alabama State Board of Education approved Alabama’s participation in developing common standards in English and mathematics.

The first official public draft of the K-12 Common Core State Standards was released in March. The public comment period for the DRAFT Common Core State Standards (www.corestandards.org) ended April 2, 2010.

“The goal of the Common Core State Standards is to establish more uniform expectations for the nation’s students, in contrast to the wide variations in academic standards that exist among the states today,” explained DR. TOMMY BICE, DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

These draft standards, developed collaboratively by educators, seek to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare K-12 students for college and the workforce. The standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate

SAMPLE COMMON CORE STANDARDS:

Kindergarten English Language Arts: Identify characters, settings, and key events in a story. **Grades 11-12:** Analyze how multiple ideas in a text interact, build on, and, in some cases, conflict with one another.

Grade 3 Mathematics: Geometry: Construct an equilateral triangle, a square, and a regular hexagon inscribed in a circle.

high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

The draft Common Core State Standards: are aligned with college and work expectations; are clear, understandable and consistent; include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills; build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards; are informed by other top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and are evidence- and research-based. ●

A+ COLLEGE READY EXPANDS ADVANCED PLACEMENT

A+ COLLEGE READY has added 20 more schools to its statewide expansion of the Advanced Placement (AP) Initiative, with goals for the 2010 - 2011 school year of increasing AP enrollment in math, science, and English by 85 percent. The 20 high schools were chosen through a competitive application process to participate in the AP Training and Incentive Program.



Benjamin Russell High School, Alexander City
 Cleburne County High School, Cleburne County
 Dothan High School, Dothan City
 Northview High School, Dothan City
 Wetumpka High School, Elmore County
 Southside High School, Etowah County
 Hokes Bluff High School, Etowah County
 Gadsden City High School, Gadsden City
 Hartselle High School, Hartselle City
 New Century Technology High School, Huntsville City
 Jacksonville High School, Jacksonville City
 Corner High School, Jefferson County
 E. B. Erwin High School, Jefferson County
 McAdory High School, Jefferson County
 Mortimer Jordan High School, Jefferson County
 Smiths Station High School, Lee County
 New Hope High School, Madison County
 Muscle Shoals High School, Muscle Shoals City
 Oxford High School, Oxford City
 Pell City High School, Pell City



National Advanced Placement Teacher of the Year

Ethel Hall, Vice President Emerita of the Alabama State Board of Education (District IV), and State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton with Jeff Johnson (Hoover High School, Hoover City School System) – the 2010 Siemens National Advanced Placement Teacher of the Year

These 20 schools join a network of A+ College Ready Program schools that will include 80 schools by 2013 throughout the state.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON said, “During the 2008-2009 school year, the 12 pilot schools had a 124 percent increase in course enrollments and an 83 percent increase in AP exams passed. Our continuing partnership with [A+ College Ready](#) will give even more students access to advanced courses and enable them to achieve the same level of success. What began as a successful pilot in 12 schools is now a \$24.8 million initiative that is projected to impact over 18,000 Alabama students by 2013.”

TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

ON MAY 12TH, a statewide “live” broadcast event will honor those who help build a better community for all. The 2010 *Alabama Stars in Education Awards*, held in Montgomery, will award the Alabama Teacher of the Year Award and showcase Alabama Public Television’s Young Heroes.



The Alabama Teacher of the Year Award is given to a remarkable educator who has gone above and beyond, teaching students at the highest level. Sixteen teachers are selected from the state to be finalists in the competition. All sixteen finalists bring unique past experiences that have influenced their philosophy on teaching, show an immense amount of community involvement, and exhibit a real dedication to teaching and to their students. In April, the competition narrowed the finalists down to four.

The Teacher of the Year is also a candidate for National Teacher of the Year, presented by the ING Foundation, a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Visit www.apr.org and www.alsde.edu for more information on the 2010 Alabama Stars in Education, a live, statewide broadcast and event on May 12.



Cathy Coleman Bennett
Geneva High



Teresa Burden
Muscle Shoals Middle



Nancy B. Caffee
Cleveland High



Andrea K. Carpenter
Grove Hill Elementary



Theresa D. Durboraw
Buckhorn High



Marvin Ellis
LAMP High



Madge Gregg
Hoover High



Donna McDaniel
J. Newman Elementary



Tammy Morton
Skyland Elementary



Christy L. Parsons
Vestavia Hills East Elem.



Avereck Kirkland Patton
Riverchase Elementary



Roger Charles Reetz, Jr.
Gulf Shores Middle



Brittney Vernon
Kitty Stone Elem



“Rocky” Robin K. White
Talladega High



Angela J. Williams
Saraland Elementary



Phil Rodney Wilson
Oglethorpe Elementary

= Finalist

COUNTING ON EVERY STUDENT BEING A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

By Joseph B. Morton, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Education



BEGINNING IN 2012, all states across the nation will begin reporting graduation rates using a uniform formula to establish a concrete assessment of their state's high school graduation rate. This is a good opportunity for all states to examine the efforts that are being made to graduate more of

their high school students on time and arm them with the quality education necessary to compete with their peers in America and abroad. The new graduation rate formula is called a "four-year cohort graduation rate" formula, and Alabama is well ahead of schedule to meet the 2012 deadline.

In 2005, governors of all 50 states signed the National Governors Association (NGA) Graduation Counts Compact to implement a common formula for calculating their state's high school graduation rate. This formula has a more rigid definition of a graduate. In essence, a high school graduate is defined as a student that begins the ninth grade and finishes the twelfth grade with a standard high school diploma within four years – no exceptions. The four-year cohort graduation rate, then, is simply the number of on-time graduates in a given year divided by the number of first-time entering ninth graders four years earlier, adjusting for students who transfer in or transfer out.

Alabama's graduation rate, like the rest of the country's, is a real concern. Simply put, not enough high school students are graduating on time. Data recently released by the Alabama Department of Education tells two definitive stories. One story is that graduation rates in Alabama have continued to increase and dropout rates have declined in recent years. The latest available numbers were released by the National Center for Education Statistics (class of 2007) and used the averaged freshman

graduation rate formula, a formula with results that are expected to closely reflect the four-year cohort graduation rates. Alabama has a

graduation rate of 67%, compared to the national rate of 74%, a 7% percent difference. That's an improvement from five years ago when Alabama's averaged freshman graduation rate was 62% and the national average was 73%, an 11% difference. From this perspective, Alabama is headed in the right direction. The second and more detrimental story is that at least 7%, almost 4,400 students of the Class of 2009, dropped out of school. Another 28%, or 18,402 students, were either retained, did not earn

enough credits, exited with documents other than a diploma (GED or graduation certificate), or simply did not return to school.* Given these numbers, Alabama's four-year cohort graduation rate for the Class of 2009 using the new formula is 67%.

This is unacceptable! Once a student makes the decision to drop out of school, the impact of that decision ripples far beyond even the student's bleak view of the future. Research has shown

that high school dropouts are much more likely to be unemployed or underemployed, more likely to receive public assistance, and more likely to find themselves in a host of other preventable situations. The worst of which is a life on the wrong side of the criminal justice system. More than 80% of the inmates in Alabama's prisons are high school dropouts. These sobering statistics are reminders of why the number of high school graduates in Alabama must increase and do so without

4,400 students of the Class of 2009 dropped out of school



compromising quality education. In Alabama, we are moving forward with a host of initiatives that are intended to address the needs of students and not only keep them in school, but also have them graduate on time whenever possible while simultaneously increasing the rigor of coursework and preparedness for college, the work force, and life after high school for our students.

When examining the number of Alabama graduates and dropouts, the most obvious issue is that Alabama's primary problem is not keeping students in school as much as it is making sure they graduate on time. Many of the students who exit are not considered dropouts, but are not considered graduates either. They are those mentioned earlier, students who are retained, do not pass the *Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE)*, or opt to take the General Education Development (GED) test. Fortunately, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted a new graduation plan called **FIRST CHOICE** that is designed to guide students through high school and provide practical solutions to some of our students' most common problems. A component of **FIRST CHOICE** is Credit Recovery, which allows students to prove they are knowledgeable on a failed segment of a course and receive course credit or earn promotion without retaking the entire course.

80% of Alabama prison inmates are high school dropouts

They receive remediation and must show mastery of the subject but may do so on an accelerated schedule. Another is Credit Advancement, which allows students in school and out of school educational opportunities to meet course requirements in non-traditional ways. New student assessment changes and the restructuring of the AHSGE will allow students to show content knowledge and mastery of a course in the form of an immediate end-of-course exam as opposed to an exit exam. This allows for less but more rigorous testing and yields more meaningful results that show educators how students are doing, not only with content knowledge, but also their ability to succeed in college and/or work after high school.

Education reform, like any broad-based, sweeping reform of an established institution, takes time. However, time is a commodity in short supply due to global economic competition. These changes are not easy and they must have the support of educators, parents, communities, business leaders, elected officials, lawmakers, and students alike. All in education must look for new and innovative ways to meet the needs of students in high school and keep them engaged and learning without diluting the high-level, quality education needed to

make sure students are successful once they leave our high school campuses. We face many challenges in Alabama education, from inadequate funding to political obstacles that impede the ability to do what is in the best interest of students and their futures. But one thing is certain, in order for the children of this state to reach the full measure of their potential, we must continue doing all we can to provide a

learning environment that not only challenges our best and brightest, but also provides meaningful guidance and assistance to those who struggle. Many students who graduate from high school on time are making remarkable strides and are shining examples of what's right in our schools. But as long as any student falls behind there will always be more work to do.

**Those who did not return are not immediately referred to as dropouts as some return at a later date or are determined to have transferred to another school. A student's dropout status is dependent upon some confirmation that he/she has indeed left school permanently,*

FIRST CHOICE

helps guide students through their high school careers with the most efficient use of their time and ability.

ALABAMA ENGINEERING ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTED AS ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST PROGRAMS

FOR THE PAST DECADE, many top aerospace, automotive, and biotech companies have expanded their businesses into Alabama. Nationally, many of these same industries are predicting serious shortages in the numbers of qualified college graduates who will be able to lead their companies in the future.



The Trussville City School System has dedicated its efforts to preparing students for this great opportunity – to become Alabama's next generation of top engineers and industry professionals. This school system's hard work is really starting to pay off. It has just received a prestigious national award for its model Engineering Academy.

The Magna Award is a special national recognition, which honors America's top school initiatives, best practices, and innovative programs. For the past 17 years, this award has recognized top educational programs throughout the country that show real school leadership, creativity, and high levels of student achievement. This award is sponsored by the American School Board Journal, the National School Boards Association, and Sodexo School Services.

All award nominations are judged according to three enrollment categories:

- STUDENT ENROLLMENT UNDER 5,000
- STUDENT ENROLLMENT BETWEEN 5,000-20,000
- STUDENT ENROLLMENT OVER 20,000

Trussville's Engineering Academy prepares students to enter postsecondary engineering programs and high-skill manufacturing careers. To date, exactly 209 students (about 17 percent of the systems student body) are involved in the Engineering Academy. These students have designed and built advanced robotics, and worked with NASA to design parts for both the Ares I Rocket and the International Space Station. The academy is also a member of the nationally respected Project Lead the Way Engineering Program.

Each year, the Magna Award's selection committee chooses five top national winners and five honorable mention winners within each enrollment category. All winners are recognized in a special April edition of the American School Board Journal. To see the official list of this year's award winners, [CLICK HERE](#).

Contact Trussville City Schools Engineering Academy Coordinator [JOY YOUNG](#) at 205-228-3018 to learn more.

HEALTHIER BEVERAGES IN SCHOOLS

A HEALTHIER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT can result in greater academic achievement and healthier lives for students and school staff.



In 2006, Alliance for a Healthier Generation, along with representatives of The Coca-Cola Company; Dr Pepper Snapple Group; PepsiCo, Inc.; and the American Beverage Association established the [Alliance School Beverage Guidelines](#) to help students make healthier beverage choices in the school environment.

A recent study analyzed the effect of the Alliance School Beverage Guidelines:

- There was an 88 percent decrease in total beverage calories shipped to schools between first half of 2004-05 school year and first half of 2009-10 school year.
- At beginning of 2009-10 school year, 98.8 percent of all measured schools and school districts were in compliance with Alliance School Beverage Guidelines.
- Shipment volumes of full-calorie carbonated soft drinks to schools were 95 percent lower in first half of 2009-10 school year than they were in first half of 2004-05 school year (before Guidelines went into effect).
- In 2004, high school students drank on average one 12-ounce can of full-calorie carbonated soft drink at school per week. The current high school shipment levels indicate that the average high school student now consumes the equivalent of 1 1/2 cans of full-calorie carbonated soft drink at school per year.

For more information, contact PENNY EDWARDS, Alabama Relationship Manager, Alliance for a Healthier Generation, 6156 Cathwick Drive, McCalla, AL 35111, phone: 205-434-4302, mobile: 334-398-1813, Fax: 205-434-4302.

ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS GO GREEN

IN THE WORLD OF RECYCLING, Albertville Primary School and Albertville Elementary School could be considered “shining stars” – models for any school in the state for how to cooperatively work to recycle and also teach students about the positive effect they can have on our earth.

MS. SHEA JIMMERSON’s second grade class at Albertville Primary School has been studying how people affect the earth in positive and negative ways. Ms. JEANNIE COURINGTON, Albertville’s recycling coordinator, recently led the class on a tour of the Albertville Landfill and Recycling Center, where they became personally involved by sorting items. This is one aspect of the school system’s partnership with the recycling center to make the city of Albertville “GREEN.”



Albertville Primary School

State Board Member: Mrs. Stephanie Bell, District 3

Superintendent: Dr. Frederic Ayer · Principal: Mrs. Vanessa Fowler

Albertville Elementary School

State Board Member: Mr. David F. Byers, Jr., District 6

Superintendent: Dr. Frederic Ayer · Principal: Mrs. Mona Sheets

2010 BANNER SCHOOLS ANNOUNCED



THE COUNCIL FOR LEADERS IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS (CLAS) recently announced 12 Alabama Schools as CLAS 2010 Banner Schools. The CLAS Banner School program was created in 2001 to recognize schools in Alabama that demonstrate outstanding programs and service to students. And the winners are:

ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE (Huntsville City)

Principal: Tammy Summerville

Superintendent: Dr. Ann Roy Moore

State Board Member: Dr. Mary Jane Caylor

BOAZ INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (Boaz City)

Principal: John Beck · Superintendent: Leland Dishman

State Board Member: David Byers

BOAZ MIDDLE SCHOOL (Boaz City)

Principal: Allen Johnson · Superintendent: Leland Dishman

State Board Member: David Byers

BOB JONES HIGH SCHOOL (Madison City)

Principal: Robert Parker · Superintendent: Dr. Dee Fowler

State Board Member: Dr. Mary Jane Caylor

CORA CASTLEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Mobile County)

Principal: Pam Adams · Superintendent: Dr. Roy Nichols

State Board Member: Randy McKinney

EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Cullman City)

Principal: David Wiggins · Superintendent: Dr. Jan Harris

State Board Member: David Byers

EAST LAWRENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL (Lawrence County)

Principal: Cindy Praytor · Superintendent: Heath Grimes

State Board Member: Gary Warren

HEWITT-TRUSSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL (Trussville City)

Principal: Dr. Mark Kirkemier

Superintendent: Dr. Suzanne Freeman

State Board Member: David Byers

OAK HILL SCHOOL (Tuscaloosa City)

Principal: Dr. Linda Harper · Superintendent: Dr. Joyce Levey

State Board Member: Gary Warren

OPELIKA MIDDLE SCHOOL (Opelika City)

Principal: Farrell Seymore · Superintendent: Dr. Mark Neighbors

State Board Member: Betty Peters

PAINE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (Trussville City)

Principal: Beth Bruno · Superintendent: Dr. Suzanne Freeman

State Board Member: David Byers

PAINE PRIMARY SCHOOL (Trussville City)

Principal: Betsy Schmitt · Superintendent: Dr. Suzanne Freeman

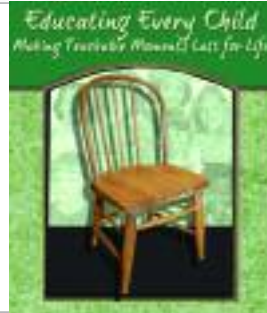
State Board Member: David Byers

UPCOMING SUMMER CONFERENCES



THE ALABAMA EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (AETC) IS BACK IN BIRMINGHAM JUNE 8-11!

This exciting technology-centered conference will feature guest speakers, hands-on workshops, an exhibit hall, and much more! [CLICK HERE](#) for complete program details.



MEGA CONFERENCE 2010 JULY 19-23 at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, the Renaissance Battle House Hotel, and the Mobile Convention Center in Mobile. Visit www.alsde.edu under "Special Links" for complete details.

AWARDS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2010 ALABAMA BOOK FESTIVAL CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP – April 16, Troy University, Montgomery Campus – is FREE for Alabama teachers, Grades 7-12. [REGISTER BY APRIL 12, 2010](#).



FREE ALABAMA AG IN THE CLASSROOM (AITC) [SUMMER INSTITUTE 2010](#) JUNE 2-4, 2010 Mobile, AL. Roundtrip mileage, lodging, meals, classroom materials, stipend, and CEUs will be furnished to participants. **DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2010**

[ALABAMA ACADEMY OF HONOR](#) is accepting nominations for Class of 2010 to honor distinguished, living Alabamians whose outstanding accomplishments and service have greatly benefited or reflected great credit on the state. **DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2010**

[3RD NATIONAL STUDENT SAFETY & SECURITY CONFERENCE](#) Four Points by Sheraton Orlando Studio City, Orlando, Florida **APRIL 15-16, 2010**

15TH ANNUAL [IMAGINATIVE LEARNING WORKSHOP](#), July 12-14, 2010, Embassy Suites, Montgomery, Alabama **REGISTER BY MAY 1, 2010**.

ALABAMA ENDANGERED SPECIES ART CALENDAR CONTEST encourages students to learn about threatened and endangered plants, fish and animals through art. To enter, [CLICK HERE](#). **DEADLINE: MAY 5, 2010**

2010 [TOYOTA INTERNATIONAL TEACHER PROGRAM TO THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS](#) Nov. 20 - Dec. 4, 2010, is a fully-funded professional development program for U.S. educators. **DEADLINE: MAY 26, 2010**

[THE JENICE RILEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP](#), created in memory of Gov. Bob Riley and First Lady Patsy Riley's daughter for her extraordinary commitment to enhancing the quality of education in Alabama, is awarded to current K-6 teachers for Social Studies projects. **DEADLINE: MAY 28, 2010**

Enter [GOVERNOR'S ICHALLENGE](#) Podcast Competition by submitting original video podcasts that will become part of a library of high-quality 21st century learning resources. **DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2010**

[GREEN THUMB CHALLENGE](#) (FEB. 1 – AUG. 31 2010) is the largest youth gardening initiative in history, calling on schools and youth groups to plant 10,000 indoor or outdoor gardens in the spring and summer of 2010!



Move Every Body, Every Day, Every Way

National Physical Education and Sport Week, and the entire month of May, is a time to focus attention on quality sport and physical education programs.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



National Association for Sport and Physical Education
an association of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT - Governor Bob Riley

DISTRICT 1 - Randy McKinney, Vice President, Gulf Shores

DISTRICT 2 - Betty Peters, Dothan

DISTRICT 3 - Stephanie W. Bell, Montgomery

DISTRICT 4 - Ethel H. Hall, Vice President Emerita, Fairfield

DISTRICT 5 - Ella B. Bell, Montgomery

DISTRICT 6 - David F. Byers Jr., Birmingham

DISTRICT 7 - Gary Warren, Haleyville

DISTRICT 8 - Mary Jane Caylor, President Pro Tem, Huntsville

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION AND SECRETARY

AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER - Joseph B. Morton

Have a comment about Alabama Education News? [Participate in the AEN Readers' Survey!](#)

ALFA NAMES MARCH TEACHER OF MONTH



Though some would classify “motivational speaker,” “interior decorator” and “teacher” as separate career choices, **LISA HARGETT** combines these three professions into her current role at Hayden Elementary School.

Her ability to encourage students’ interests in learning is an accomplishment in itself, but her unwavering enthusiasm for education at all levels helped earn her recognition as Alfa’s Teacher of

the Month. As March’s honoree, Hargett will receive \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance. Her school, a part of the Blount County School System, will receive a matching award from the Alabama Farmers Federation.

“Whether it involves staying after school to tutor struggling students or writing grants to procure additional materials and tools to improve her teaching, Lisa always seems to give more of herself than anyone requires or expects,” said Hayden Elementary Principal **SHELLEY VAIL-SMITH**.

During 2010, Alfa Insurance and the Alabama Farmers Federation will honor one outstanding teacher from each of Alabama’s eight state board districts, two principals, and two private school teachers. Application information is available under Alfa Teacher of the Month in the Ag Links section of AlfaFarmers.org.

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MARCH BOARD BRIEFS

- Announce Intent to Adopt New Alabama Administrative Code Rules 290-3-3-52.01 (Teacher Leader) and 290-3-3-53.01 (Instructional Leadership)
- Resolution in Recognition of **MEGAN O’NEILL**, Fairhope High School (Baldwin County School System) and **CHERYL L. ADAMS**, Liberty Middle School (Madison City School System) as 2009 Science Presidential Award Finalists
- Resolution in Recognition of **CATHY L. BENNETT**, Geneva High School (Geneva City School System) and **SONDRA OSWALT**, Oxford High School (Oxford City School System) as 2009 Mathematics Presidential Award Finalists
- Resolution in Recognition of **JEFF JOHNSON**, Hoover High School (Hoover City School System) as 2010 Siemens National Advanced Placement (AP) Teacher of the Year

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