

# EDÛCĂTIÔN NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

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### The Fight to Keep Alabama Students in School

Dropouts in Alabama create a significant cost to the state.

Lost earnings, productivity, and the future of our state are impacted by just one dropout. This is a community, state, and national crisis. The Alabama Department of Education is continuing dropout prevention efforts with new programs and technologies designed to address at-risk students long before they make the decision to drop out.

AT THE CORE of this proactive approach the Alabama State Board of Education has adopted FIRST CHOICE, a multi-faceted program where all students are automatically on track for the Advanced Academic endorsement to the Alabama high school diploma. This encourages students to challenge themselves and take more rigorous college and workforce-ready courses.

To support FIRST CHOICE, programs such as Credit Recovery, Carnegie Flexibility, and Graduation Coaches address the needs of students to help ensure graduation and guide them through the process efficiently. Credit Recovery allows students who have been unsuccessful in a course to demonstrate mastery on a segment of the course and receive course credit without having to retake the entire course. Carnegie Flexibility gives students in-school and out-of-school educational opportunities to make up time lost in the classroom due to extenuating circumstances with a focus on mastery of standards, not class time. Graduation Coaches serve as mentors for "at-risk" students, advising them on innovative pathways for coursework and other behavioral, social, and emotional issues that keeps them on task, which ultimately increases their odds for graduation. Innovative Pathways to Graduation is a new approach to learning environments. Deputy State Superintendent Dr. Tommy Bice said, "New policy or procedures can allow schools and systems to create 'school' in non-traditional ways and meet the needs of all students."

DR. KAY ATCHISON WARFIELD, Education Administrator with Prevention and Support Services in the Alabama Department or Education, coordinates collaborative efforts to train and prepare new graduation coaches that will assist many at-risk students in Alabama's school districts. Graduation Coaches facilitate

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Parent Involvement Month -Families and Schools: It All Adds Up!

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Alabama's Advanced Placement scores are the best in the nation!

### **7** Awards/Opportunities

Professional development opportunities for educators, administrators, and students.

continued from front ... best practices to implement district or school strategies for dropout prevention and collaborate with district, school, and community stakeholders with coordinating services to support students and their families.

Warfield has seen the success that Graduation Coaches bring to a system with students in need. "Our Graduation Coaches are taking a new look at the real issues that cause students to drop out. The social, emotional, and academic reasons are focal points. We analyze the patterns of behavior or symptoms, and identify the wraparound support needed for success," said Warfield. This new holistic approach to dropout prevention is replicated in many districts in Alabama. Many systems are employing social workers, and the SDE is offering training to all who desire to be trained as Graduation Coaches.

A Graduation Coach at Opelika City Schools, SPENCE MCCRACKEN, has embraced his new role. McCracken, former head football coach at Opelika High School, was hired last year as a Graduation Coach and normally has between 10-40 students, offering guidance during and after the school day. He monitors the grades, attendance, and behavior of the students. McCracken understands the pressures his students face and works hard to help them manage everyday issues. His goal is to motivate and encourage his group of at-risk students. He offers daily meetings at school, makes home visits, and creates activities that inspire students to succeed such as monthly contests won by achieving good test scores or attendance.

A new technology using current data, the Alabama Graduation Tracking System, has proven effective in the districts where it has been implemented. This new system is designed to track students from Pre-K to 12th grade and alerts administrators to the ABCs – attendance, behavior, and course credit. Baldwin County Dropout Prevention Supervisor RHONDA COTTEN says the Graduation Tracking System allows school officials to intervene in a timely way and helps students early on to get back on track. Baldwin County is also addressing the problem of dropouts with

innovative classes such as Teen Parent Help and the Parent Project. Both offer training and counseling and have "graduated" many participants by helping them to deal with the pressures of teen

parenthood and a changing world.

Another new approach to eliminating the dropout epidemic is the "recovery" plan that several systems are employing. This type of program allows students who have dropped out to re-enter school

through enrolling with an outside school management company that offers classes. Students

complete classwork required for high school graduation and are awarded a diploma at the end of the program. In Birmingham City Schools the new program is offered to students, ages 17 to 21,

who have dropped out. "This is just one part of the district's multipronged effort to reduce dropouts, increase the graduation rate, and provide more diverse learning opportunities for students," said BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT CRAIG WITHERSPOON. "We must do everything we can to ensure student success." Blount County, Dallas County, Mobile County, Limestone County, and Tuscaloosa City school systems have similar opportunities for students.

The Alabama Department of Education will begin using the new National Governors Association Four-Year Cohort formula for calculating graduation rate in 2012. The formula bases its results on the number of students who enter ninth grade in a given year and who graduate within four years. However, there are many

### TOP FIVE REASONS STUDENTS LEAVE SCHOOL

- 1. Classes were not interesting enough
- 2. Missed too many days and could not catch up
- 3. Spent time with people who were not interested in school
- 4. Had too much freedom and not enough rules
- 5. Failing in school

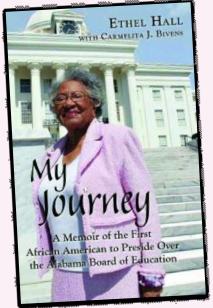
Source: "The Silent Epidemic" by Civic Enterprises - High School Student Survey

students who finish all coursework and receive a diploma outside of four years, and are they not counted in this calculation. Because of this, the dropout rate is not the inverse of the graduation rate.

A state law has been enacted and designed to keep students in school. The Dropout Prevention Act of 2009 increased the mandatory attendance age to 17 with a few exemptions, and also instituted a "student exit interview" that all students who desire to leave school and their parents must complete. This process requires a meeting with the parents, students, and a team of student advocates to give another opportunity to keep the student in school.

A new state initiative to address truancy problems in collaboration with the judicial system is in the embryonic stage of development. This initiative will mobilize 220 facilitators for the Parent Project, a juvenile diversion program around the state to assist the courts with conquering the number one indicator for dropout prevention: truancy. Classes for parents to educate and assist with at-risk students will be provided.

State funding for dropout prevention is limited due to the economic crisis; however, through the Alabama Student Assistance Plan (ASAP), a consolidated state plan of the former State-At-Risk, Children First, and the Governor's High Hopes programs, funds are available. Each program's funding criteria are very precise in what services they are able to provide with the funds. All three have the same philosophical basis: providing assistance for students at risk, keeping students safe and healthy, and preventing non-completion of school. Although the planning and funding sources have differences, their primary focus is to provide academic and behavioral services and opportunities for students who persistently perform below average. Funding for this plan for Fiscal Year 2011 is \$34,148,596.



### State Board of Education Member Dr. Ethel Hall Pens Inspirational Biography

If a movie were made of Dr. Ethel Hall's life story, the credits would read "hard work, determination, integrity, educational excellence," and many more fitting attributes. And while the silver screen has not yet adopted her tenacious biography, memoirs detailing her accomplished life have recently been compiled in the autobiography My Journey: A Memoir of the First African-American to Preside Over the Alabama Board of Education.

FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, Dr. ETHEL HALL has served the Alabama State Board of Education: as a member, Vice President (1994-2004), and Vice President Emeritus. Even this outstanding accomplishment is but one of the many feats that Dr. Hall has realized during her journey as a trailblazing pioneer in Alabama education. Dr. Hall earned a Bachelor's Degree from Alabama A&M University (cum laude), Master's Degrees from the University of Chicago and Atlanta University, and a Doctorate from The University of Alabama.

Dr. Hall's entire life has been dedicated to the field of education and her time and service over the years reflect her undying resolve to improving education for all. As a

teacher in the Hale and Jefferson County school systems, as well as Associate Professor at the University of Montevallo and The University of Alabama, Dr. Hall has imparted her wisdom on students across the state. As a recipient of well over 200 distinguished awards, Dr. Hall has been recognized for her life's work by statesmen and classroom teachers, celebrities, and fellow State Board members.

From humble beginnings, Dr. Hall said her parents were the inspiration that instilled in her an attitude of resilience that never let her believe there was anything she couldn't do.



Dr. Hall signs a copy of her autobiography at a reception in her honor at New South Books in Montgomery.

"I had parents who felt that I could do anything, and because they felt that way, I felt that way also. They never told me I couldn't do something because I was a girl or a woman," Dr. Hall said. With the encouragement of her family she said, no challenge seemed too great. Then, in the middle of writing her memoirs, Dr. Hall said she was shook by the unexpected loss of her best friend and most stalwart supporter – her husband of 54 years, Alfred.

"It took me about four years to write the book from start to finish. As I was writing my husband died suddenly after I started writing and – I was stuck. I couldn't move," Dr. Hall said. "He was my backbone. No matter what I wanted to do, he was my support." Still, she persevered and completed a book that she hopes gives inspiration to readers and reassures them that their goals are attainable.

"I hope readers realize they can do anything they want to do, but they must have a determination and a will – a desire to achieve," Dr. Hall said. "I didn't have money to go to school. I had no grants, no federal aid. I worked all the way through college. I cleaned guest rooms in the dormitories; I collected money at the movie on campus. Being poor is not a good enough excuse for me."

"Dr. Hall has an incredible ability to effect change and champion the causes that are dear to her in a diplomatic yet effective way," said STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOSEPH B. MORTON.

STATE BOARD VICE PRESIDENT AND DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE RANDY MCKINNEY said he has learned valuable lessons from working with Dr. Hall. "Dr. Hall is a leader in the education field. Her leadership style is an example of what should be done in order to make progress in a bipartisan manner," McKinney said. "Serving with Dr. Hall on the Board has been a pleasure. It has been something that I have learned from and will cherish."

Dr. Hall ends her career on the Alabama State Board of Education this term, bringing to an end the legacy of a woman whose dedication and impact will be felt forever.

## A remarkable lady, an exceptional Board member, and a good friend.

- Board President Pro Tem, Dr. Mary Jane Caylor

The lessons that I have learned by her example speak much louder than words alone.

- Board Vice President, Randy McKinney

Her presence will always be felt – she has been a key architect in helping build education in Alabama as we know it.

- State Superintendent of Education, Joseph B. Morton

### **ACCESS Featured** on CNN/Fox News



ALABAMA CONNECTING CLASSROOMS, EDUCATORS, AND STUDENTS STATEWIDE (ACCESS) received national notice early this fall,

when CNN, the national news network came to Montgomery for an exclusive interview. Fox News ran a similar story last year. The focus was on ACCESS ability to reach the rural student population through the large catalog of distance learning classes.

"ACCESS is an Alabama miracle." said State Superintendent of EDUCATION JOSEPH B. MORTON.

"We have unique circumstances in the state where so many of the students are in rural school districts, and those systems do not have the funds to have teachers for many non-core subjects. ACCESS levels the playing field."

Enrollment continues to grow since its inception in 2004. Currently, over 32,000 students take advantage of the opportunities ACCESS affords them, with over 560 teachers in the program. ACCESS has also helped to increase the graduation rate.

Dr. Melinda Maddox, Director **OF TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES for the State** Department of Education, said, "ACCESS has allowed us to offer what many students and systems did not think would be offered - a chance to learn what others in the state and nation have the opportunity to learn. This program opens the door to the world."

### Red Ribbon Week October 23rd - 31st **Helps Students Prevent Drug Abuse**

INSPIRED BY THE LIFE of Drug Enforcement Agency Agent KIKI CAMERENA, who died fighting illegal drug trade in Mexico in 1985, Red

Ribbon Week was created to make the public aware of efforts to prevent drug use in students in local communities. The campaign begins in the last full week in October every year. Red Ribbon Week is the beginning of a year of prevention in our schools and in our communities. Continuing prevention, early intervention, and treatment programs and services occurring on and off campuses are all part of the campaign.

On Friday, October 22, the Kick-off celebration will be held at the Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery and will host a number of events for local students to promote drug use prevention. MICHAEL BRIDDELL, Director of Public Information and External Affairs for MONTGOMERY MAYOR TODD STRANGE, will be the guest host. He is a strong supporter of Red Ribbon Week and many other campaigns geared to help Alabama's students. "Police officers and jailers tell me a large percentage of crime is connected to drug abuse. Programs like Red Ribbon Day can empower children to resist peer pressure and the desire to experiment with drugs. If young people can be persuaded early on to keep drugs out of their lives, they will have a much greater chance of being successful in school and

in life", said Briddell.

Red Ribbon Week is a call to action! The program provides multiple opportunities for students, parents, teachers, and others to join together to address the alcohol, tobacco, and other drug-related issues or concerns in their communities. It is an ideal way for people and communities to unite and take a visible stand against substance abuse. Show your personal commitment to a drug-free lifestyle through the symbol of the Red Ribbon with special emphasis placed on wearing red ribbons Wednesday, October 27.

National Family Partnership is the sponsor of the National Red Ribbon Week celebration. The organization helps citizens across the state come together to keep children, families, and communities safe, healthy, and drug-free through parent trainings, networking, and sponsoring the National Red Ribbon Campaign.

To learn more, CLICK HERE. For more details on the Kick-off celebration in Montgomery, contact DAVE PETERSON at 334-274-6306.



I pledge to make healthy choices, to be a positive role model for my friends, and to support the mission of Red Ribbon Week, "No Use of Illegal Drugs, No Illegal Use of Legal Drugs."



## FAMILIES +SCHOOLS

### It all adds up!

### October is Parent Involvement Month

### PARENTS CAN BE INVOLVED

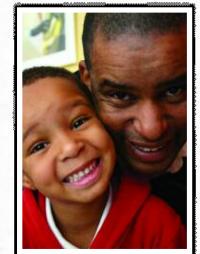
in their children's education and visit their schools without ever

leaving home or their desktop. Information NOW (INOW), a web-based student information system that enables users to access and analyze classroom, school and district data, is online (www.sti-k12.com) in 67 Alabama school systems.

InformationNOW was piloted for one year in five systems: Auburn City, Opelika City, Russell County, Lee County, and Chambers County. Phase 2 brought another 62 school systems on board for the 2010-2011 school year. With new technology, there is sometimes a period of

adjustment. Software Technology, Inc. (STI), INOW's parent company, scheduled individualized training and technical assistance with all 62 school systems in Phase 2 of INOW implementation.

During the statewide implementation of INOW, Montgomery County and Mobile County - two of Alabama's largest school systems - both experienced some back-toschool issues, including the Parent Portal. STI worked through these issues with local school systems so they could open the Parent Portal in mid-September. However, it is a local school system's decision to determine when to open the Parent Portal.



involvement works too. Dallas County Schools and Montgomery County Schools recently hosted a parental involvement workshop and Supplemental Educational Services Fairs respectively. Face-to-face communication and in-person school visits are still very beneficial and much appreciated in public schools. Schools always need parent volunteers and parents can spend a lunch hour with their child. According to FRANK WILLIAMSON, Prevention and

Along with technology, traditional parent

Support Services, Alabama Department of Education,

parent and student involvement makes a positive difference in conflict resolution and prevention. If a parent or guardian keeps in touch with school personnel, that involvement and communication can prevent or diffuse discipline problems. Many times, a student disciplinary situation is the first time a parent has ever been to the school or met their child's teacher. Calmer heads will prevail if the parties already know each other and can talk through an issue at the school level without escalating the problem. Williamson advises parents to stay involved and to encourage their children to participate in extracurricular activities as well. "It's so important for parents to be involved with education and the schools. Bullies usually have parents who were bullies when they were in school

too," said Williamson.

#### MORE TECHNOLOGY TOOLS FOR PARENTS

School systems use emergency notification systems to send multiple notices simultaneously to multiple phone numbers and e-mail addresses. This technology provides safety for students and convenience and peace of mind to parents. Automated notices range from announcing school closings or delays for inclement weather to "the band trip bus is running late - pick up your child at 9 p.m. instead of 8 p.m."

Parents can stay up-to-date on students' high school coursework through websites such as ACCESS (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators & Students Statewide) Distance Learning. This website (http://accessdl.state.al.us) offers resources and information including course schedules and demos, Advanced Placement courses and exams, and College Board and Alabama Virtual Library links.

School system websites also contain useful information for parents. Hoover City Schools' website offers a Parent Resources section with links to student handbooks, Code of Student Conduct, district test scores, and State Report Cards. On Boaz City Schools' website, there is a Parental Involvement section with links to cyber security and educational resources for parents such as Safe Kids Online and Homework Alabama. Winston County Schools' Parent's Page includes links to Stop Bullying Now! and the tax-deductible Helping Schools Tag.

#### **INFORMATIONNOW FOR PARENTS**

Parent involvement and communication are essential components in a student's education. Using Mac or Windows Operating Systems, parents can access INOW's Parent Portal. For security, each parent or guardian has a unique log-in. Parents can view their child's data anywhere, anytime including:

- Attendance
- Progress reports, report cards, class averages, individual activities, and unofficial transcripts
- Student schedule
- Homework assignments
- Discipline reports
- School calendar and announcements
- Demographic information from the student's record
- RSS feeds/alerts

### Alabama Leads Nation in **AP Test Score Improvement**



In a report released by the College Board (which administers AP tests nationally), Alabama showed the greatest percentage increase in the number of students scoring a passing grade on AP tests

at 17.7 percent. Alabama also showed major improvements in the total number of students taking AP tests as well as minority student participation and performance on AP tests.

During an event to announce the results at the State Capitol, GOVERNOR BOB RILEY said the success is directly attributable to the state's partnership with the A+ College Ready program and commitment to funding the ACCESS Distance Learning initiative in Alabama schools.

"These results speak for themselves," Governor Riley said. "The innovations we have made in Alabama schools are resulting in more participation and higher achievement in AP courses. That means more Alabama students have the opportunities they deserve, no matter where they live."

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOSEPH B. MORTON said Alabama's substantial gains in participation and performance result in part from every high school now being able to offer students at least 14 Advanced Placement courses thanks to ACCESS Distance Learning and other innovative Alabama education initiatives.

#### THE COLLEGE BOARD REPORT SHOWS:

- Since 2009, the number of AP Exam takers in Alabama's public schools has increased 18.1 percent, as compared to a 9.5 percent increase nationwide.
- From 2006 to 2010 the number of AP Exam takers in Alabama public schools has increased 125.3 percent.
- The number of AP Exams administered to Alabama's public school students increased 143.7 percent.
- The number of AP grades 3-5 received by Alabama's public school AP Exam takers increased 79.2 percent.

Alabama's African-American student participation continues to soar. The number of African-American students in Alabama that participate in the AP Program has increased 294 percent since 2006. Alabama's Hispanic student participation continues to rise as well. The number of Hispanic students in Alabama's public schools that participate in the AP Program has increased 135.2 percent since 2006.

### **Governor Increases Proration by 2%** to Balance State Budget

AMIDST LEGAL WRANGLING over the \$148 million claim to British Petroleum (BP) officials for lost tax revenue due to the Gulf Coast oil spill disaster, BP recently announced it would not pay Alabama's claim. Upon announcement of this action, GOVERNOR BOB RILEY increased proration by two percent in order to meet the state's Constitutional requirement for a balanced budget. This changes the proration for the state from 7.5 percent to 9.5 percent for the 2010 fiscal year.

Of the estimated \$148 million in lost tax revenue, \$116 million would have been earmarked for the Education Trust Fund. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION IOE MORTON said the BP payment would have covered what the state was short in the 2010 budget, but acknowledges now many school systems will have to find ways to tighten their belt even more in these difficult financial times. Morton said while news of the proration declaration was

disappointing - it was not totally unexpected.

"We knew this was a possibility and have been advising school systems to put funds aside for such an occasion. This payment would've kept proration at 7.5 percent and eliminated the \$113 million shortfall reflective of the additional two percent proration," Morton said. "Until and unless more funds go into the Education Trust Fund we will remain in a rocky position. Of course we don't want proration in the 2011 fiscal year, but things would have to change fast to avoid it."

750,000 Alabama students are going into classrooms every day - we cannot get discouraged. We have to keep moving forward.

- State Superintendent of Education Joseph B. Morton

Morton said some cash-strapped school systems are already borrowing money from banks to make payroll, but despite financial hardships, the greatest challenge is to make sure educators stay positive and continue the hard work in Alabama's classrooms.

### Teachers Invited to 3rd Annual Teachers' Institute

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL Social Studies teachers are encouraged to participate in the Third Annual Teachers' Institute for National Issue Forum in the Classroom at American Village (Montevallo, AL) on October 12-13, 2010. The Institute allows educators to enjoy an exciting hands-on interactive public policy institute designed to equip teachers with the skills and tools to enhance civic learning and increase student engagement in the classroom.

PEGGY SPARKS, educator and institute coordinator, said the Institute delivers exceptional professional development. "We are delighted that Alabama continues to play a leadership role through implementation of the Third Teachers' Institute. Middle and high school Social Studies teachers explore the deliberative learning model and learn to introduce a new kind of civic leadership," Sparks said.

The Institute also provides professional development points and participants receive a teacher's resource guide, DVD, and reproducible handouts.

For more information, contact Peggy Sparks at (205) 798-9049 or sparksconsultinginc@yahoo.com

### **Help Students get Fire Safety Smart!**



OCTOBER IS FIRE SAFETY MONTH, and Fire Educator Kent Landsberg has a

few simple suggestions for teachers, students, and families.

First, check your home's smoke alarm. This is a quick and easy way to make sure your family is alerted in the event of a fire.

Next, read the book No Dragons for Tea

by Jean Pendziwol to your students. There should be a copy in your school's library.\* Children enjoy this rhyming, read-along book and it shares several very important messages.

Finally, use the next school fire drill as a teachable moment. Explain why it is important to go outside when there is a fire, and that smoke is just as dangerous as fire. Encourage your students to have a family fire drill at home, using smoke alarms and a designated family meeting place.

These easy steps can help make Alabama children Fire Safety Smart! More fire safety information and games are available at State Farm's Smoke Detectives website (www.statefarm.com).

\*Kent Landsberg provided copies of No Dragons for Tea to each public school library last year. If your library copy is missing, please contact him at landsbergk@cityofmobile.org for a new book.

### Awards, Opportunities, and Professional Development

<u>CLICK HERE</u> for a complete listing of Awards and Professional Development Opportunities.

### READ FOR THE RECORD ON OCTOBER 7!

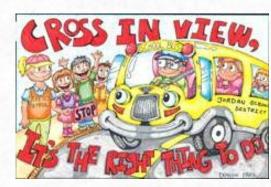


JUMPSTART'S READ FOR THE RECORD® is a world-record-breaking campaign that brings children and adults together to read the same book, on the same day, in schools and communities all over the world. The Jumpsatart campaign promotes success in school and life through literacy.

The 2010 goal is 2.5 million readers on October

7. Join the Alabama Department of Education, Teachers of the Year, Alabama Reading Initiative, Alabama Cattlemen's Assocaition, Big Mo and Montgomery Biscuits to promote literacy, and parent, family and community involvement in Alabama public schools. For more information on Jumpstart's Read for the Record, CLICK HERE. or contact *Judy Stone*, Alabama Reading First Initiative, 334-353-1570.

# NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WOLLDON OCTOBER 18-22, 2010



'CROSS IN VIEW. IT'S THE RIGHT THING T

#### ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

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#### ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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ALABAMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS are rising to the challenge as they continue to face budget cuts and increasing academic rigor. The Torchbearer School Program recently recognized eight Alabama schools for outstanding achievements despite tremendous odds.

"We began the Torchbearer School Program in 2004 to recognize those public schools in Alabama that demonstrate the principle that all children can learn, despite whatever difficulties they may face. Through the dedication and hard work of their faculty, students, and parents, these schools succeed and are truly inspirational," said Gov. BOB RILEY.

#### THE 2009-2010 TORCHBEARER SCHOOLS ARE:

Anna F. Booth Elementary · Mobile County Schools
Calcedeaver Elementary · Mobile County Schools
Collins-Rhodes Elementary School · Mobile County Schools
George Hall Elementary · Mobile County Schools
Indian Springs Elementary · Mobile County Schools
T. S. Morris Elementary School · Montgomery County Schools
Meadowlane Elementary School · Phenix City Schools
Wilkerson Middle School · Birmingham City Schools

For more information on Torchbearer Schools, contact

DR. ANGELA MANGUM (amangum@alsde.edu) at 334-353-9251.

### September State Board of Education Meeting Agenda Items

- Announce Intent to Amend Alabama Administrative Code, Rules 290-2-4-.06(3), 290-2-1-.01, 290-2-1-.03, 290-2-1-.04, and 290-3-2-.22
- Resolution to Approve a Teacher Education Program, Jacksonville State University
- Resolution to Approve a Teacher Education Program, University of South Alabama
- Resolution/Teacher's Guide with Lesson Plans, Gubernatorial Debate 2010
- National Association of State Boards of Education Vote

#### The Next State Board of Education Meeting:

October 14, 2010, 9:30 a.m. · Gordon Persons Building, Auditorium · Montgomery

For a complete list of agenda items, to hear podcasts, or to see photos from Alabama State Board of Education meetings, visit <a href="https://www.alsde.edu.gand.click">www.alsde.edu.gand.click</a> "Board of Ed."