



# ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

AUG./SEPT. 2006

## GREAT GAINS IN PROFICIENCY YET MORE WORK TO DO

*Despite tougher criteria, more than 87 percent of the schools in Alabama successfully met 100 percent of their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals – making this year's total of schools achieving AYP 34 percent higher than last year.*

### ★★★★ AYP ★★★★★

At the Alabama Board of Education meeting held Monday, August 7, **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON** said he was "elated" at the number of students in Alabama's public schools reading and doing math at grade level. Presenting to the state Board, including state school board president **GOV. BOB RILEY**, Morton revealed 1,194 of 1,364 schools made AYP statewide. The ultimate target is for Alabama (and the nation) to perform at the proficiency level in reading and mathematics by 2013-14. Of the 170 schools that did not make 100 percent of their individual goals, 99 made 90-99.99 percent, 43 made 80-89.99 percent, six made 70-79.99 percent, five made 60-69.99 percent, and only 17 schools statewide achieved less than 60 percent. *(continued on page 8)*

**The Birmingham News**  
Area schools improve in achieving goals  
PATRICK HICKERSON - News staff writer

**The Huntsville Times**  
City schools 'ecstatic' over best-ever marks  
By CHALLEN STEPHENS - Times Staff Writer

**MOBILE PRESS-REGISTER**  
**MORE SCHOOLS SUCCEED**  
By RENA HAVNER - Staff Reporter

**Montgomery Advertiser**  
**SCHOOLS MAKING PROGRESS**  
By Antoinette Konz  
Montgomery Advertiser



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**CONTINUED ONLINE:** Teacher of the Month • Visit [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu)

# Points of Interest

*News you might have missed from the Alabama Department of Education*

— April 8, 2006 —

Alabama was well represented at the Council of Elementary Science International (CESI) Luncheon in Anaheim, California, during the National Science Teachers Association Convention. The keynote speaker, **DR. KATHRYN THORNTON**, formerly of Montgomery and a former NASA astronaut, shared with over 200 educators many adventures and procedures she encountered on the Space Shuttle.

**DR. KAY ATCHISON WARFIELD** was elected to serve a two-year term as a CESI Board Director and was inducted at the annual business meeting. **DR. CHERYL SUNDBERG**, CESI Newsletter Editor, will continue to serve in this capacity for one more year. Both work for the Alabama Department of Education. Left to right—**DR. SUNDBERG**, **NANCY VAWTER**, **DR. THORNTON**, **DR. ATCHISON WARFIELD**, **KATHY CHANDLER**, and **MARY BETH KATZ**.



— May 10, 2006 —

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selected three Alabama public school students for one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Alabama's 2006 Presidential Scholars are: **AMANDA R. LONG**, Oxford High School, Oxford City Schools; **KELLY M. MCCONNAUGHEY**, Virgil I. Grissom High School, Huntsville City Schools; and **SARAH C. CAMPBELL** - Presidential Scholar in the Arts, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Birmingham. Only 18 states had two or more semifinalists. Alabama had seven. Three of those seven were finalists.

— June 21, 2006 —

Alabama is one of only five states scoring a B+ for school nutrition policies according to a report by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI). Only one state, Kentucky, scored higher with an A- on the *School Foods Report Card*. Alabama Board of Education members concerned about reports on the alarming rate of childhood obesity and poor nutrition voted July 13, 2004, to form a committee to review the state of health of America's youth with heavy emphasis on Alabama's youth. Alabama's *Student Health Initiative* was adopted by the Alabama Board of Education July 12, 2005, and was implemented by school systems in the 2005-06 school year.



— May 10, 2006 —

**CAMERON MCKINLEY**, an elementary school Integrated Technology teacher at Riverchase Elementary School in the Hoover City School System, was named the 2006-2007 Alabama Teacher of the Year during a reception at the RSA Plaza Terrace in Montgomery honoring the 16 district finalists for Teacher of the Year. **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON** commended McKinley for her work and praised all of the teachers for their dedication to education in Alabama.



June 28, 2006



**G**OV. BOB RILEY announced the expansion of the Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Schools Statewide (ACCESS) Distance Learning Initiative to 20 more sites statewide at the 12th Annual Alabama Educational Technology Conference (AETC) in Birmingham. Additionally, the Chiquita Marbury Technology Innovation Award winners were recognized during AETC. The four outstanding educators receiving this year's awards – named in honor of Chiquita Marbury (1952-2002), who served the Alabama Department of Education for many years as a passionate visionary in technology integration – are (r-l):

Technology Coordinator - **KATHY RAINS**, Madison City Schools  
Central Office Instructional Leader - **VICKEY SULLIVAN**, Madison County Schools

Teacher - **SUSAN NICELY**, Odenville Middle School, St. Clair County Schools

Administrator - **MARK MCCRORY**, Principal, Pine Level Elementary School, Autauga County Schools



July 11, 2006

**S**TATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON tells the Alabama State Board of Education that “the state may have a national model in the *Lee v. Macon* Special Education Consent Decree.” As stated in the Sixth Annual Report on the implementation of the consent decree, *the initiatives of the department and all local school systems resulted in a significant reduction of racial disparities in the exceptionality areas of mental retardation, emotional disturbance, specific learning disabilities, and gifted programs, while fostering appropriate evaluation, identification, and services.*

July 11, 2006

**T**he Alabama Board of Education approved the appointments of A) **SHERRY KEY** to Director of Career/Technical Education, B) **DR. SUE ADAMS** to Director of Prevention and Support Services, and C) **JOE LIGHTSEY** to Director of Pupil Transportation.



July 24, 2006

**O**pening ceremonies of the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) Leadership Academy were held at Jacksonville High School. K-12 educators, including one principal and at least one math and one science teacher from 75 Jacksonville area schools, participated in the two-week AMSTI training. AMSTI trained some 2,400 teachers during the summer from 259 schools, bringing the total number of AMSTI schools in the state to 329.



# GOOD NEWS IN



## ALABAMA TEACHER TEMPORARILY TRADES CLASSROOM FOR NOAA



When Baldwin County High School science teacher **JUDY REEVES** was told she would be spending the next year working at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Education in Washington, DC, she immediately went



shopping for a guidebook and winter coat. Reeves is only the second Alabama teacher ever to win an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship allowing her to gain on-the-job experience

with top-level staff members in her field.

Reeves' appointment to NOAA is a perfect fit for the Marine Science and Aquascience teacher since NOAA is the agency overseeing the National Hurricane Center, National Weather Service, and National Ocean Service. "To be an Einstein Fellow and to work at NOAA will open up a whole new world for me professionally," said Reeves. "At my school, I've been instrumental in developing an Environmental Academy and introducing courses such as Aquascience, Botany, and Zoology. This opportunity will help me learn so much more to bring back to my students."

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship program provides classroom teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching an opportunity to serve in the national public policy arena.

Administered by the U.S. Department of Energy



(DOE) Office of Science, selected elementary and secondary science, math, and technology educators are given the opportunity to spend a year in a Congressional Office, the U.S. Department of Education, DOE or a federal agency such as NASA, NOAA, or the National Science Foundation. From the 300 nationwide applications, only 14 fellows were chosen.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**State Board of Education Member: Randy McKinney-District 1**  
**Baldwin County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Faron Hollinger**  
**Baldwin County High School Principal: Eddie Mitchell**



## FELLOWSHIP HELPS TEACHER CONTINUE EDUCATION

Teaching is an ancient and honorable profession that has become even more important in our rapidly changing contemporary society. The James Madison



Fellowship Program was created to address a particularly pressing need in the field of secondary education. This is the fundamental need to teach young people, who will be tomorrow's citizens, knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of limited government and constitutional liberty on which individual freedom and public good depend. Advanced Placement U.S. History teacher **KACEY VARDAMAN** does just that. Vardaman, a fifth-year teacher at Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School in Montgomery, said, "I love my school so I want to continue teaching while I'm in school." Thanks to the James Madison Fellowship Program, Vardaman will be able to pursue a master's degree and stay in the classroom.

The tenth-grade teacher received a James Madison Fellowship in June. Only 50 fellowships were awarded for 2006 in the 15th annual fellowship competition created to honor our fourth president – known as the "Father of the Constitution and Bill of Rights." The fellowship will fund up to \$24,000 of Vardaman's study toward a master's degree at Auburn University Montgomery, which must include a concentration of courses on the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution.

***Founded by an Act of Congress in 1986, the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation – created to honor our fourth president – is an independent establishment of the executive branch of the federal government.***

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**State Board of Education Member: Stephanie Bell-District 3**  
**Montgomery County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Carlinda Purcell**  
**Brewbaker Technology Magnet High Principal: Mitzi McLaurine**



## THREE ALABAMA SCHOOL SYSTEMS REAP MILLION DOLLAR REWARDS

The U.S. Department of Education awarded nearly \$1 million each to three Alabama school systems to help improve the quality of American history teaching. "Our nation's founding fathers believed the study of history and citizenship should be at the core of every American's education," said **U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION MARGARET SPELLINGS**. "Yet, with studies showing less than one-quarter of American students are proficient in either subject, far too few U.S. students are learning the lessons vital to life in our democratic society. History education under *No Child Left Behind* is essential to help students gain an understanding and appreciation of our nation's history and government."



Winners of Teaching American History Grants, their grant amounts, and grant partners are:

- **Jefferson County Schools** = \$993,888, University of Montevallo and University of Alabama Birmingham
- **Montgomery County Schools** = \$970,655, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks Liberty Fellowship, University of Southern Mississippi, American Institute for History Education, Alabama Historical Society, and Old Alabama Town
- **Tuscaloosa City Schools** = \$999,210, University of Alabama College of Education and Westervelt-Warner Museum

The Teaching American History discretionary grant program supports three-year projects to improve teachers' knowledge and understanding of traditional American history through intensive, ongoing professional development. Grantees must work in partnership with one or more organizations that have extensive knowledge of American history including libraries, museums, nonprofit history or humanities organizations, and higher education institutions.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**State Board of Education Members:**

*Dr. Ethel Hall-District 4, Stephanie Bell-District 3, Ella Bell-District 5, and Sandra Ray-District 7*

**Jefferson County Schools Superintendent:** *Dr. Phil Hammonds*

**Montgomery County Schools Superintendent:** *Dr. Carlinda Purcell*

**Tuscaloosa City Schools Superintendent:** *Dr. Joyce Levey*



## COMMANDER IN CHIEF HONORS PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES

The nation's highest honor for teaching mathematics and science went to **MARY HAND**, a mathematics teacher at Liberty Middle School in Madison, and science teacher **PHILLIP HOLLEY** at Mountain Brook Junior High School in Mountain Brook. In a trip to Washington, DC, **PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH** honored the two with the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Hand and Holley are among only 100 seventh-twelfth grade teachers nationwide to receive the prestigious award.

As Awardees, they each receive a \$10,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, the independent federal agency that administers the awards program on behalf of the White House, and the all expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC, for a week of celebratory events and professional development activities.

In a citation presented to Hand and Holley, President Bush commended them "for embodying excellence in teaching, for devotion to the learning needs of the students, and for upholding the high standards that exemplify American education at its finest."



Established by Congress in 1983, the annual presidential awards program identifies highly qualified mathematics and science teachers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Territories, and the U.S. Department of Defense Schools.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**State Board of Education Members:**

*Dr. Mary Jane Caylor-District 8 and David Byers-District 6*

**Madison City Schools Superintendent:** *Dr. Henry Clark*

**Liberty Middle School Principal:** *Sally Bruer*

**Mountain Brook City Schools Superintendent:** *Dr. Charles Mason*

**Mountain Brook Junior High School Principal:** *Garry Richard*

# Statewide Parent Visitation

## *Children Are the Future – Share the Vision*

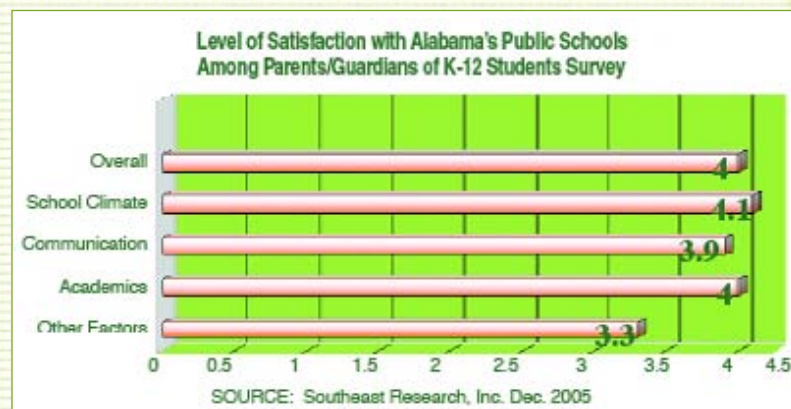
As October's Statewide Parent Visitation Month approaches, the Alabama Department of Education and educators statewide encourage parents to get involved with their children's education. Parents are the most important influence in children's success in school and in life. This year's theme is *Children Are the Future—Share the Vision*.

Posters from 12 Alabama families were chosen for recognition in the 2006 Statewide Family Poster Contest on Parental Involvement, which was designed to raise awareness of the key role parents and families play in the education of their children.

The statewide winner of the poster contest was the family of **THOMAS FALKNER**, a second-grade student at Susan Moore Elementary School in the Blount County School System.

The Falkner family poster is this year's theme poster for Statewide Parent Visitation Month. Beginning in

September and running through October, watch for the Falkner's poster to be displayed on billboards throughout the state inviting Alabama parents to visit their children's schools. All 12 family posters inspired the art for the 2006-2007 Alabama Parent and Family Involvement Calendar, available online – [CLICK HERE](#).



### *Congratulations to the 12 winning families, their schools, and school systems:*

The Family of Thomas Falkner, Susan Moore Elementary School, Blount County Schools  
The Family of Chelsea Hagan, Central Elementary School, Coosa County Schools  
The Family of Liana Hope Ingle, Haleyville Elementary School, Haleyville City Schools  
The Family of Alexis McNew, W.S. Neal Elementary School, Escambia County Schools  
The Family of Mitch Nolte, Saks Middle School, Calhoun County Schools  
The Family of Crystal Norris, Bruce K. Craig Elementary School, Dallas County Schools  
The Family of Maria Diana Olvera, Central High School, Tuscaloosa City Schools  
The Family of Chelsea de la Riva, R.A. Mitchell Elementary School, Gadsden County Schools  
The Family of Edmund Semmes, Discovery Middle School, Madison City Schools  
The Family of Pavel Shchyhelski, Prattville Junior High School, Autaugaма County Schools  
The Family of Kaitlyn Shelley, South Dale Middle School, Dale County Schools  
The Family of Le' Janae Sneed, Clyde Smith Kirby Middle School, Baldwin County Schools



# ation Month

## 10 TIPS

...to help your child succeed

1. Talk with your child.
2. Set high but realistic expectations.
3. Build your child's self-esteem and confidence.
4. Keep your child healthy.
5. Support learning at home. Parents are children's first teachers.
6. Communicate with your child's school.
7. Encourage exploration and discovery.
8. Help your child develop good relationships.
9. Keep your child safe.
10. Participate in community service.

(Source: Alabama PTA)

**MORE TIPS FOR PARENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE 2006-2007 ALABAMA PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT CALENDAR. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JUDY BOHANNON, PARENTING/MENTORING SPECIALIST, AT (334) 242-8199 OR [EMAIL HERE](#).**

*Competitive Academic Test Scores and Accreditation, Recognition for Excellence by a National Foundation or the U.S. Department of Education, Competitive Teacher Salaries and Small Class Sizes, and Above National Average Instructional and Library Media Services Expenditures Are ...*

## WHAT PARENTS WANT!

*SchoolMatch* named 24 Alabama school systems as winners in the 15th annual "What Parents Want Award" program on May 8. Most of the 24 are not strangers to this program, having been selected consistently over the last decade.

SCHOOL SYSEM	TOTAL YEARS AWARDED
Arab City	11
Athens City	11
Auburn City	11
Baldwin County	7
Daleville City	12
Decatur City	12
Dothan City	9
Enterprise City	12
Florence City	12
Hartselle City	11
Homewood City	13
Hoover City	11
Huntsville City	13
Jacksonville City	3
Jefferson County	10
Madison County	9
Mobile County	9
Mountain Brook City	15
Muscle Shoals City	12
Ozark City	11
Shelby County	9
Trussville City	1
Tuscaloosa City	11
Vestavia Hills City	13

The awards are presented to only 2,504 of America's 15,573 public school districts for making noteworthy strides to meet the needs of their communities.

An April 1, 2006, survey of the 22 field *SchoolMatch* Public School Database revealed that only 16% of the nation's public schools consistently provide "What Parents Want" in public education.

*SchoolMatch*, the nation's largest school selection consulting firm, helps corporate employee families find schools that match the needs of their children.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
SCHOOLMATCH, VISIT  
[WWW.SCHOOLMATCH.COM](http://WWW.SCHOOLMATCH.COM).

# GREAT GAINS IN PROFICIENCY YET MORE WORK TO DO

(continued from cover)

Morton said there are numerous factors contributing to the increase in scores in Alabama schools, not the least of which are the dedication shown by educators throughout the state and initiatives working in schools to foster reading, math, and science skills. "Our teachers, principals, and superintendents continue to work extremely hard," Morton said. "The Alabama Reading Initiative and the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative are truly starting to show their worth. They work, they improve student achievement, and the results are starting to further indicate the value of those programs."

Of the schools that made AYP, 674 did so for the second year in a row. One such school making AYP for the second consecutive year and coming off of School Improvement is George Washington Carver Middle School in Macon County. Principal **DORIS MCGOWAN COLEMAN** said making AYP and getting off of School Improvement is a goal that took collaboration. "It was a team effort involving teachers, parents, students, and faculty – all of the stakeholders," Coleman said. "We stayed the course and met the challenge." Coleman said meeting AYP was not an annual goal but rather a daily goal at her school. "Being aware of where you are, and what you need to improve upon, is a must especially when it comes to engaging people outside of the school building."

## The Anniston Star LOCAL SCHOOLS GET A+

Coleman said attendance was an issue her school battled and she is particularly proud of the strides made in that category because it shows the support of parents and the community, along with educators. "We've always worked hard at our academics, but increasing the attendance to more than 95 percent shows the importance of parents and community," Coleman said. "It was the parents and community that helped stress the importance of getting kids to school and getting them there on time."

### 2005-06 AYP SUMMARY

	PERCENT OF GOALS MET	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS		PERCENT MEETING GOALS	
		2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05
<b>A=94.80%</b>	100 Percent	1,194	725	87.54	53.07
	90 to 99.99	99	247	7.26	18.08
<b>B=3.15%</b>	80 to 89.99	43	216	3.15	15.81
	70 to 79.99	6	76	0.44	5.56
<b>C/D=.81%</b>	60 to 69.99	5	33	0.37	2.42
<b>Not Passing=1.25%</b>	Less than 60 Percent	17	69	1.25	5.05
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS</b>		1,364	1,366	100%	

STATE ACCOUNTABILITY, STUDENT ASSESSMENTS, AND ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS 2006

### STATE AYP STATUS REPORT

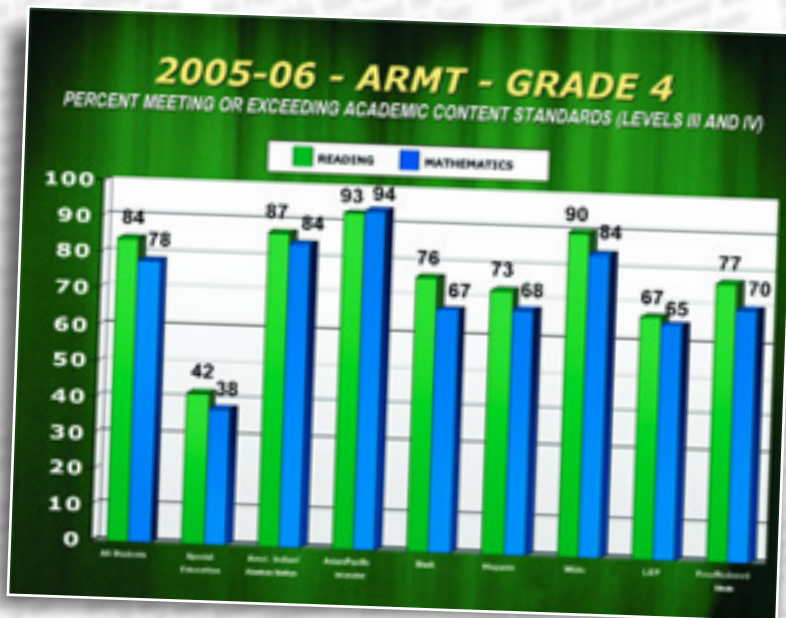
#### READING

School Year	Participation Goal = 95%		Met Participation Goal		Proficiency Index Goal = 8.00%		Met Proficiency Goal	
	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05
All Students	99	99	YES	YES	19.10	11.81	YES	YES
Special Education	98	98	YES	YES	-6.20	-31.74	YES	NO
Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native	100	99	YES	YES	21.91	17.87	YES	YES
Asian/Pacific Islander	99	99	YES	YES	24.10	22.16	YES	YES
Black	99	99	YES	YES	13.60	1.17	YES	YES
Hispanic	99	99	YES	YES	13.04	0.60	YES	YES
White	99	99	YES	YES	22.56	18.45	YES	YES
Limited-English Proficient	99	98	YES	YES	8.98	-6.85	YES	NO
Free/Reduced Meals	99	99	YES	YES	14.76	2.98	YES	YES
Displaced	96	N/A	YES	N/A	18.10	N/A	N/A	N/A

### STATE AYP STATUS REPORT

#### MATHEMATICS

School Year	Participation Goal = 95%		Met Participation Goal		Proficiency Index Goal = 8.00%		Met Proficiency Goal	
	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05
All Students	99	99	YES	YES	29.68	15.34	YES	YES
Special Education	98	98	YES	YES	6.56	-25.15	YES	NO
Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native	99	99	YES	YES	33.51	24.69	YES	YES
Asian/Pacific Islander	99	99	YES	YES	38.59	35.55	YES	YES
Black	98	99	YES	YES	23.09	1.00	YES	YES
Hispanic	99	99	YES	YES	25.77	7.20	YES	YES
White	99	99	YES	YES	33.64	23.94	YES	YES
Limited-English Proficient	98	99	YES	YES	23.28	3.14	YES	YES
Free/Reduced Meals	99	99	YES	YES	24.80	4.22	YES	YES
Displaced	95	N/A	YES	N/A	30.95	N/A	N/A	N/A



Morton said the success of so many schools this year is somewhat of a double-edged sword, warning that schools cannot get overly comfortable with the accomplishments this year. "In one sense [the numbers] excite me and make me think that we are really close to 100 percent and in another sense it almost frightens me because we have a long way to go yet," Morton said. "The scores are great, they are wonderful, that's what we

## THE DECATUR DAILY

### Dramatic progress in scores for state

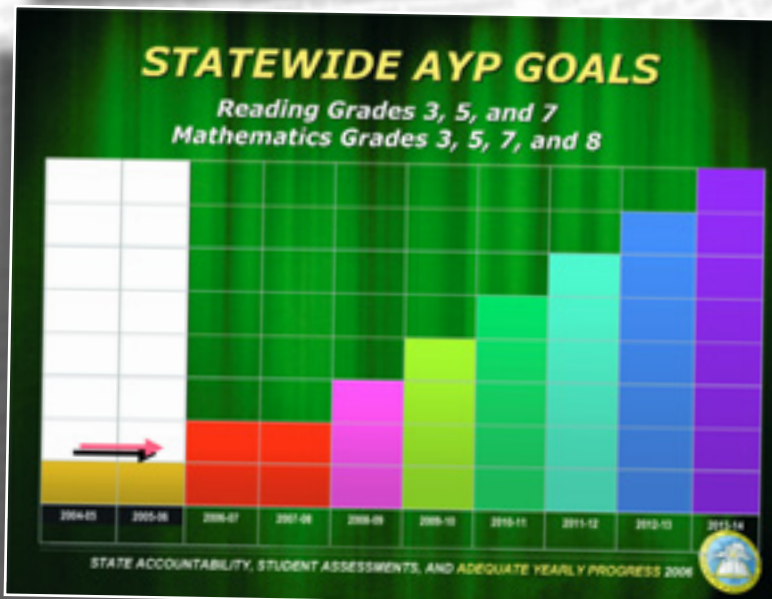
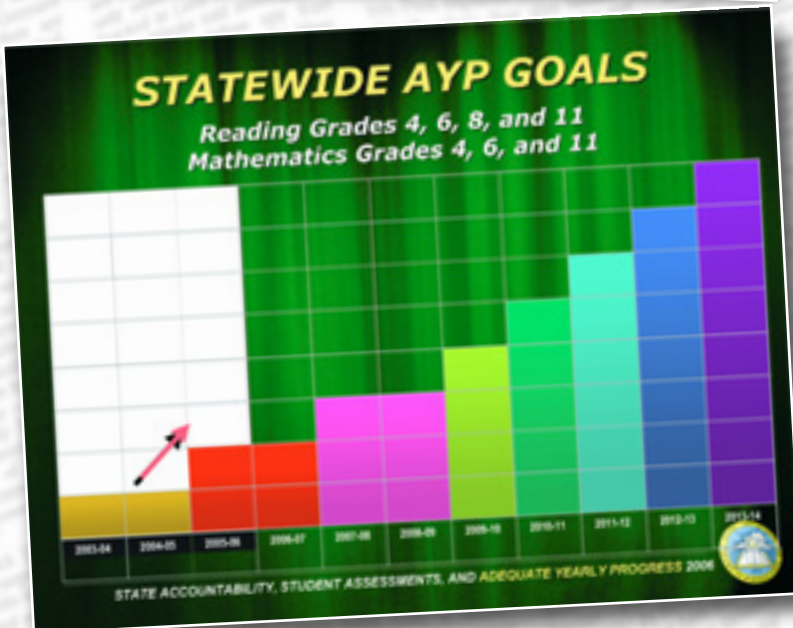
dreamed would happen. But we also know that each year the bar goes up – it's raised a little higher. The percent of students who must make AYP goes up every year until we get to 100 percent – it is not the same bar every year. Making that next 13 percent and not losing ground with the first 87 percent is going to be a major challenge."

### ★ SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ★

That challenge, Morton said, is not one that the department shies away from as the 170 schools that did not make AYP and those schools that continually do not meet their annual measurable objectives will receive more focus. In certain cases where schools have consecutively not met goals, the Department of Education is reaching into the private sector to employ "turnaround specialists" to go into schools and work cooperatively with the existing faculty and staff to effect change and turn around the schools performance. **DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION DR. RUTH ASH** expressed the implementation of turn-around specialists is not an effort to "take over" a school, but rather a cooperative effort between the state Department and local systems to bring about change in some of the most needed areas.

"This is the first time outside, independent turn-around specialists have been brought in to consult schools," said Ash. "Superintendents have shown great appreciation as the state pays for these change agents to work with educators and administration officials." Additionally, the state Department has developed the "Accountability Roundtable," a group of professionals, who head up various sections in the state Department addressing school improvement.

"Whether it's safety and discipline, classroom curriculum, leadership, or how to employ and deploy teachers to the schools who need the best possible teachers – we have put all these people together to create this Accountability Roundtable," Morton said. "We are



# MORE ALABAMA SCHOOLS MEETING FEDERAL STANDARDS

working with the local systems for them to create their own Accountability Roundtables so they can take what we have learned and implement it at the local level. The whole goal is to get four very important characteristics in place for every school in Alabama – safety and discipline, quality teachers, challenging curricula, and effective schools leaders.”

## ★★ SCHOOL CHOICE ★★

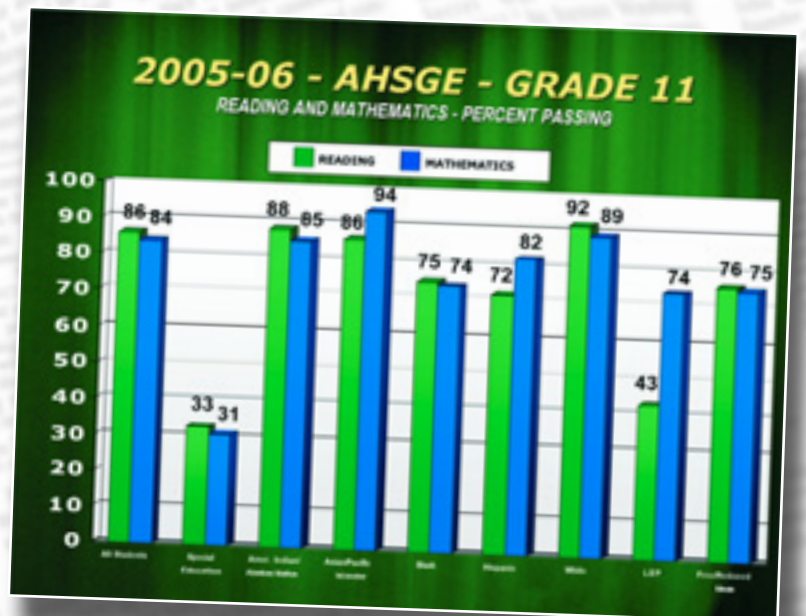
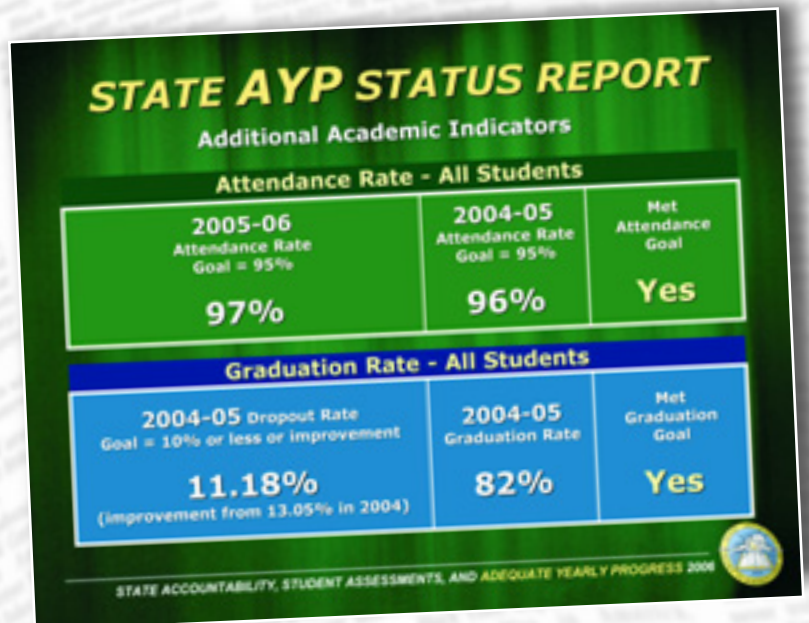
There are 458 schools currently in School Improvement, most of which are in delay, meaning they have made AYP once and are hoping to make it for a consecutive year to be removed from the School Improvement list. By federal mandate, Title I schools (schools determined to have a high poverty rate by the number of children who are eligible for free and reduced meals) on School Improvement must offer School Choice. **MAGGIE RIVERS**, director of Federal Programs for the Alabama Department of Education, said the first year a school is placed on School Improvement, and every year thereafter, the school must offer parents an opportunity to transfer their child(ren) to school(s) not in School Improvement. These schools are obligated to reserve a certain portion of their funds to provide transportation for those children. In the event there are no available schools in the system, parents can opt to have their child(ren) take advantage of free tutoring and other learning resources, referred to as Supplemental Educational Services (SES).

“The school system is obligated to notify parents of SES. Sometimes it’s done through a parenting fair, bulletins, or the media,” Rivers said. “At that time, the parents complete an application saying they wish for their child to be served by a particular provider. At that point, the school system enters into a contract agreement with the provider to provide services to those children.”

## ★★★ LOOKING AHEAD ★★★

This year’s accountability results also show a significant decrease in the number of high school students who are quitting school altogether. Although this year’s dropout rate is the lowest in the history of education in Alabama, at 11.18 percent, Morton said it is the mission of educators throughout the state to get that number as low as possible. The dropout rate was 13.05

percent in 2004 and 13.51 percent in 2003. As schools work to prepare students for college, work, and adulthood in the 21st century, Morton remains focused on the heavy lifting yet to be done. “We don’t want to lose a single student during those middle and high school grades to being a dropout. The data shows now we have the lowest dropout rate in the history of Alabama – but it’s still too high. Eleven percent is too high,” Morton said. “We have got to get the dropout rate down into single digits and we have got to increase our graduation rate. We are working on that – we’ve got the momentum we just can’t lose it. We cannot let up now. We cannot let the good news of this event take away the imperative to always strive toward our goal of leaving no child behind.” 🍏



# 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

## May

- ✎ Held Public Hearing for the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act to Adopt Amended *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Regulations Governing Public Schools (Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Career-Technical Endorsement) as a Permanent Rule
- ✎ Approved Pay Scale Change for Directors and Assistant Superintendents
- ✎ Approved Changing August K-12 State Board of Education Meeting Date
- ✎ Passed Resolutions Commending the 2006-2007 Alabama Teacher of the Year, Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year and District Teachers of the Year

## June

- ✎ Announced Intent to Repeal and Adopt New *Alabama Administrative Code* Chapter Pertaining to Leadership Development
- ✎ Announce Intent to Amend *Alabama Administrative Code* Rules Pertaining to Regulations Governing Public Schools (Substitution Subjects for Physical Education in Grades 9-12) and the Speech Language Pathology Assistant – Alternative Approach to Certification
- ✎ Passed Resolution Recognizing Alabama's 2006 Presidential Scholars

## July

- ✎ Re-elected Sandra Ray Vice President and Randy McKinney President Pro Tem for the State Board of Education
- ✎ Passed Resolution Commending Martha White as the "Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter Award" July-September 2006
- ✎ Received the Sixth Annual Report on the Implementation of the *Lee v. Macon* Special Education Consent Decree

## August

- ✎ Adopted Amended *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Regulations Governing Public Schools (Physical Education Exemptions) as a Permanent Rule
- ✎ Adopted Amended *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Approaches to Certification (Speech-Language Pathology) as a Permanent Rule
- ✎ Passed Resolution Recognizing Recipients of College-Sponsored National Merit Scholarships
- ✎ Passed Resolution Recognizing Jenny Taylor, Florence High School in the Florence City School System for Receiving the 2006 Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award
- ✎ Passed Resolution Commending Judy Mansel for Dedicated Service to Public Education in the State of Alabama

For a complete list of agenda items, visit the Alabama Department of Education's Web site [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu) under Board of Education.



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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

The Alabama Science Teachers Association Fall Conference will be held at the McWane Center in Birmingham, Oct. 3-4. [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference - Changing the Face of Education will be held in Louisville, Ky. Oct. 12-14. [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

The 25th Southeast International Reading Association Regional Conference will be at the Mobile Convention Center, Oct. 15-17. [CLICK HERE](#) for information. **Pre-registration deadline: Sept. 20**

The Alabama Music Educators (AMEA) 2007 In-Service Conference will be held at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Jan. 18-20, 2007. [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

The Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students With Disabilities provides up-to-date guidance on assessing the achievement and progress of special education students. [CLICK HERE](#) to download free copies.

## AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES


The Best Buy Te@ch Program recognizes creative uses of interactive technology in K-12 classrooms. Teachers can submit examples of making learning fun by integrating technology into the curriculum. Schools must be located within 50 miles of a Best Buy store to be eligible. [CLICK HERE](#) to complete and submit an application online. **Deadline: Sept. 30**

The President's Environmental Youth Awards recognize K-12 students across America for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. [CLICK HERE](#) for information. **Deadline: Oct. 1**

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 receive more eligibility and application information for both grant programs by calling 1-800-4FEDAID (or 1-800-433-3243) or by [CLICKING HERE](#).

The J. Craig and Page T. Smith Foundation "First in Family" Scholarships are offered to deserving Alabama students this school year. Special consideration is given to students who would be the first in their immediate family to attend college. [CLICK HERE](#) for information. **Deadline: Jan. 30, 2007**

SEPTEMBER		4~Labor Day (STATE HOLIDAY)				
		6~Read a Book Day	8~International Literacy Day			
		14~Alabama Board of Education Meeting				
		17~U.S. Constitution Day				
	CHILDREN’S EYE HEALTH & SAFETY MONTH HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH - 9/15-10/15					
OCTOBER		18-22~Alabama High School Graduation Exam Administration				
		28~Alabama Board of Education Work Session				
		9~Columbus Day (STATE HOLIDAY)				
	STATEWIDE PARENT VISITATION MONTH • SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH CHILD MENTAL HEALTH MONTH • COMPUTER LEARNING MONTH					
		12~Alabama Board of Education Meeting				
	15-21~Teen Reading Week					
	26~Alabama Board of Education Work Session					
	28~Statue of Liberty’s Birthday (1886)					



# ALABAMA Education News

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Copies available in Braille or other forms upon request.

## TEACHER OF THE MONTH

### ★ MAY ★

**Kathy Chandler**, a first-grade teacher at Trace Crossings School in the Hoover City School System, is the Teacher of the Month for *May*. In addition to being an active teacher in the classroom, she is also an active community member. Chandler ensures her students are actively engaged in learning throughout the day by beginning the morning with independent reading. Additional activities include keeping a journal, reading with a buddy, and even acting as community members in a pretend city in which they work, govern, and shop.



### ★ JUNE ★

Educating must not only be a teacher's job, but also her "life mission and daily passion," according to **Sherry Frazier**, principal of Gulf Shores Middle School in the Baldwin County School System. That's a belief Frazier was taught by her parents, teachers, and principals. It is that same belief that has earned Frazier recognition as Alfa's Teacher of the Month for *June*. Frazier's philosophy... "A school can only be effective if partnerships are developed and communication and involvement with the community, parents, and students are created."



### ★ JULY ★

**Principal Bill Griffin** believes all students can succeed academically and behaviorally. Principal of Florence Middle School in the Florence City School System since 2000, Griffin has adopted an "Open-minded approach to schooling." His success earned him recognition for the Month of *July* as part of the Teacher of the Month Program. Griffin established six academic teams who meet regularly to discuss issues and work to solve problems within the school. Additionally, he developed the "It Pays to Be at School" program to reward students with exceptional attendance.



*Chandler, Frazier, and Griffin will each receive \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance and their schools will receive a matching donation from the Alabama Farmers Federation.*