

ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

AUGUST 2004

WHAT'S INSIDE ...

- FY 2005 Budget Highlights
- Good News
- First Lady, Daughter Jenna Visit Alabama School
- BOE Vice Pres. Resigns Post
- Professional Opportunities

ALABAMA'S NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION LOOKS TO THE FUTURE ...

- ✓ **MORE ACCOUNTABILITY**
- ✓ **INCREASED FUNDING**
- ✓ **STATEWIDE EXPANSION OF ALABAMA READING INITIATIVE**

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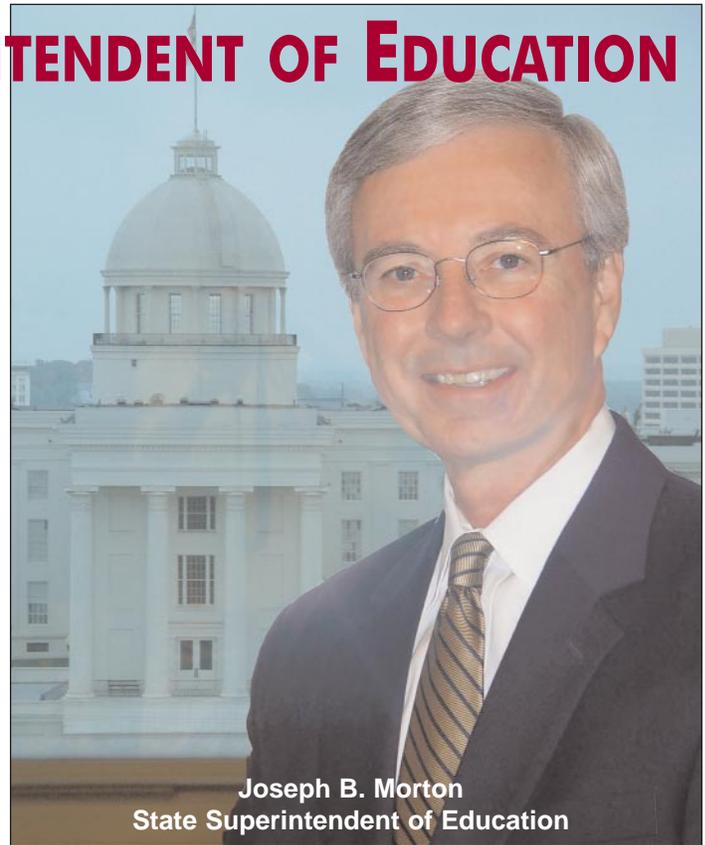
hen **DR. JOSEPH B. MORTON** was appointed to the position of state Superintendent of Education permanently by the Alabama Board of Education July 13, he was eager to stress that his goals are to take the state's public schools to the top of the nation and ensure every Alabama student reads at or above grade level.

Dr. Morton is no stranger to most of us. He has been with the Department of Education as deputy state superintendent for the last nine years, serving as interim superintendent since January. He was a local superintendent in Sumter County and Sylacauga City for 21 years and was named the American Association of School Administrators' Alabama Superintendent of the Year in 1996.

He has more than enough experience to run the state's public schools. But, what changes does he want to make, what direction does he want to take, and what does he hope to accomplish on his watch? Dr. Morton explained his goals and concerns in a recent editorial titled *State's Reading Initiative Works*.

The Alabama Department of Education released reading scores for Grades K-3 in July and the news was good. The state administers the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessment in all K-3 classrooms to monitor student progress. The scores indicate some of the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) schools with the most challenging demographics have almost all of their students reading at grade level, and others are closing the reading achievement gap faster than ever thought possible.

Gov. BOB RILEY signed the education budget for fiscal year 2005, which included \$40 million for the reading initiative on May 14. For the first time in history, the state Board of Education's plan is in place to fully fund current reading initiative schools and to expand the reading initiative to all other Alabama schools serving K-3 students. The first-year funding of \$40 million that becomes available Oct. 1 will put a reading coach in the 376 existing K-3 schools, one of the key elements of success in the schools mentioned above. The dollars will provide



Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent of Education

training to 274 of the remaining 547 schools serving K-3 students. By 2006, the reading initiative will have reached 225,000 students and more than 12,000 teachers in all 923 schools that teach K-3 students to read.

For several years, we have known how to teach adults to teach students to read. We also know each school must have a well-trained staff, a committed and involved principal, and an effective reading coach who can help struggling students and assist teachers who are striving to be the best they can be. Following two favorable outside evaluations, the reading initiative expanded as quickly as possible until 2002, when level funding allowed no further expansion. In 2003-04, the number of reading initiative schools was growing and only \$12.5 million was available. As a result, only a fourth of the schools received funding for full-time reading coaches and no money was allocated to expand into new schools.

Now, for the first time in three years, we are ready to launch the ARI in all K-3 classrooms over a two-year period. Schools currently not in the reading initiative will soon receive instructions on how to become involved and the reading rocket will be off the ground.

As with any program that is new and requires hard-to-find

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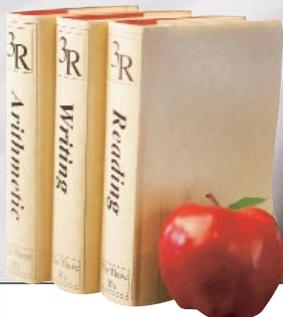
FISCAL YEAR 2005 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



- ✓ Funding for the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) was increased by \$27.5 million to a total of \$40 million.
- ✓ The budget was increased by \$900,000 for tenure arbitration. **NEW**
- ✓ Funding for High Hopes was restored to \$5,885,927. (Fiscal Year 2003 level)

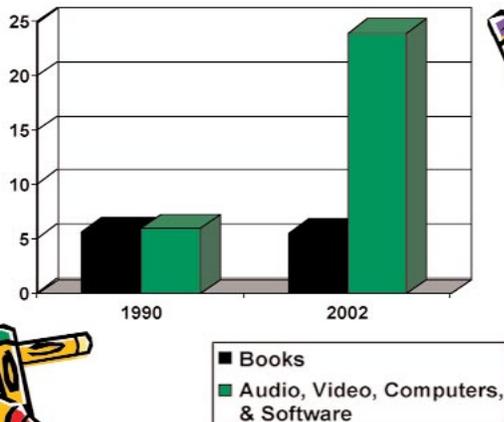
K-12 BUDGET

- \$ Increased average daily membership (ADM) grades reconfiguration created 157.21 new units which are fully funded.
- \$ Increases in fringe benefits were funded at \$583 per month for insurance and 7.03 percent for retirement for a total increase of \$70 million for instructional units.
- \$ Other current expense (OCE) was increased by \$44.9 million.
- \$ Funding for classroom instructional support was restored to the Fiscal Year 2003 level. Textbooks were funded at \$57.50 per ADM.
- \$ Transportation received an increase of \$14 million in benefits and for operations. Fleet renewal increased by \$647 per bus for a total of \$4 million.
- \$ Capital purchase funding was increased by \$30 million.



In 1990, book buying constituted 5.7% of total recreation spending, while spending on audio, video, computers, and software was 6%.

By 2002, electronic spending had soared to 24%, while spending on books declined slightly to 5.6%.





lights, camera, and action took one talented Daphne High School screenwriting student to Hollywood in July. **BRITTANY BROWDER'S** 30-second public service announcement script landed the 17-year-old a trip to the land of movie stars and an internship on the movie production "The Novice" being filmed in Mobile this summer. The Spanish Fort teenager's script about child abduction beat out 700 other scripts in Radio Shack's "StreetSenz" national competition. During her visit to "Tinseltown," she had the opportunity to watch her script filmed for a commercial which will begin airing nationwide this fall. Additionally, her talented efforts netted cash prizes for herself, her honors film and screenwriting teacher **DIANE GARDEN**, and the school. [CLICK HERE](#) to read Brittany's award-winning script and find out more about future contests.



Lights,
Camera,
Action!



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 1 MEMBER: RANDY MCKINNEY
BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT: DR. FARON HOLLINGER PRINCIPAL: BARRY PENNINGTON**



emorization skills along with gulps of grape juice are flowing in Vestavia Hills City Schools. Louis Pizitz Middle School students focus on brain-based education, which partners medical research with a common-sense tactic for learning. In this case, the medical research touts that giving students grape juice to drink prior to testing boosts brain function which in turn boosts test scores. Educators in this school system say the grape juice, along with bright light and exercise, helps increase students' focus and concentration. Perhaps that explains why students in this Birmingham community repeatedly perform well academically year after year.



Grape juice helps
boosts test
scores!



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 6 MEMBER: DAVID BYERS
VESTAVIA HILLS CITY SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT: DR. JAMIE BLAIR PRINCIPAL: ANN JONES**



o student was left behind in graduation ceremonies for the Autaugaville High School Class of 2004. In an unprecedented event, all 35 members of the senior class passed all parts of the *Alabama High School Graduation Exam* (AHSGE) allowing 100 percent of the class to graduate, an achievement that hasn't occurred at the school since the state first mandated passage of exit exams in 1985. **PRINCIPAL JOHN CLAY** believes the graduates' success hinged on a combination of things including tutoring, parental involvement, and commitment from both teachers and students.



No Student
Left Behind!

All Graduate!

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 5 MEMBER: ELLA BELL
AUTAUGA COUNTY SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT: LARRY BUTLER PRINCIPAL: JOHN CLAY**



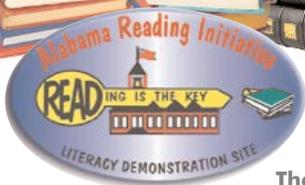
n top of the world is how one team member of Tuscaloosa Middle School's Destination ImagiNation team described how he felt during a worldwide competition in which the team won third place. The team, comprised of six 12- and 13-year-olds, competed against 62 other teams in the 2004 Destination ImagiNation Global Finals held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, May 28. Competition involved structural skits, designs, and imagination. Destination ImagiNation is designed to help students build problem-solving skills using teamwork and "out of the box" thinking. To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#).



Destination
ImagiNation

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 7 MEMBER: SANDRA RAY
TUSCALOOSA CITY SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT: FRANK COSTANZO PRINCIPAL: ANN MARIE HEWITT**

Representing Alabama, the Tuscaloosa Middle School Destination ImagiNation Team marches in the Destination ImagiNation opening ceremonies parade.



2004—THE SUMMER OF READING

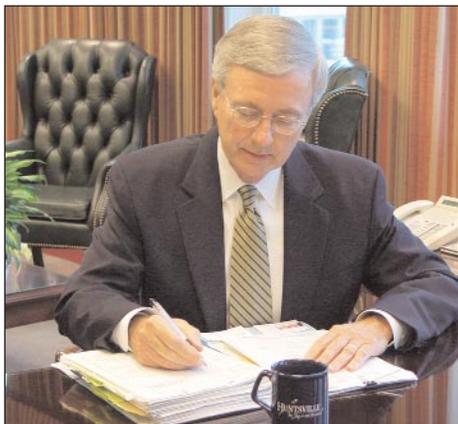
The expansion of the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) is being supported extremely well.

Gov. Bob Riley and the Alabama Department of Education joined together to host the state's first-ever reading summit. Over 400 local school superintendents, administrators, ARI principals, Alabama Reading First (ARFI) school principals, education partners, and community leaders attended the 2004 Governor's Reading Summit, held in Birmingham, July 28. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 2 MEMBER BETTY PETERS, who attended the summit, was happy to see progress being made in the important aspect of reading. "When you are in first and second grades you should be learning to read," said Peters. "But by the third grade, you're reading to learn."

Another summer reading opportunity this year occurred during the Alabama Reading Academies, located at 20 sites across the state. The Academies provided six weeks of intensive reading instruction to 1,000 struggling K-3 students. Also, during the Academies, over 3,000 teachers from 157 ARI and ARFI schools participated in five days of training, learning how to quickly bring their own struggling readers up to grade level. "We are extremely pleased with the growth the Reading Academies provided for students and teachers this summer and look forward to seeing the long-term results of this training," said ALABAMA READING INITIATIVE ADMINISTRATOR SHERRILL PARRIS.

(Continued from page 1)

state dollars, there are areas of confusion and misunderstanding. We must not allow the gravitational pull of these minor confusions to keep the reading initiative from achieving orbit. One such misunderstanding caused some to criticize the fact new reading initiative schools could not receive training until summer of 2005. Impatience by the public makes those serving the public work harder, smarter, faster and more efficiently. But, the new \$40 million in funding is



not available until October 2004. Moreover, the reading initiative staff is currently involved in 20 summer reading camps across the state and will need several months to make the necessary logistical arrangements for the largest reading initiative training effort to date when 274 schools join the program.

A second concern surrounding the recent reading initiative funding alleged that the initiative consists primarily of schools from the state's wealthiest neighborhoods. This is simply not true. Since 1997, schools voluntarily joined the program. During that time, 515 schools reviewed the research, saw the potential, and made the commitment. Some of these schools were in Alabama's more affluent systems with impressive student achievement scores in reading. But, they wanted to get even better by having all their students read at grade level. Because they volunteered and had their teachers and principals trained and because they spent much of their own money to participate, they made impressive gains. Gains have been even more impressive, however, in schools from our poorest neighborhoods

facing the greatest challenges. Contrary to recent claims, reading initiative schools are comprised of more minority students (46 percent) than nonprogram schools (37 percent), and current program schools have more students in poverty (46 percent) than nonprogram schools (41 percent). Reading initiative schools have higher reading scores because of the success of the initiative, not the demographics of the school.

The budget must be expanded in 2006 to supply reading



State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton is joined by his family following his appointment by the State Board of Education.

Standing l-r: Morton's 24-year old son Matthew, Morton, his wife of 30 years, Margaret, and 28-year old son Josh.

coaches to the 274 new schools and continue the training in the summer of 2006 for the remaining 273 schools.

Because of the ARI and the unwavering dedication by all who have been a part of this proven approach, more students are now reading at grade level. Alabama's only remaining challenge is to stay the course. Becoming one of the top-scoring reading states within the next five years is within our grasp. The benefits to Alabama's future are limitless. 🍏

[CLICK HERE](#) to view DIBELS data on the Alabama Department of Education Web site.



"CHILDREN WHO LOVE READING, LOVE LEARNING."

-First Lady Laura Bush

FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH, DAUGHTER JENNA VISIT ALABAMA SCHOOL

Children at Jefferson County's Hueytown Elementary are reading and learning, and this summer they got to show off what they've learned by reading to **FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH** and her daughter **JENNA**. "I'll read to you and you read to me!" read the children with their visitors.

During a campaign stop in Birmingham, the first lady, a former teacher and librarian, and her daughter, who plans to become a teacher, visited Hueytown Elementary, an Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) school and one of the state's 20 Alabama Reading Academy (ARA) sites.

Mrs. Bush and Jenna read aloud with a group of eager readers from **GINA REDMOND'S** second-grade class. Mrs. Bush praised Hueytown's teachers and their strides in teaching children to read, as well as the ARI, which she called a successful model for the nation. "With its systematic and explicit way to teach reading along with constant assessment, it's a very good model for other states," said Mrs. Bush. She also credited Alabama educators with using what little money they have effectively.

The Alabama Reading Academy was a six-week summer program designed to provide intensive intervention for K-3 students identified as struggling readers. As the ARI continues to find ways to improve students' reading abilities, the summer Academy served a dual purpose. The ARA simultaneously:

- Provided direct instruction to students.
- Trained teachers to return to their schools as better reading teachers.

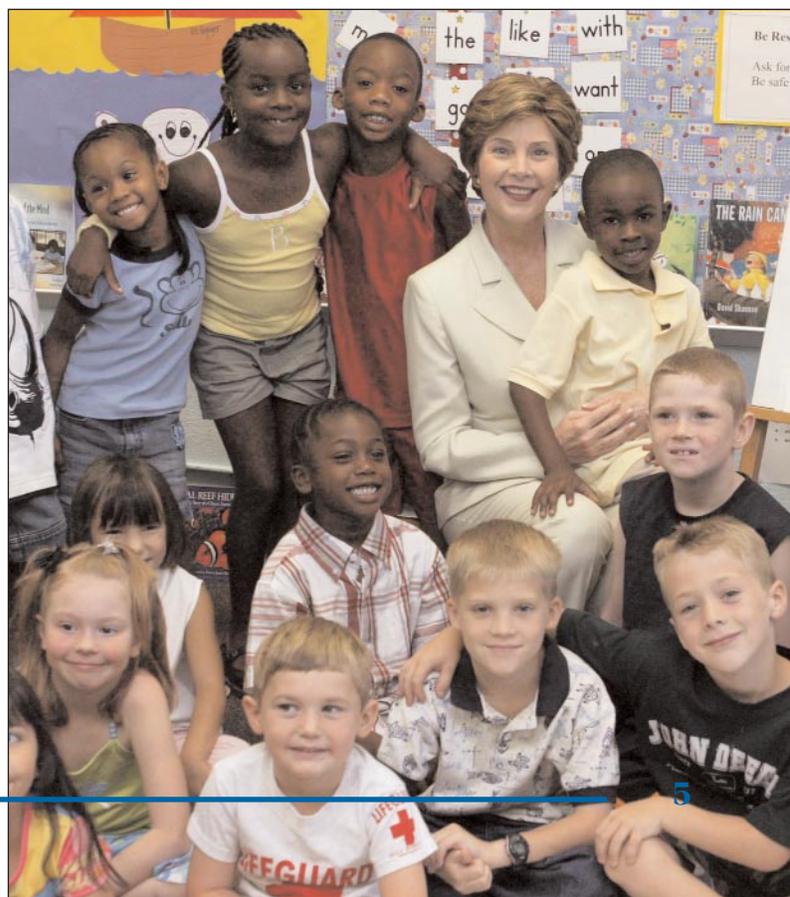
In its seventh year, the ARI is a statewide K-12 initiative to train teachers to teach reading in proven and effective ways. Its goal is to significantly improve reading instruction and ultimately achieve 100 percent literacy among public school students. Hueytown Elementary became an ARI school in the 2001-02 school year. 🍏

Hueytown Elementary School Principal: Ms. Stephanie Hendrix
Jefferson County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Phil Hammonds
State Board of Education Member, District 4: Dr. Ethel Hall

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the Hueytown Elementary School Web site.



First Lady Laura Bush along with daughter Jenna share quality time reading with second-graders at Hueytown Elementary School in the Jefferson County School System during a recent visit to Alabama, July 14.
- White House Photos by Joyce Naltchayan



The Winds of Change ...

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION CONTINUES ITS MISSION



After numerous years of dedicated service, **DR. ETHEL HALL** stepped down as vice president of the Alabama Board of Education at its annual meeting in July. Hall has represented District 4 since 1987, and was first elected vice president in 1994. The retired public school educator and college professor will continue to represent District 4, but does not plan to seek re-election when her fifth term ends in 2007. The board conferred the title of Vice President Emerita upon Hall in recognition of her years as an “untiring defender and champion of public elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education in Alabama.”

“I believe learning is a lifelong process and that all children can learn if given the resources and opportunity,” said Hall. “Because my training and experience affirm my belief in the greater need for advocacy for those least able to make needed social changes, I have always tried to put children first in every issue that has come before this board.”

The Alabama Board of Education developed its mission statement while under Hall’s leadership: “To provide a state system of public education which is committed to academic excellence and which provides education of the highest quality to all Alabama students, preparing them for the 21st century.”



Dr. Ethel H. Hall
Vice President Emerita

Hall was visibly emotional as she presented the gavel to newly elected vice president **DAVID F. BYERS JR.**, who represents District 6. “Since coming on this board, I have learned from you. Your fairness and integrity are outstanding and a light for all of us,” Byers told Hall. “I look forward to working with our new state superintendent to move the education of our children and our future as Alabamians in a positive, forward direction,” continued Byers. Currently serving his third term, Byers was first elected to the board in 1995.

Additionally, District 7 representative **SANDRA RAY** was elected President Pro-Tem by the board. Ray, who is in her third term, says she is looking forward to her continued service to the state’s education system. 🍏

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING HALL’S TENURE INCLUDE:

- 🍏 Creation, implementation, and expansion of the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI)
- 🍏 Implementation of the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI)
- 🍏 Issuance of Accountability Report Cards
- 🍏 Strengthening of high school graduation requirements
- 🍏 Implementation of background checks for teachers and others with unsupervised access to students
- 🍏 Addition of over 600 National Board Certified Teachers
- 🍏 Certification of career/technical education programs to business and industry standards
- 🍏 Increased multicultural education and parental involvement

BOARD BRIEFS

MAY AGENDA ITEMS:

- 🍏 Adopted Amended *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Regulations Governing Public Schools and Student Assessment – Assessment Required for Alabama High School Diploma as a Permanent Rule
- 🍏 Adopted New *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Authorization to Intercept State Funds for Debt Payments as a Permanent Rule
- 🍏 Passed Resolutions Commending the 2004-2005 Alabama Teacher of the Year, Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year, and District Teachers of the Year
- 🍏 Passed Resolution Honoring U. S. Secretary of Education’s Regional Representative Dr. Anne Hancock
- 🍏 Passed Resolutions Commending Jie Tang and Steven M. Searcy for Achieving Perfect Scores on the ACT
- 🍏 Passed Resolutions Recognizing 2004 Presidential Scholar Semifinalists
- 🍏 Announced Intent to Amend *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Renewal Requirements
- 🍏 Announced Intent to Repeal *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Certification/Licensure Forms
- 🍏 Announced Intent to Repeal and Adopt New *Alabama Administrative Code* Chapter Pertaining to Teacher Certification
- 🍏 Nominated Officers to the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Board of Directors
- 🍏 Reviewed FY 2005 Education Budget
- 🍏 Reviewed Data from Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) Schools in the Tennessee Valley

JUNE AGENDA ITEMS:

- 🍏 Adopted Amended *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Certificates as a Permanent Rule
- 🍏 Passed Resolution Commending the *Preserve America* State History Teacher of the Year
- 🍏 Passed Resolution Commending Corey Carter, Kelli Jenkins, and Shelia Dunkin (Bibb County Schools) for Their Awareness and Heroic Actions That Saved a Man’s Life
- 🍏 Passed Resolution to Adopt Nine Standards for Effective Teacher Induction and Mentoring Programs
- 🍏 Announced Intent to Amend *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Inservice Education and Professional Development
- 🍏 Announced Intent to Amend *Alabama Administrative Code* Pertaining to Regulations Governing Public Schools

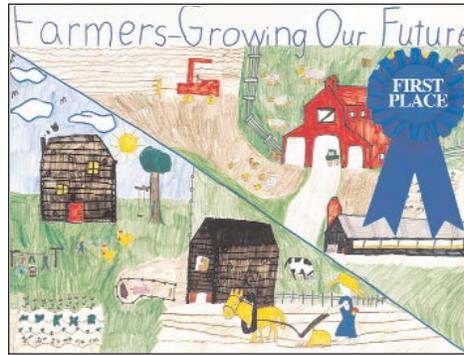
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2004 FARM-CITY POSTER, ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

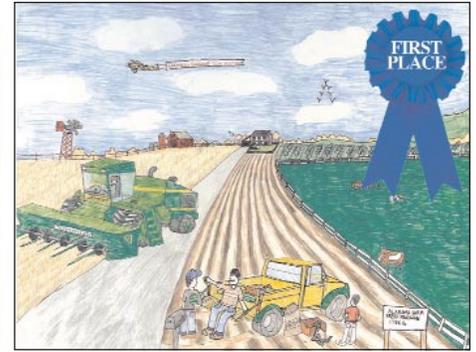
It's time again for the Farm-City Poster and Essay Contest. Cash prizes will be awarded by the Alabama Farm-City Committee to winners of the statewide poster and essay contest open to Alabama elementary and secondary students. The theme for this year's contest is "Agriculture: A Growing Future."

The poster contest has two categories, Grades K-3 and Grades 4-6. Prizes at the state level for the poster contest range from \$100 to \$200 cash for students plus matching amount for the student's classroom. Additionally, some of the poster entries will be used in a full-color wall calendar which will be distributed across Alabama.

The essay contest is open to students in two divisions, Grades 7-9 and Grades 10-12. Prizes for the essay contest range from \$200 to \$300.



2003 Winner, Grade K-3 Division: Created by Cody Meigs, Addison Elementary School in the Winston County School System.



2003 Winner, Grade 4-6 Division: Created by Phillip Blevins, McAdory Elementary School in the Jefferson County School System.

The 2003 essay winner in the Grades 7-9 category was Adam Carpenter, Muscle Shoals High School in the Muscle Shoals City School System. In the Grades 10-12 category, the winner was Gina Ledbetter, a Bullock County private school student.

2004 contestants must win at the county level prior to Farm-City Week, Nov. 19-25, before entering the state competition. For rules and more details on how to enter, call 1-800-392-5705, ext. 4410, or [CLICK HERE](#), then click on "Farm-City" under programs. 🍏

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

The Alabama Association of School Administrators Fall Conference will be held Oct. 17-19 at the Decatur Holiday Inn. For further information, contact Dr. Susan Lockwood at 334-262-0014 or [CLICK HERE](#).

The Alabama Reading Association's 36th Annual Fall Conference will be held Oct. 27-29 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center. [CLICK HERE](#) to register online or contact Vilveca Bryant at 205-833-0249 or [CLICK HERE](#). **Registration Deadline: Oct. 8**

The Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance 2004-2005 Fall Conference will be held Nov. 14-16 at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. [CLICK HERE](#) for registration information.

AWARD AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Starbucks Foundation Literacy Grants are grants of \$5,000 to \$20,000 supporting innovative community literacy programs that build upon reading curricula and encourage personal development through tutoring or mentoring. Priority is given to proposals specifically targeting low-income communities and underprivileged or at-risk youth. K-6 schools are eligible to apply. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#). **Deadline: Oct. 1**

The Target All-Around Scholarships are awarded based on community volunteer service. Applicants must be high school seniors, high school graduates, or current undergraduate students under the age of 24. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#). **Deadline: Nov. 1**

The Toyota Tapestry Grants for Teachers are for K-12 science teachers who make science come alive in the classroom. Fifty grants of up to \$10,000 each and a minimum of 20 mini-grants of \$2,500 each will be awarded. [CLICK HERE](#) for registration information. **Deadline: Jan. 19, 2005**

NASA Student Involvement Program (NSIP) is a national program of inquiry-based student investigations for Grades K-12 linking students directly with NASA's exciting missions of exploration and discovery. [CLICK HERE](#) for further information.

AUGUST



12	Disaggregated Data Release				
	Alabama Board of Education Meeting				
	PEPE Training				
26	Alabama Board of Education Work Session				

SEPTEMBER



	PTA MEMBERSHIP MONTH				
6	Labor Day (STATE HOLIDAY)				
9	Alabama Board of Education Meeting				
20-24	AHSGE Administration				
23	Alabama Board of Education Work Session				
27-30	PEPE Training				

BOARD BRIEFS

(Continued from page 6)

- ✦ Passed Resolution To Not Support 12th Grade *National Assessment of Education Progress* (NAEP) Proposal
- ✦ Extended Approval of Teacher Education Programs at Stillman College, Concordia College, Faulkner University, Huntingdon College, Jacksonville State University, Miles College, Samford University, Talladega College, Troy State University, Troy State University Dothan, Troy State University Montgomery, The University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama in Huntsville, and University of North Alabama
- ✦ Approved Teacher Education Programs, Tuskegee University
- ✦ Discussed Characteristics of State Superintendent

JULY AGENDA ITEMS:

- ✦ Adopted Amended *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Renewal Requirements as a Permanent Rule
- ✦ Repealed *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Certification/Licensure Forms
- ✦ Repealed Existing *Alabama Administrative Code* Chapter Pertaining to Teacher Education and Adopted New Chapter Pertaining to Teacher Education as a Permanent Chapter
- ✦ Passed Resolution Commending Steven Rylant as the "Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter Award" July-September 2004
- ✦ Passed Resolution Regarding Student Health and Fitness
- ✦ Passed Resolution to Appoint Substitute Members to the Science State Course of Study Committee
- ✦ Adopted Emergency Rules Pertaining to Individualized Education Program, Administration, Regulations Governing Public Schools, Annual Apportionment of the Foundation Program Funds, Annual Apportionment of Transportation Funds, and Annual Apportionment of Public School Funds as Permanent *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule
- ✦ Appointed Interim State Superintendent of Education Joseph B. Morton State Superintendent of Education
- ✦ Elected District 6 Member David Byers Vice President for the State Board of Education
- ✦ Elected District 7 Member Sandra Ray President Pro Tem for the State Board of Education
- ✦ Passed Resolution Honoring District 4 Member Dr. Ethel Hall as Vice President Emerita for the State Board of Education



ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

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August 2004

Alabama Board of Education Members

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

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Copies available in Braille or other forms upon request.



PRINCIPAL OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE

*Early Education Center, Auburn City Schools
State Board of Education District 2*

DR. LILLIAN LAND was selected June Principal of the Month. Land is principal of the Early Education Center in the Auburn City School System. Land became principal of Auburn's Early Education Center in 2000 and is described by her faculty as the school's greatest cheerleader as well as leadership in action. The former kindergarten teacher believes the early childhood classroom should be a warm and positive environment that accommodates all learning styles. She is highly sensitive and responsive to the needs and concerns of teachers, students, and parents. 🍏



PRINCIPAL OF THE MONTH FOR JULY

*Early Education Center, Auburn City Schools
State Board of Education District 5*

SUSAN BRODERICK MALETT, principal of Head Elementary School in the Montgomery County School System, earned the July award. Beginning in 1976, Mallett has taught first, fourth, and sixth grades, and has been principal of Head Elementary since 1998. Her honors include the 1990 Christa McAuliffe Fellowship, 1994-95 Alternate State Teacher of the Year Award, and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Aerospace Education in 1993-95. Mallett's philosophy of education includes providing daily opportunities to think, react, and act creatively, critically, and compassionately.

Land, Mallett, and their schools each receive \$1,000 from ALFA Insurance Co. and the Alabama Farmers Federation as part of the ALFA Teacher of the Month Program. 🍏