



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

January 30, 2026

**MEMORANDUM**

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

Governor Kay Ivey  
President

**FROM:** Eric G. Mackey *EGM*  
State Superintendent of Education

Jackie Zeigler  
District I

**RE:** *Restoring Education Advancement of Completing High School Act (REACH Act)/*  
Non-Traditional High School Diploma Option (HSDO) Program Updates

Tracie West  
District II

In 2025, the Alabama Legislature passed [Act 2025-326](#) ("REACH Act"), which calls for the establishment of a non-traditional diploma option for Alabama public school students aged 18 and older who have dropped out of the traditional high school setting. In addition, the Alabama Non-Traditional High School Diploma Option (HSDO) Program serves students who previously completed all required credits for graduation but were unsuccessful in completing one or more sections of the Alabama High School Graduation Examination.

Kelly Mooney  
District III  
President Pro Tem

The REACH Act also encourages local education agencies (LEAs) to actively promote the availability of the HSDO Program to at-risk juniors and seniors. On August 1, 2025, any student who dropped out and has verified enrollment in the HSDO Program allows the LEA to update the student's exit code to the newly deployed code: **WB5 – Transfer Within State (ACCS Non-Traditional High School Diploma Option – HSDO)**.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV

[Updated guidance and information for LEAs about the HSDO program can be accessed here](#). Additionally, there will be a technical assistance webinar held on February 4, 2026, at 10 a.m. CST, and [registration can be completed through this link](#).

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.  
District V

To prepare for ongoing communication between ALSDE staff and your system-level personnel, please update your key contact(s) designated as "LEA System Adult Basic Education" in the Education Directory to ensure they receive important information regarding this initiative.

Marie Manning  
District VI  
Vice President

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the HSDO or the REACH Act, please contact Mrs. Cristin M. Dillard at [cdillard@alsde.edu](mailto:cdillard@alsde.edu) or Dr. Monica P. Mack at [monica.mack@alsde.edu](mailto:monica.mack@alsde.edu).

Allen Long, M.D.  
District VII

EGM/CMD/LCT

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.  
District VIII

cc: LEA Counseling Coordinators  
LEA School Counselors  
LEA Secondary Principals  
Mrs. Angela Martin  
Dr. Melissa Shields  
Mr. Sean J. Stevens  
Mr. J. Jason Swann

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

**FY26-2022**