



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

August 12, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education  
**FROM:** Eric G. Mackey *EGM*  
State Superintendent of Education  
**RE:** REACH Student Advisory Initiative

As we continue in our efforts to provide innovative ways for Alabama school systems to meet the goals of Alabama Achieves, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Instructional Services Section, is pleased to announce the continuance of the REACH Student Advisory Initiative. REACH provides planning and implementation tools including curriculum maps and standards-based lesson plans designed to enhance academic, career, and personal-social development for Alabama students in Grades 5-12.

The purpose of REACH is to advance student learning, academic success, and personal development in a proactive, deliberate, and developmental manner by establishing a personal relationship with at least one consistent adult who facilitates weekly/monthly lessons and serves as an advocate for his/her students. REACH provides a vehicle for schools to link to other schools and community initiatives and develops the whole child through a system of individualized supports for each student.

The REACH curriculum is designed to bridge the gap between what is taught in the course of study and the skills necessary for success in school, postsecondary education, and the world of work by addressing six essential skills areas: (1) School Success Skills, (2) Academic Planning, (3) Career Exploration, (4) Postsecondary Planning, (5) Interpersonal/Life Skills, and (6) Work Ethic.

School- and system-level personnel may now access REACH material in Schoology. Using their local Schoology login, staff may join the REACH Student Initiative Group by using the access code **7BSD-X32J-D8GZW**. Please share this information with Administrators, School Counselors, Lead Advisors, and any other staff members who need access to this information.

Professional development and training opportunities for school- and system-level staff will be available throughout the 2020-2021 school year. If you have questions regarding the REACH Student Advisory Initiative, please contact Mr. Jonathan Thompson, Education Specialist, by email at [jonathan.thompson@alsde.edu](mailto:jonathan.thompson@alsde.edu) or by telephone at (334) 694-4768; Mrs. Cathy Lankford, Education Specialist, by email at [cathy.lankford@alsde.edu](mailto:cathy.lankford@alsde.edu) or by telephone at (334) 694-4768; or Dr. Willietta Ellis Conner, Education Specialist, by email at [wconner@alsde.edu](mailto:wconner@alsde.edu) or by telephone at (334) 694-4764.

EGM/CL/LM

cc: Dr. Daniel Boyd  
Dr. Elisabeth Davis  
Dr. Jimmy Hull  
Mr. Sean J. Stevens  
Mrs. Cathy Lankford

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