December 17, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Special Opportunity for Professional Development

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pleased to announce an opportunity for elementary, intermediate, middle and high school administrators, counselors, social workers, and teachers to attend the Tenth Annual National Peer Program Conference that will be held on February 6-7, 2020, at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama. The Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation (JCMF), in conjunction with ThriveWay, will provide education, collaboration, and best practice sharing for current and future adult leaders of the Peer Helper Program. The conference topics include grief, youth anxiety management, ethical dilemmas, vaping, alcohol trauma, and much more. Exhibitors include ThriveWay, Drug Education Council, and YouthLight Books. The keynote speaker for this year is Mr. Kevin Hines, a suicide survivor who jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, CA.

The Peer Helpers Program is tailored to meet the needs of each school and can be implemented as a club or class. The accredited elective course number for Peer Helpers for Grades K-6 is 801207, and the accredited elective course number for Grades 6-12 is 802207. Peer Helpers are students who are trained to recognize when their peers may have a problem, listen to their fellow students with confidentiality, and assist them with their emotional, social, or academic struggles. Through these skills and lessons on unhealthy behaviors and risk factors, Peer Helpers are able to be active in bullying prevention, drug abuse, and suicide prevention programs. The Peer Helpers Program includes a schoolwide curriculum to be used with all students in the classroom.

Further event and registration details are located online at peerhelpers.org. Alabama educators may receive professional development credit by registering at https://alsde.truenorthlogic.com. The session title is the Tenth Annual Peer Program Conference and the session number is 243484. Social Work continuing education units (CEUs) will be provided by the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners. Licensed Professional Counselors may also receive CEU credit, as National Board for Certified Counselors approval is pending.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Allison Moore, JCMF Executive Director, at 251-971-3633 or by email at Allison@JenniferMooreFoundation.com or Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield, Prevention and Support Services, at 334-694-4724 or by email at kaw@alsde.edu.

EGM/KAW/SB

cc: LEA Guidance Counselors

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