

# Official Kickoff of the 2021 Alabama Summer Learning Challenge



## Welcome and Introduction of Speakers:

- ALSDE Communication Director, *Dr. Michael Sibley* will provide a brief introduction of speakers. Dr. Sibley will also discuss the news conference run-of-show and provide information to Media Members on today's official Q&A session.

## ● Brief Background – History of Alabama Summer Learning Challenge:

- *Dr. Tracye Strichik*, ALSDE Reading Initiative Coordinator will discuss background and history of the Summer Learning Challenge in Alabama.

## ● Alabama Assistant State Superintendent Terry Roller:

- Assistant State Superintendent Terry Roller will discuss exactly why Alabama's Summer Learning initiative is vital for all K-12 students statewide. Assistant State Superintendent Terry Roller will also discuss why Summer Learning will be key to our state's COVID-19 transition efforts back to full in-classroom learning this upcoming school year.

## ● USA National Miss Alabama Christine Thompson:

- Dynamic presenter and 2021 Miss Alabama Christine Thompson will discuss how literacy and a commitment to learning have positively impacted her family. Miss Alabama Christine Thompson (@unmAlabamaMiss) will also briefly discuss some of her favorite summertime books for K-12 students, and the importance of initiatives like the Summer Learning Challenge.

## ● MetaMetrics President, CEO and Co-Founder, Dr. Malbert Smith:

- Highly respected national educator, Dr. Malbert Smith will discuss what national statistics and learning trends show. Dr. Smith will examine why partnerships like Alabama's Summer Learning Challenge are key in *reducing summer learning slide* and reestablishing K-12 classroom learning after COVID-19.

## ● Stride Inc, President of Career Learning Solutions, Dr. Shaun McAlmont

- Highly respected national educator, Dr. Shaun McAlmont will discuss trends in K-12 reading. Dr. McAlmont will also detail key learning resources and best practice tips that parents can utilize to further their children's learning experience this summer, including the Big Universe platform.

## ● Questions and Answers – How to Access 2021 Summer Learning Resources:

- *During this period, Media Members will have an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers from today's expert panel of Keynote Speakers (more info below)*

- ALSDE **Alabama Reading Initiative** (ARI) representative, Mrs. Karen Rutledge- Bell will share information on how parents & students can find the *2021 Summer Learning Challenge Webpage* – excitement is building statewide for this year’s FREE reading, math, and science learning resources!
- **MetaMetrics Senior Executives Luci Willits and Matt Copeland** will briefly discuss the math, science, and FREE Lexile reading items available to Alabama students – they will also provide information on the sign-up period for the 2021 Math Learning Challenge.
- **Stride Inc, President of Career Learning Solutions, Dr. Shaun McAlmont** will briefly discuss and answer questions about the *Big Universe* platform and other wonderful resources available to Alabama students and parents this summer.