



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 28, 2022

CONTACT: Communications  
334-694-4686  
[comm@alsde.edu](mailto:comm@alsde.edu)

Governor Kay Ivey  
President

STATE AND NATION CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH DURING ACCEPTANCE WEEK

Jackie Zeigler  
District I

Montgomery, Ala. – Our nation's K-12 students have returned to the classroom, after spending a significant time away from face-to-face classroom instruction.

Tracie West  
District II

Stephanie Bell  
District III



In December of 2021, the Surgeon General issued an advisory highlighting the urgent need to address our nation's youth mental health. As our students returned to in-person learning, schools and communities faced the challenge of supporting students and families that may have experienced school and/or community disconnect embellishing pre-existing concerns.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV  
Vice President

Our nation continues to focus on increasing the foundational wellness of all children. Alabama will be celebrating *Children's Mental Health Acceptance Week*, on May 1-7.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.  
District V

This year's theme is **CMHA: Moving from Awareness to Acceptance in 2022**. Local schools and communities statewide are planning activities to begin the important shift from *awareness to acceptance*, in this effort to supply more support to Alabama's children. Mental health awareness and acceptance are important processes as young people experience personal mental health challenges.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
District VI

Bellinda McRae  
District VII

"Mental health awareness is vital for students, families, and Alabama's local communities to learn the potential warning signs of mental health disorders," said Alabama State Department of Education Administrator Dr. Kay Warfield. "Alabama families want to know where to obtain professional and community assistance if needed. As adults, parents, and caregivers, we shoulder a great responsibility, to demonstrate to our children that it is okay to manage both our physical and mental health."

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.  
District VIII  
President Pro Tem

As outlined in the *2020 Alabama Achieves Strategic Plan*, expanding access to mental health services is a top priority for Alabama educators. Assistant State Superintendent Terry Roller and ALSDE Prevention and Support Coordinator, Dr. Marilyn Lewis are supportive of the initiatives required to move these identified goals forward in Alabama: [Alabama Achieves 2020](#)

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

—more—

*Statewide Celebration - Moving from Awareness to Acceptance in 2022*

Parents, guardians, and caregivers can use this weblink to access resources from the National Federation of Families, which provides helpful tips and family-focused mental health information [CMHA Activities For Youth](#)

They can also see additional resources provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [Learn About Children's Mental Health | CDC](#).

Learn more about the efforts and special initiatives developed to facilitate student success through our state's Mental Health Service Coordinators program and community partnerships by contacting ALSDE Education Administrator, Dr. Kay Warfield, or Education Specialist Shenitra Dees at 334-694-4717.

###