

Teacher Paperwork Streamlining Act

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**Alabama
Achieves**

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

Presenters

Heather Hurt, NBCT

Vestavia Hills - 5th Grade Teacher

Streamlining Paperwork Committee Chair

Jeff Norris, NBCT

Office of Extended Learning Specialist

Streamlining Paperwork Committee



Teacher Paperwork Streamlining Committee

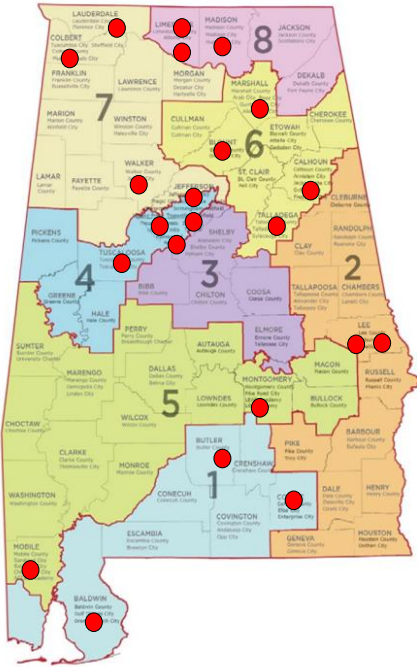
Per [SB280](#), the ALSDE formed a committee dedicated to identifying practical ways to reduce unnecessary paperwork and streamline processes for educators across Alabama. This committee focuses on the following action steps:

- Identify the most burdensome paperwork tasks
- Eliminate redundant documentation requirements across different programs
- Standardize forms and reporting formats to reduce complexity/time spent
- Offer realistic, teacher-informed solutions
- Collaborate with education leaders to design smarter systems

Note: “Paperwork” includes both the electronic and physical copy non-instructional requirements of classroom teachers.



Teacher Paperwork Streamlining Committee



The committee consists of a variety of classroom teachers (over 75%), interventionists, local, and system administrators.

- At least two representatives from each school board district
- All K-12 content areas represented
- 12 Former “Sweet 16” District Teachers of the Year; 2 Milken Educators
- National award-winning teachers and administrators
- Consultation with ALSDE section representatives (as needed)

The committee will meet three times each semester, with at least one full-day, in-person meeting.

August Virtual Meeting

This meeting served as an organizational and planning session to ground the committee's work, establish structure and expectations, and begin identifying key focus areas for the year.

A Committee Chair (Heather Hurt) and Recorder (Ashton Perry) were elected to guide facilitation and documentation of future meetings.

Small-group discussions allowed members to explore specific topics in depth and share insights:

- Duplication Station: Identify areas of overlap in current efforts to improve efficiency.
- Data vs. Dust: Discuss the importance of using data effectively.
- Tech or Tradition: How to balance technology-driven strategies with traditional practices.

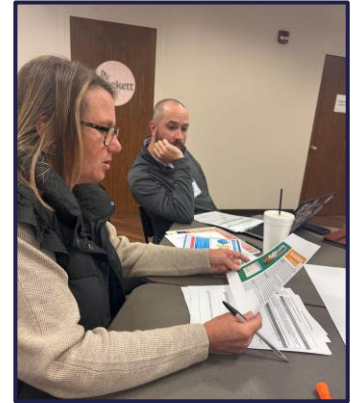
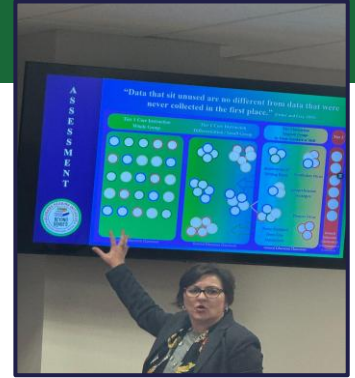
Participants were asked to complete a "Teacher Time Audit" prior to the next meeting.

October Virtual Meeting

- This meeting continued the work in analyzing teacher paperwork data, identifying areas of redundancy, and planning next steps for developing a more efficient statewide audit process.
- In small group discussions, the committee discussed current paperwork stressors and began looking at federal/state/local paperwork requirements.
- The committee used a collaborative document to find trends in the “Teacher Time Audit.”
- The committee discussed developing and distributing a survey version of the “Teacher Time Audit” to educators in each school board district. They also created a list of topics/questions for ALSDE specialists who will attend the November in-person meeting.

November In-Person Meeting

- This meeting served as an opportunity for the committee to collaboratively seek solutions with ALSDE stakeholders.
- All participants analyzed the Streamlining Paperwork Survey results to look for trends, patterns, and takeaways.
- Participants from ARI, OMI, MTSS, EL, and SES provided information about federal, state, and ALSDE requirements from their section.
- An overview of PowerSchool Analytics & Insights, as well as its relation to the MTSS process and potential benefits for classroom teachers, was provided.



Streamlining Paperwork Survey Results

- 653 completed responses
 - 549 classroom teachers, including special areas
 - 22 administrators/central office employees
 - 82 support positions (instructional coach, interventionist, EL support, paraprofessional)
 - All grades, Pre-K - 12 are represented
- 50% of the respondents completed open-ended responses to provide feedback



Streamlining Paperwork Survey Results

	Time spent on Common Paperwork Requirements	Perceived Effect on Student Achievement
Student Plans (IEPs, BIPs, SRIPs, GEPs, 504s, etc.)	71% indicated significant time spent	70% indicated significant effect
Lesson Plans	80% indicated significant time spent	62% indicated significant effect
Communicating with Stakeholders	90% indicated significant time spent	83% indicated significant effect
Meeting Documentation	78% indicated significant time spent	48% indicated significant effect

Most Frequently Mentioned - Teacher Survey

Teachers repeatedly cited redundant paperwork—especially having to enter the same data in multiple platforms (e.g., PowerSchool, Google Docs, paper forms), and duplicating information for lesson plans, IEPs, SRIPs, MTSS, PST, and progress monitoring.

- “IEP, SRIP, PST, MTSS ask for similar information and could be combined into one document.”
- “Attendance is tracked in PowerSchool, gradebook, and paper copy—three times for the same data.”
- “I spend more time on paperwork than planning lessons and activities that would help our students improve every day.”

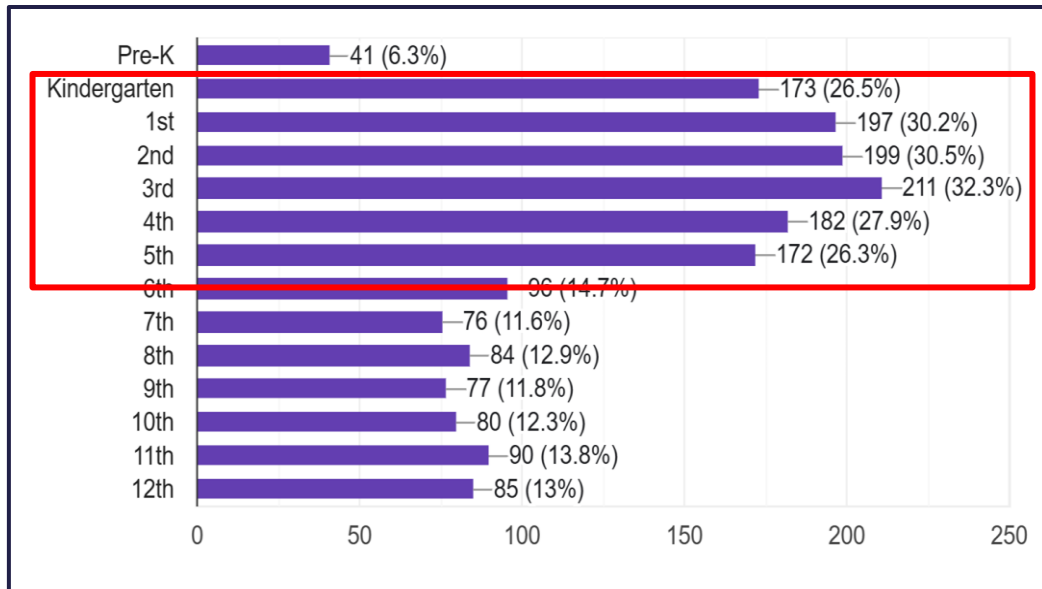
Digital Platforms: Help and Hindrance

- Positive: Unified digital systems (Google Drive, PowerSchool, Ellevation, etc.) help streamline paperwork when well-implemented.
- Negative: When platforms don't communicate or require duplicate entry, they add to the burden.

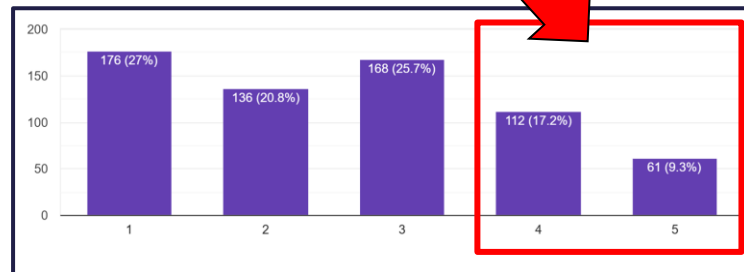
“Paradoxically, the more digitized we become, the more paperwork we seem to have to fill out.”



PowerSchool and Analytics & Insights



Approximately 70% familiar with PowerSchool, but only 25% familiar with Analytics & Insights.



Next Steps 2026

- Create a template for ALSDE sections to define paperwork requirements from various levels (federal, state, ALSDE, LEA).
- Discuss ways to provide consistent communication and training between ALSDE sections and classroom teachers (specifically for PowerSchool Analytics & Insights).
- Further analyze ways PowerSchool Analytics & Insights can be utilized to decrease redundancy and duplication of paperwork at the local level.
- Investigate other types of paperwork, including lesson plans, meeting documentation, and parent communication, to provide best practices/guidance for classroom teachers and LEAs.
- Analyze requirements of SB280 to create a sustainable system of monitoring future paperwork requirements.

Thank you!

