March 3, 2006

TO:  CITY AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF EDUCATION

Enclosed you will find information outlining the details of the 2006 Statewide Family Poster Contest on Parental Involvement, which will carry the theme Children are the Future—Share the Vision. After the success of last year’s contest in raising awareness of the importance of parent and family involvement in the education of Alabama’s children, I am pleased to announce that we will be making the contest an annual event. The contest is designed to get each family thinking and talking about parental involvement and working together as a family to create a poster. It also serves as a springboard for local educators to engage parents in conversations and activities related to parenting and how they can help their children to be successful.

The structure for the contest includes school-level winners, system-level winners, and a statewide winner. The timeline for school- and system-level contests will be determined by each LEA, but in your planning, please note that the deadline for each LEA to deliver its system-level winner to the SDE is May 3, 2006. There will be one statewide winner with eleven others receiving special recognition. All winners will be announced on May 12, 2006. The statewide winner will become this year’s theme poster for parental involvement month in October. Beginning in September and running through the month of October, the winning poster will be displayed on billboards throughout the state inviting parents to visit their child’s school. The eleven additional posters receiving special recognition will be displayed at the 2006 MEGA Conference and will become a part of the 2006-2007 Alabama Parental Involvement Calendar to be made available on-line beginning in September.

To add to the excitement of this year’s contest, the Alabama Parent Education Center (APEC) has contacted us to announce support for the contest, and the organization will demonstrate its support by providing gift cards for all twelve winners. The statewide winner will be presented a gift card worth $500, and the eleven additional winners will receive cards valued at $100 each.

I encourage you to begin now making plans for your local contests. We do not want any family to miss out, so I urge each LEA to participate. We look forward to seeing the posters from all 130 school systems, so be sure that your system’s poster is delivered to us by May 3. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Judy Bohannon, Federal Programs Section, at (334) 242-8199 or judybo@alsde.edu.

Sincerely,

Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent of Education

JBM/MR/JB
Enclosures
cc: City and County Parental Involvement Coordinators