2013 Mega Conference Preliminary Information

JULY 15-19, 2013 • Mobile, Alabama

RENAISSANCE RIVERVIEW PLAZA HOTEL • RENAISSANCE BATTLE HOUSE HOTEL • MOBILE CONVENTION CENTER
MEGA 2013 sessions are focused around the four Plan 2020 strands. Each MEGA 2013 session has a strand name and color included in the description to help identify the strand it is associated with.

The four PLAN 2020 strands are:

**ALABAMA’S 2020 LEARNERS**

**OBJECTIVES**
1. All students perform at or above proficiency and show continuous improvement (achievement/growth).
2. All students succeed (gap closure).
3. Every student graduates from high school (grad rate).
4. Every student graduates high school prepared (college- and career-readiness).

**STRAATEGIES**
- Develop and implement a unified PreK through college- and career-readiness plan.
- Develop and adopt college- and career-ready aligned standards in all subject areas.
- Create and implement a balanced and meaningful assessment and accountability system.
- Align available programmatic and fiscal resources to support local school needs in the area of instruction.

**ALABAMA’S 2020 SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

**OBJECTIVES**
1. All students will attend school daily and be engaged in rigorous and relevant learning environments.
2. All students will develop a sense of personal and civic responsibility to ensure a learning environment that is safe and civil.
3. All students will be provided with individual and group counseling services.
4. All students will enter 9th grade prepared and with a four-year plan that addresses their individual academic and career interest needs.
5. All students will be provided with healthy meals, physical education, and health instruction supported with needed medical and related services.

**STRAATEGIES**
- Implement an early warning system for student absences and build a community-based support and intervention system.
- Implement a Positive Behavior Support or other related student and school culture program to support student ownership of his/her actions that includes alternatives to traditional disciplinary sanctions.
- Implement Alabama’s Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Plan.
- Develop and implement a Coordinated School Health and Support Program.

**ALABAMA’S 2020 PROFESSIONALS**

**OBJECTIVES**
1. Every child is taught by a well-prepared, resourced, supported, and effective teacher.
2. Every school is led by a well-prepared, resourced, supported, and effective leader.
3. Every school system is led by a prepared and supported visionary instructional leader.

**STRAATEGIES**
- Redesign and reinvest in the Alabama Teacher Recruitment and Incentive Program (ATRIP).
- Review the admission and certification criteria for Alabama’s teacher preparation programs.
- Provide a comprehensive induction and mentoring program for new teachers.
- Develop and implement a professional growth evaluation system for teachers and leaders that includes multiple measures of student growth and achievement.
- Provide research-based professional growth opportunities for Alabama’s teachers and leaders based on their individual and collective professional learning plans.

**ALABAMA’S 2020 SCHOOLS/SYSTEMS**

**OBJECTIVES**
1. All schools and system will receive adequate funding to meet the individual and collective needs of their students.
2. All schools and systems will be resourced and supported based on identified need as determined from the state’s accountability plan and additional indicators at the local level.
3. Schools and systems will be granted flexibility to innovate and create 21st century learning environments to meet the individual and collective needs of their students.
4. Schools and systems are resourced to create a 21st century learning environments for their students including infrastructure, building renovation/improvements, and technology.

**STRAATEGIES**
- Analyze the current funding formula for public education.
- Develop a differentiated and customized support and intervention system for local school systems.
- Create a policy environment that promotes and rewards performance, innovation, and creativity.
- Conduct a study of existing capital outlay needs for school systems.
MEGA 2013 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday, July 15
8:00 am - 4:00 pm .................... Onsite Registration
8:00 am ................................. Exhibits Open
1:30 pm ................................. Opening General Session

Tuesday, July 16
8:00 am - 4:00 pm .................... Onsite Registration
8:00 am - 5:00 pm .................... Exhibits Open
8:15 am - 11:30 am .................... Professional Development Sessions
11:30 am - 1:00 pm .................... LUNCH—Visit Exhibits
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm .................... Professional Development Sessions

Wednesday, July 17
8:00 am - 4:00 pm .................... Onsite Registration
8:00 am - 5:00 pm .................... Exhibits Open
8:15 am - 11:30 am .................... Professional Development Sessions
11:30 am - 1:00 pm .................... LUNCH—Visit Exhibits
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm .................... Professional Development Sessions

Thursday, July 18
8:00 am - 4:00 pm .................... Onsite Registration
8:00 am - 5:00 pm .................... Exhibits Open
8:15 am - 11:30 am .................... Professional Development Sessions
11:30 am - 1:00 pm .................... LUNCH—Visit Exhibits
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm .................... Professional Development Sessions

Friday, July 19
8:15 am - 11:30 am .................... Professional Development Sessions

GENERAL SESSION

Monday · July 15 · 1:30 pm
Mobile Convention Center East and West Ballrooms

Keynote Address:
Dr. Thomas R. Bice, State Superintendent of Education
General Information

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM: There will be no preliminary program printed and mailed this year. Within this document you will find the tentative schedule for professional development sessions. There will possibly be additional sessions in the final conference program you receive in your conference tote.

LODGING: Each attendee is responsible for making her/his hotel arrangements for the conference. Request Alabama Department of Education Mega Conference rates when making reservations. The Alabama State Department of Education accepts no responsibility for lodging. See hotel listing on the following page.

CONFERENCE CHECK-IN: Upon arrival, participants may pick up materials at the registration desk in the Mobile Convention Center beginning at 8 am on Monday, July 15, and continuing each day of the conference.

WHAT TO WEAR: Participants are invited to dress comfortably and may want to consider bringing a sweater or jacket for cooler environments. Room temperatures have been set to provide an atmosphere that is most comfortable for a majority of participants; therefore, it is most important that participants who are uncomfortable in cooler climates consider this situation in planning their conference attire.

PARKING INFORMATION: Parking is available at the Mobile Convention Center for approximately $5 per day. Since there are only 220 available spaces, attendees may want to consider carpooling. Those registered at the Renaissance Riverview Hotel may choose valet parking at approximately $17 per day or self-park for $12 per day. Limited parking is available on nearby side streets. Some parking areas may be a long distance from the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, the Renaissance Battle House Hotel, and the Mobile Convention Center.

MOBILE CIVIC CENTER PARKING/SHUTTLE SERVICE: Additional parking (at no cost to Mega Conference attendees) will be available at the Mobile Civic Center on Civic Center Drive. Free air-conditioned shuttle (15-passenger activity bus) round-trip service will be provided daily in 15-minute intervals from the parking lot of the Mobile Civic Center to the Mobile Convention Center. Shuttle service on Tuesday through Thursday will run from 7 am to 5:30 pm; Friday service will be provided from 7 am to 1 pm. The distance from the Mobile Civic Center to the Mobile Convention Center is approximately 1.5 miles. Security will be provided at the Civic Center only during the hours of the shuttle service. There will be covered waiting areas at the Mobile Convention Center and the Mobile Civic Center for the shuttle service.

DIRECTIONS TO MOBILE CIVIC CENTER: Traveling I-65 South, take I-10 East to Exit 26A (Canal Street); turn left at the end of the exit ramp onto Canal Street. Proceed to Claiborne Street; turn right. Entrance to Civic Center Parking is on Claiborne Street.

CONFERENCE FORMAT: The 2013 Mega Conference will begin Monday, July 15, at 1:30 pm with a General Session in the Mobile Convention Center. Concurrent sessions will be held beginning on Tuesday, July 16, through Thursday, July 18, with morning sessions from 8:15-11:30 and afternoon sessions from 1:00-4:30 pm. The conference will end Friday, July 19, at the conclusion of the 8:15-11:30 morning sessions. All concurrent sessions will be related to one or more of the four focuses of Plan 2020.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Inn &amp; Suites Downtown Mobile</td>
<td>62 S Royal Street · Mobile, AL 36602 · 251-436-8787</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admiral Semmes Hotel</td>
<td>251 Government Street · Mobile, AL 36602 · 251-694-8000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn Downtown</td>
<td>301 Government Street · Mobile, AL 36602 · 251-694-0100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield Inn &amp; Suites Marriott—Spanish Fort</td>
<td>Cypress Way · Spanish Fort, AL 36527 · 888-557-8731</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtyard Marriott—Spanish Fort</td>
<td>Cypress Way · Spanish Fort, AL 36527 · 888-720-1250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Riverview Plaza Hotel - Conference Hotel**

Group Code: **MEG** (Cutoff date - June 13, 2013)

**Rates:**
- Standard Room $129 + tax
- Suites $139 + tax
- Parking: Self - $12 · Valet - $17

**Online Reservations:** [Click here](#)

**Battle House Hotel**

Group Code: **MEG** (Cutoff date - June 13, 2013)

**Rates:**
- King or Double $75 + tax
- Parking: 10 minute drive to Convention Center

**Online Reservations:** [Click here](#)

**Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown Mobile**

Group Code: **MG3** (Cutoff date - June 14, 2013)

**Rates:**
- Standard Room $129 + tax
- Suites $139 + tax
- Parking: $9

**Full Breakfast Buffet Included in Rate**

**Admiral Semmes Hotel**

Group Code: **MEGA Conference Group Rate** (Cutoff date - June 15, 2013)

**Rates:**
- King Room $70 + tax
- Double Room $100 + tax
- Parking: $7

**Holiday Inn Downtown**

Group Code: **MEGA Conference Group Rate** (Cutoff date - June 15, 2013)

**Rates:**
- Double/Queen $110 + tax
- Parking: $7

**Fairfield Inn & Suites Marriott—Spanish Fort**

Group Code: **MEGA Conference Group Rate** (Cutoff date - June 22, 2013)

**Rates:**
- King or Double $75 + tax
- Parking: 10 minute drive to Convention Center

**Complimentary Hot Continental Breakfast, Free WiFi**

**Online Reservations:** [Click here](#)

**Courtyard Marriott—Spanish Fort**

Group Code: **MEGA Conference Group Rate**

**Rates:**
- King or Queen $85 + tax
- Free Parking, WiFi
- 10 minute drive to Convention Center

**Online Reservations:** [Click here](#)
Session: 107  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106A
Christine Spear/Reeda Betts/Nettie Carson-Mullins
Using Formative Assessment within the RtI Framework
Formative assessments are necessary to effectively support students within a Response to Instruction (RtI) framework. Formative assessments should be used on a regular basis to determine student progress toward achievement goals at regular intervals. Teachers should collect such data through both informal and formal methods, orally and in writing. Formal and informal, written and oral assessments are formative only when teachers use resulting data as formative feedback to adjust instruction and/or provide students with informative feedback to assist them in correcting misunderstandings or adjusting their learning strategies. The purpose of this session will be to clarify formative assessment and the role that it can play within the RtI framework.
Strand: Learners  This session repeats Wednesday (#207) and Thursday (#307)

Session: 116  Location: Battle House/Leinkauf
Patty Gordon/Nic Zapko
Competition Through Creativity: Classroom Interpreting Made Visual
This session will take participants through a series of creative exercises including improvisation, creating ASL poems, experimenting with storytelling techniques and learning how to convey information more visually. Focus is on how the creative work leads to more effective use of sign language features emphasized in the EIPA such as discourse mapping, adjectival and adverbial markers, use of space and message cohesion. Participants will discuss and practice ways to make their classroom messages more visual and therefore more meaningful for the students.
Strand: Professionals  This session repeats Wednesday (#216) and Thursday (#316)

Session: 135  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRII
Edmund Moore
New Federal Programs Coordinators Orientation
This session is to be presented by staff from the Federal Programs Section and will focus on providing the basic information new coordinators need to administer the following federal programs: Title I, Part A, B, C, and D; Title II, Part A; Title IV, Part B; Title X; McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act; Compliance Assistance and Program Support; Community Education; School Improvement; Supplemental Educational Services School Choice; and other relevant issues.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 138  Location: Riverview Plaza/Mobile Bay BR
TBD
"Show Me WHY It Works For Elementary Schools!"
Elementary administrators and teams from professional learning communities in schools will interact with invited teams to explore proven processes for increasing academic achievement in students from high poverty and other challenging environments. This session will help schools unlock the keys to improving school culture and increasing the effectiveness of teacher operational practices. (Different teams will be presenting in each of the two 3-hour blocks.)
Strand: Schools/Systems

Each MEGA 2013 session has a strand name and color included in the description to help identify the strand it is associated with.
Session: 144  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201D

Lysanne Matthews

TEACCH for Teachers, Autism Spectrum Disorders for Administrators, Supporting Pre-K Students with More Severe Behaviors, Supporting Students with High Functioning Autism and/or Asperger’s.

TEACCH for Teachers - In this session you will learn the importance of structuring the environment to support the learning of Students with Autism and other Developmental Delays. Specific strategies that can be easily implemented are reviewed. Tips on what can go wrong and what to look for while setting up are discussed. Visual Strategies support learning and language development in classrooms. Structured teaching utilizes visual cues which help children with autism focus on the relevant information which can, at times, be difficult for the person with autism to distinguish from the non-relevant information.

Strand: Support Systems

Session: 145  Location: Battle House/Moonlight B

Whitney Meade

Writing Standards Based and Data Driven IEPs

It is critical for IEP teams to write data-based IEPs that not only address the academic but the social and functional skills of the child. This session will focus on using the parent input and the adopted standards to write data driven IEPs.

Strand: Professionals  Part 2 of this session: Wednesday (#245)

Tuesday, July 16 ~ 8:15 - 9:45 am

Session: 143  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRIII

John Reutter/Mostafa Dokhalian/Barbara Cady

Advancing Successful STEM Education through the Alliance for Physics Excellence in Alabama Secondary Schools

A breakfast panel discussion to acquaint Alabama secondary school leaders (superintendents, principals, science directors, curriculum directors) with the new $8M-funded Math Science Partnership called the Alliance of Physics Excellence (APEX). APEX is a partnership comprised of the Alabama State Department of Education, Alabama A&M University, The University of Alabama, Drake State Community and Technical College, Huntsville City Schools, and the American Association of Physics Teachers developed to strengthen, enhance, and support physics education through AMSTI/ASIM and a Summer Institute and annual workshops. Preliminary data indicate that Alabama schools can significantly improve math and science ACT scores through the approaches embedded in the APEX project plan.

Strand: Learners

Tuesday, July 16 ~ 8:15 - 11:30 am

Session: 100  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201A

Mabrey Whetstone

School-Based Mental Health Services in Alabama

The Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Mental Health are collaborating with local education agencies to ensure that children of adolescents, both general and special education, have access to high quality mental health prevention, early intervention, and treatment services in the public schools. This session will outline the greater integration of mental health services into the public schools.

Strand: Support Systems

Session: 101  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201B

Jason Carroll/Jason Gibson

Digital Literacy: Using Technology in Reading and Writing Instruction

This interactive session is designed to take educators on a digital literacy journey. Participants will learn how to integrate a variety of modern technological tools and apps into the reading and writing instruction process across learners of all ages. Hands-on opportunities to use tools will be available and everyone will leave with ideas and strategies to immediately implement.

Strand: Learners
**Reading, Writing, and Rage: the 3 Rs of Asperger Syndrome**

This session will discuss why traditional techniques designed to address reading comprehension fall short. It will also address the difficulty when using written output as a means of assessing academic comprehension. Many students with Asperger syndrome manifest frustration in a variety of non-compliant behaviors. Homework becomes a battle. Techniques designed to learn how to remove the pencil from the process and enhance organization will be stressed. Participants will learn a variety of strategies to address the 3 Rs of Asperger syndrome thereby increasing both reading comprehension and written output as well as reducing rage.

**Managing Behavior and Crisis in the Classroom**

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if your most challenging students, all of a sudden, became less challenging? Dealing with difficult students and challenging situations are part of a teacher’s job these days. Knowing how to de-escalate crisis situations and how to manage problem behaviors are essential skills for all teachers. In this session you will learn some of the secrets for managing behavior. You will learn techniques that you can use immediately.

**Using Data to Move Students Through the RtI Process**

One of the most difficult parts of Response to Intervention (RtI) is understanding the role that data plays in the placement in and movement between the tiers. This three-hour session will focus on what data should be used to initially place students into the RtI process. It will also focus on how schools can successfully use progress-monitoring data to document student progress towards RtI goals. Finally, we will illustrate how school personnel can quickly and easily identify when it is time to: change a student goal; move students between tiers 1, 2, and 3; and/or exit a student from the RtI process.

**Positive Behavior Supports**

To provide educators with proven, research-based, best practices of handling student behaviors. Positive behavior supports provide information on a preventive approach that uses the schools data to decrease office referrals, and improve a teacher’s classroom management skills. PBS training will teach educators to look for the underlying causes of disruptive behavior and apply methods that will help transform the learning environment into a positive environment conducive to student learning.

**Guidance and School Counseling: Programs for Elementary, Middle, and High School Counselors**

This session will be presented by three Professional School Guidance Counselors, one each from Elementary, Middle, and High School. Attendees will receive helpful information for School Guidance Counselors that will help them in performing their jobs regarding curriculum, testing, guidance, conferencing, and the multi-task duties of the School Guidance Counselor.

**Educational Leaders and the CCRS**

This session has three objectives. Administrators will look at the change process in leading educators to full implementation of the College and Career Standards. Leaders will also be given an overview of what to look for in a classroom where the standards are being taught. Finally, leaders will be given tips to motivate their teachers as they make this positive change in their schools and systems.
Session: 109  Location: Mobile Convention Center/West Ballroom

Cynthia Lesinger

**DETECT, TEST, and REPORT Notifiable Diseases and Outbreaks**

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Epidemiology Division, will present the DETECT, TEST, and REPORT Notifiable Disease awareness program. School principals and nurses are required by Alabama law to report notifiable diseases and outbreaks of any kind. This session will review what diseases should be reported, time frame to report, and how to report. In addition, school outbreaks and ADPH outbreak investigation actions will be discussed.

Strand: **Support Systems**

Session: 110  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRI

Julie Weatherly

"**Staying on the Cutting Edge of Special Education Law: What's Hot Right Now?**"

Unfortunately, almost everything the special educator does has some legal implication! This session is designed to address the hottest and current special education legal topics in an effort to keep all educators on the cutting edge and out of legal hot water.

Strand: **Professionals**

Session: 111  Location: Riverview Plaza/Grand Bay

Laura Parks/Amelia Hardin

**Strategies for Daily Transitions**

This session will focus on strategies to maximize daily transitions including busy buckets, picture symbol schedules, songs, games, and other learning activities.

Strand: **Learners**

Session: 112  Location: Riverview Plaza/Riverboat

Scott Renner

**Using the iPad to Support Students with Disabilities in School Settings**

This session will involve demonstration and discussion of applications and hardware associated with the Apple iPad that could be used with elementary and secondary students with disabilities. Application demonstration will include the following areas: social stories, video modeling, self-operated prompting, visual scheduling, audio-visual reminders, and voice-output communication. The presenter will show how the iPad can be used to provide visual supports and independent practice opportunities in the classroom. The presenter will show applications that have been used with individuals with disabilities. These applications may be useful in supporting students as they become more independent.

Strand: **Professionals**

Session: 113  Location: Riverview Plaza/Windjammer

Robert Mayben

**Assessment Strategies for the Technology-Infused Classroom**

Explore digital tools and apps that will help to bring assessment into the 21st Century. In this session, participants will be immersed into a technology integrated lesson which will provide hands-on experience with assessment strategies for technology-infused classrooms.

Strand: **Learners**

Session: 114  Location: Riverview Plaza/Clipper

Janet Taylor

**Oh Appy Day!**

iPads, music, movies, and more! During this session participants will enter the multimedia world of making movies with the iPad as well as ideas and strategies for incorporating them into the classroom. We will explore apps that will make learning fun and exciting while learning content that is "on the test!" Let's take digital storytelling to the next level.

Strand: **Learners**

Session: 115  Location: Riverview Plaza/Schooner

Jeff Norris/Nancy Johnson/Patti Wood

**Challenging Language Arts Activities: A Resource and Curriculum Guide – Elementary**

Learn how to "kick it up a notch" for students to increase achievement as a Response to Instruction for bright students. This session provides strategies and methods to use with elementary students who have mastered the objective, skill, and/or content. Walk away with a curriculum guide packed with alternate activities aligned to the ALCOS for Grades K-12. Participants will "play" with activities within the language arts guide.

Strand: **Professionals**
Session: 136  Location: Battle House/Moonlight A  
Crystal Richardson/Gail Comins
Special Education Updates
Staff from Special Education Services Section of the Alabama State Department of Education will conduct a half-day session to focus on current hot topics, updates, etc.
Strand: Support Systems

Session: 149  Location: Mobile Convention Center/105  
Kathy Poelker
"Building Better Brain Power! - Using Brain Research, Song, Movement, Drama, Dance & Sensory Motor Activities"
Learn to strategically and intentionally use music and movement to support current brain research! Kathy presents and demonstrates "brain-building" FUN activities selected from her many recordings for young children. Simple partner dances, movement activities, music games, drama experiences, and "stick-in-your-brain" songs help children develop a wide range of skills – motor coordination, language, literacy, math, socialization, self-control, and more. Learn how to effectively and powerfully use music and movement to enhance children's readiness and overall development. (Perfect session for those working with ALL children, birth through age 7.)
Strand: Learners

Session: 151  Location: Battle House/Moonlight D  
Amy Price/Tim Isbill/Rhonda Cotton
Operation Graduation - Alternative Support Strategies Equal Success for ALL Students"
This session outlines many strategies to provide alternative pathways that lead to a successful graduation for all students. Through targeted, tiered academic and behavioral support, this session is filled with ways to connect a variety of resources available within your school and community to offer students and their families a wide range of options for success in both a traditional and non-traditional school setting.
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 154  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204A  
Paul Morin
Grant Writing: Show Me the Money!
Participants will gain a wealth of knowledge regarding the keys to writing, submitting, and successfully receiving educational, corporate, and non-profit grants. Session attendees will also learn of common errors that disqualify applicants from the competitive process; and gain insight to achieving as many possible points throughout the reading, scoring, and approval procedures. Helpful websites and resources to assist in garnering the desired results will also be offered.
Strand: Schools/Systems

Tuesday, July 16 ~ 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Session: 117  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201B  
Jason Carroll/Jason Gibson
Tech Tools to Support Student Behavior Change
In today's inclusive classroom student behavior can significantly impact learning success. In this practical and engaging session, the presenters will demonstrate a variety of technology apps and tools that can be used to support student behavioral success for learners of all ages and abilities.
Strand: Learners

Session: 120  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202B  
Buffy Murphy/Julie Kornegay/Tina DeBruyne
Practical Strategies and Effective Tools for Personal Financial Education
This session is designed to provide Elementary teachers with practical strategies and effective tools in teaching financial education. Participants will have the opportunity to share and learn strategies that prepare them to teach students life skills to be career ready and financial savvy. Free resources will be provided and illustrated for teachers to incorporate common core standards. All materials can be integrated into any subject or classroom.
Strand: Learners
This session repeats Tuesday (#103) at 3:00 pm.
Session: 121  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204A
Chris McCauley/Cristin Foster

“Deliberating on Bullying: Engaging Students on an Issue of Public Concern”
David Mathews, Center for Civic Life staff, will share insights from the Alabama Issues Forums (AIF) 2012-2013 statewide forum series on the bullying issue, share practices for effective moderating, and provide starter packets for public forums on bullying in classrooms, schools, and communities. Presenters will discuss their methodology, the outcomes of their forum series, and the role of public deliberation in fostering civic engagement in the classroom and beyond.

Strand: Learners

Session: 122  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106B
Larry Ewing/Jennifer Colton/Tracey Jackson

Performance Series & Achievement Series – How these complementary assessment programs may inform and guide instruction
Performance Series, a computer adaptive testing program, and Achievement Series, a content neutral test deployment program, were purchased by the Alabama State Department of Education for all 134 school districts. Performance Series draws questions from a hybrid Curriculum Alignment Guide including the AL Course of Study, Common Core, and ACT standards. Tests may be created from the Scantron and Common Core Item Banks purchased, or districts and schools may create their own items aligned to AL Course of Study or Common Core standards. Test results are available immediately and may be viewed through a cadre of district-level, school-level, or classroom specific reports.

Strand: Learners

Session: 124  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRI
Kevin Walding

Something like: The Basics of Special Education Law for Teachers/Administrators.
The population of special education students continues to grow in Alabama. This session would cover the basic concepts of the law of special education. The idea is to cover the basic legal concepts in a simple, easy-to-understand, and easy-to-remember way. The target audience is general education teachers and administrators (and perhaps as a refresher for special education teachers and directors). The goal is to give teachers and administrators enough background knowledge to help them recognize potential legal problems and hopefully forestall those.

Strand: Professionals

Session: 129  Location: Battle House/Moonlight D
Dorann Tanner

School Social Workers – Shelby County Schools Student Support Initiatives
Session will provide an overview of school social workers and the benefits of having a school social worker in your school district. Session will also provide an overview of the support systems offered to students in Shelby County Schools including mentoring, Early Warning, Supporting Families Initiative, Positive Behavior Supports, and Graduation Coach.

Strand: Support Systems

Session: 132  Location: Riverview Plaza/Riverboat
Miranda Bissoo

Using the iPad to Address the Linguistic and Academic Needs of English Learners
Have an iPad? Have English Learners? No problem! This session will help teachers use the iPad as a tool to assist English Learners with developing English proficiency across the four language domains: reading, listening, speaking, and writing. This session will explore free iPad apps for introducing, re-teaching, and re-enforcing language skills across reading, mathematics, science, and social studies content areas.

Strand: Learners

Session: 134  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203A
Shanthia Washington/Alfredia Griffin/Angela Martin

Accountability 101: Putting the Pieces Together
Are you puzzled about the transition to the new accountability system? Are you unsure how all the pieces of accountability fit? If so, this session will help you put the pieces together. The session will also allow time for questions and answers. Target Audience: All schools and central office personnel

Strand: Schools/Systems  This session repeats Wednesday (#250) and Thursday (#350)
New Assessment Grades 3-7
With the Alabama State Board of Education's determination to ensure that every student who leaves high school is college and career ready, all state assessments will become a part of a cohesive longitudinal assessment system that fully connects student performance from elementary through high school. The scale scores from the NEW assessments for students in Grades 3-7 will be linked to the college readiness benchmark scores used on the ACT, PLAN, and EXPLORE and will evaluate schools' and individual students' progress.

Session: 140  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204B  Kanetra Germany

Session: 152  Location: Mobile Convention Center/West Ballroom  Genell Lee
School Nurse Update from the ABN
This session will provide an update in regulations and decisions of the Board of Nursing that impact school nurses. Case studies and examples will be provided in the content.

Session: 153  Location: Battle House/Bienville Square  Callie Counts/Tracey Streetman/Stephanie Kimberly
"Jump Starting Your Year for English Learners"
The sessions will discuss: 1) Preparing lessons based on data from ACCESS test results. 2) Preparing everyday classroom lessons to meet the needs of ELs. 3) Constructing clear and concise objectives to allow English learners to be successful in all subject areas. 4) Creating your own student folders for the beginning of the year equipped with can do descriptors, ideas for lesson plans, and student profiles.

Tuesday, July 16 ~ 1:00 - 4:30 pm

Session: 103  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202A  Robert Hudson
Managing Behavior and Crisis in the Classroom
Wouldn't it be wonderful if your most challenging students, all of a sudden, became less challenging? Dealing with difficult students and challenging situations are part of a teacher’s job these days. Knowing how to de-escalate crisis situations and how to manage problem behaviors are essential skills for all teachers. In this session you will learn some of the secrets for managing behavior. You will learn techniques that you can use immediately.

Session: 108  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107B  Carol Belcher
Educational Leaders and the CCRS
This session has three objectives. Administrators will look at the change process in leading educators to full implementation of the College and Career Standards. Leaders will also be given an overview of what to look for in a classroom where the standards are being taught. Finally, leaders will be given tips to motivate their teachers as they make this positive change in their schools and systems.

Session: 119  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201C  Timothy Kowalski
Psych ROUNDS 101
Educators do not have a foundation in psychiatric diagnostic labels yet the likelihood of experiencing one of these is high during their professional career. While they will not be treating the psychiatric symptoms directly, these symptoms will impact their teaching of academics. This session will discuss adjustment disorders, anxiety disorders, impulse-control disorders, mood disorders, psychotic disorders, and personality disorders to include the common characteristics seen in them as well as the typical treatment methodologies offered. It will help the educator have a better understanding of the types of disorders they may see in their students and offer better coping strategies.
Session: 123  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107A

Steve Searcy

Online Safety Guide to Keeping Children Safe

Along with the ever increasing number of children accessing the Internet, comes the growing number of children at risk to online dangers at home and school. Sexting among teens is on the increase and has had negative consequences that some teens never expected. Pedophiles and other child exploiters have direct one-to-one access to children online, especially through the use of “blogs” and chatrooms. Pornography which is legally restricted to adults can easily be accessed by children online. Cyberbullying is becoming an increasing problem at home as well as at schools. Children and teachers need instruction in order to proceed safely on the information highway.

Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 125  Location: Riverview Plaza/Windjammer

Robert Mayben

Going QRazy with QR Codes in the Classroom

QR Codes are popping up everywhere, and their quick response potential extends beyond the commercial world into the classroom. This session will explore the many ways that QR codes can be used to engage today's students. Participants will learn how to create their own QR codes and how to create classroom QR code activities. Participants are also encouraged to bring their own device (smart phone, iPad, etc.) to this session.

Strand: Learners

Session: 126  Location: Riverview Plaza/Clipper

Janet Taylor

iPads 101

So you have an iPad...now what? This session will get you started with the basics of using and managing your iPad as well as some great tips and tricks. We will also explore apps for productivity, organization, and learning. Come join in on the fun! This is a basics class.

Strand: Professionals

Session: 127  Location: Battle House/Moonlight A

Edwin Ellis/Elizabeth Long

Visual Tools for Teaching Grades 6-12 Social Studies/History College- and Career-Ready Standards

Research-proven visual tools, instructional routines, and project-based learning tactics for increasing Grades 6-12 college-readiness standards for content-area literacy and social studies/history knowledge among diverse-ability adolescents; session is particularly pertinent for co-teaching situations.

Strand: Professionals

Session: 128  Location: Battle House/Moonlight C

John Kush/Rebecca Barlow/John Gilbert

Living Fire: Shaping Alabama's Human and Natural Environments through Time

It is said that we became truly human when we learned how to use fire. Fire is used for warmth, cook food, and give us light. Fire is an integral part of the natural environment. Fire is interwoven in the fabric of Alabama's history, ecology, and culture. We have developed a book for Grades 3-5 teachers interested in natural resource education to provide a better understanding of fire's role in the natural and cultural world. Lessons are designed to stand-alone or taught in a series. Alabama’s learning objectives are incorporated in all subject areas for the targeted grades where possible.

Strand: Professionals

Session: 131  Location: Riverview Plaza/Schooner

Bethanne Crawford/Nancy J. Johnson/Patty Wood


Learn how to "kick it up a notch" for students to increase achievement as a Response to Instruction for bright students. This session provides strategies and methods to use with middle and high school students who have mastered the objective, skill, and/or content. Walk away with a curriculum guide packed with alternate activities aligned to the ALCOS for Grades K-12. Participants will "play" with activities within the language arts guide.

Strand: Professionals
Session: 133  Location: Riverview Plaza/Grand Bay
Laura Parks/Amelia Hardin
Helping Children Learn Social Emotional Skills
This session will help teachers learn to identify problem behaviors and use teaching strategies to help students learn social emotional skills for more effective behaviors. Strategies include ABCs, social stories, behavioral supports, and modeling.
Strand: **Learners**

Session: 137  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203B
Jim Toney
Attendance and SIR Issues for Local Education Agencies
The session will address state attendance issues and regulations. Questions regarding attendance and the School Incident Report (SIR) will be discussed through formal presentation and open forum. New and current legislation concerning the enrollment, attendance and discipline of students in Alabama public schools will be presented.
Strand: **Schools/Systems**

Session: 148  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201A
Judy Utley/Ada Griffin/Bob Crowe
Making The Grade: Retirement 101 Plus
Get up to speed on your retirement education: Teacher Retirement Systems (TRS) benefits; RSA-1 Deferred Compensation Plan, and PEEHIP. Remember the 5 Ps: Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. A secure and comfortable retirement does not just happen. It takes a lot of planning and preparation. Let's face it: Retirement is not the time to make a failing grade. This session will provide answers to your questions and concerns regarding some very important topics.
Strand: **Professionals**
This session repeats Wednesday (#248), Thursday (#348), and Friday (#448)

Session: 150  Location: Mobile Convention Center/105
Kathy Poelker
"Come Sing & Dance With Me!" - Simple Partner Dances, Music Games, Drama Activities & More!
Dust off your dancing shoes for our musical FUN! Kathy Poelker, children's recording artist and early childhood music consultant, will share music and movement FUN that enables children to develop cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically! Work with multi-learning style and multi-sensory activities! Learn how to effectively incorporate Music and Movement – the powerful “teaching tools” in the early childhood classroom for ALL children! Perfect music-making times don't just happen! Come learn from an expert!
Strand: **Learners**

**Tuesday, July 16 ~ 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

Session: 118  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201B
Jason Carroll/Jason Gibson
Apps and Math: Instruction and Rem
There has been an explosion in the number of mobile and web-based tools available that can support mathematics instruction and remediation. This practical, hands-on session will provide participants with a variety of math tools that can be used to engage and instruct mathematics concepts. Tools that are low and no cost will be demonstrated that can be immediately implemented.
Strand: **Learners**

Session: 120  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202B
Buffy Murphy/Julie Kornegay/Tina DeBruyne
Practical Strategies and Effective Tools for Personal Financial Education
This session is designed to provide Elementary teachers with practical strategies and effective tools in teaching financial education. Participants will have the opportunity to share and learn strategies that prepare them to teach students life skills to be career ready and financial savvy. Free resources will be provided and illustrated for teachers to incorporate common core standards. All materials can be integrated into any subject or classroom.
Strand: **Learners**
Session: 130  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203A
Nannette Pence/Susan Beard
Take a walk with the team from Student Assessment while we navigate thru the Special Populations Manual. Join the Student Assessment team as we navigate and discuss the Alabama Student Assessment Program Policies and Procedures for Students of Special Populations. The team will walk thru step-by-step the decision-making process to use when selecting appropriate accommodations for state assessments.

Strand: Professionals
This session repeats Wednesday (#230)

Session: 139  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204A
Cecelia Mills
7 Habits of Highly Effective People and Teens Overview
Participants will experience an overview of the 7 Habits and be introduced to the materials and workshops available for educators to use for staff development (7 Habits of Highly Effective People) and/or classes implementing the 7 Habits for Teens curriculum. It combines video presentations with interactive group activities and written individual exercises. These in combination with the PowerPoint presentation prompts discussion and self-evaluation as a springboard for paradigm shifts in participants’ professional and personal relationships.

Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 141  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204B
Rebecca Mims/Billie Thompson/Gennine Brewer Holley
Overview of High School Assessments and Educator Resources (ACT Plus Writing, QualityCore End-of-Course, EXPLORE, and PLAN)
With the Alabama State Board of Education’s determination to ensure that every student who leaves high school is college- and career-ready, all assessments will become part of a cohesive longitudinal system that fully connects student performance from elementary through high school. Presenters will provide information and insights so high school counselors, district administrators, principals, and teachers can learn how to communicate with parents and students about the assessments; introduce strategies to faculty members; prepare for the administration of the ACT Plus Writing, QualityCore End-of-Course, EXPLORE, and PLAN; and utilize educator resources.

Strand: Schools/Systems
This session repeats Wednesday (#241) and Thursday (#341)

Session: 142  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106B
Clare Ward
Question and Answer Session for School Psychologists and School Psychometrists
This session is a time provided for those that do psychological and educational evaluations to discuss test instruments and appropriate practices related to determining eligibility and educational needs for special education and related services.

Strand: Support Systems

Session: 147  Location: Battle House/Bienville Square
Kelly Bonds/Edwin Velez/Miranda Battles
Practical Strategies for English Language Learners at the Secondary Level
This session will discuss practical effective strategies to help teachers support learning with students with English as their second language. Based on tried and true strategies including classroom best practices as well as whole school endeavors to scaffold and encourage EL students.

Strand: Professionals

Session: 155  Location: Mobile Convention Center/West Ballroom
Jennifer Ventress/Janice Phelps
Role of the Lead Nurse
TBA
Strand: Support Systems

Each MEGA 2013 session has a strand name and color included in the description to help identify the strand it is associated with.
Session: 207  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106A
Christine Spear/Reeda Betts/Nettie Carson-Mullins
Using Formative Assessment within the RtI Framework
Formative assessments are necessary to effectively support students within a Response to Instruction (RtI) framework. Formative assessments should be used on a regular basis to determine student progress toward achievement goals at regular intervals. Teachers should collect such data through both informal and formal methods, orally and in writing. Formal and informal, written and oral assessments are formative only when teachers use resulting data as formative feedback to adjust instruction and/or provide students with informative feedback to assist them in correcting misunderstandings or adjusting their learning strategies. The purpose of this session will be to clarify formative assessment and the role that it can play within the RtI framework.
Strand: Learners  This session repeats Thursday (#307)

Session: 216  Location: Battle House/Leinkauf
Patty Gordon/Nic Zapko
Competence Through Creativity: Classroom interpreting made visual
This session will take participants through a series of creative exercises including improvisation, creating ASL poems, experimenting with storytelling techniques and learning how to convey information more visually. Focus is on how the creative work leads to more effective use of sign language features emphasized in the EIPA such as discourse mapping, adjectival and adverbial markers, use of space and message cohesion. Participants will discuss and practice ways to make their classroom messages more visual and therefore more meaningful for the students.
Strand: Professionals  This session repeats Thursday (#316)

Session: 243  Location: Riverview Plaza/Mobile Bay BR
TBD
"Show Me WHY It Works For Middle Schools!"
Middle school administrators and teams from professional learning communities in schools will interact with invited teams to explore proven processes for increasing academic achievement in students from high poverty and other challenging environments. This session will help schools unlock the keys to improving school culture and increasing the effectiveness of teacher operational practices. (Different teams will be presenting in each of the two 3-hour blocks.)
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 245  Location: Battle House/Moonlight B
Whitney Meade
Transition: Working Towards Adulthood
Transition services vary greatly by system. This session will present best practices in the field of transition. We will also discuss the importance of and how to incorporate community based learning.
Strand: Professionals  Part 3 of this session: Thursday (#345)

Session: 257  Location: Battle House/Bienville Square
Amy King
Introduction to the 2012 Amplification of the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework
This interactive session examines the 2012 Amplification of the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework. It includes a comparison of the 2007 and 2012 editions of the standards framework and a discussion of other WIDA resources.
Strand: Learners
Wednesday, July 17 ~ 8:15 - 9:45 am

Session: 214  Location: Riverview Plaza/Clipper
Shannon Parks/Stephanie Baird/Jackie Hester

Stop Bullying in Alabama
Every year, countless Alabama students endure painful encounters with peers, in person, as well as through the Internet. The Stop Bullying in Alabama website provides anti-bullying resources for students, parents, teachers, and school administrators to help fight this pervasive problem. Come hear renowned experts discuss bullying characteristics to identify bullying and strategies to both in school and cyber bullying.

Strand: Professionals

Wednesday, July 17 ~ 8:15 - 11:30 am

Session: 201  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201B
Jason Carroll/Jason Gibson

Digital Literacy: Using Technology in Reading and Writing Instruction
This interactive session is designed to take educators on a digital literacy journey. Participants will learn how to integrate a variety of modern technological tools and apps into the reading and writing instruction process across learners of all ages. Hands-on opportunities to use tools will be available and everyone will leave with ideas and strategies to immediately implement.

Strand: Learners

Session: 202  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201C
Timothy Kowalski

Reading, Writing, and Rage: the 3 Rs of Asperger Syndrome
This session will discuss why traditional techniques designed to address reading comprehension fall short. It will also address the difficulty when using written output as a means of assessing academic comprehension. Many students with Asperger syndrome manifest frustration in a variety of non-compliant behaviors. Homework becomes a battle. Techniques designed to learn how to remove the pencil from the process and enhance organization will be stressed. Participants will learn a variety of strategies to address the 3 Rs of Asperger syndrome thereby increasing both reading comprehension and written output as well as reducing rage.

Strand: Professionals

This session repeats Wednesday (#203) at 1:00 pm.

Session: 203  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202A
Rosie Merold/Jennifer Boykin

“How to Effectively Co-teach in an Inclusion Setting: Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) Connections to Special Education”
Have you ever asked yourself, “Why am I here, and what am I expected to do?” Teachers often question their roles when thinking about co-teaching in an inclusion classroom. (“Inclusion is ever-changing, based on your current crop of students. Just when you think you have the perfect recipe, a new guest arrives and is allergic to what you are serving.” —Richard Villa). ARI staff and friends will explore ways to collaborate with colleagues to more effectively meet the increasingly complex needs of today’s students through co-planning and co-teaching.

Strand: Learners

Session: 204  Location: Riverview Plaza/Schooner
Allison Harwell/Shirley Farrell

Challenging Social Studies Activities: A Resource and Curriculum Guide—Elementary
Learn how to "kick it up a notch" for students to increase achievement as a Response to Instruction for bright students. This session provides strategies and methods to use with elementary students who have mastered the objective, skill and/or content. Walk away with a curriculum guide packed with alternate activities aligned to the ALCOS for Grades K-11. Participants will "play" with activities within the social studies guide.

Strand: Professionals
Session: 208  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106B
John Bell/Christine Wilson
Participants will gain insight on: 1) Latest updates to both EDUCATEAlabama (EA) and LEADAlabama (LA) online processes; 2) Effective use of EA and LA data to support professional growth, as related to Plan 2020; 3) Effective self-assessment and dialogue to inform professional growth via the Professional Learning Plan (PLP); and 4) Entering quality supporting evidence that demonstrates positive impact on student learning.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 209  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107B
Rebecca Hardiman
Section 504 Update
Section 504 Update - LEA personnel will receive up-to-the-minute information regarding the current legal trends in Section 504. Also, current LEA 504 Coordinators will share effective strategies for implementation of Section 504 plans.
Strand: Support Systems

Session: 210  Location: Mobile Convention Center/East Ballroom
Wendy Warren/Reeda Betts
CCRS Text Complexity (Secondary)
Secondary teachers will gain a deeper understanding of the ELA CCRS focusing on the shifts: Text complexity, reading, and writing.
Strand: Learners  This session repeats Thursday (#310)

Session: 211  Location: Riverview Plaza/Grand Bay
Pam Higgins/Deborah Fitzgerald
CCRS Text Complexity (Elementary)
The participants will gain a better understanding of the new Alabama Course of Study Standards shifts that focus on text complexity, close reading, and writing.
Strand: Learners

Session: 212  Location: Riverview Plaza/Riverboat
Jean Scott
Deliverology: Driving Plan 2020
"Deliverology" is a systematic process through which system leaders can drive progress and deliver results. This session will focus on the process of deliverology: defining clear targets to ensure accountability, developing delivery chains from the creation of the initiative to the classroom, measuring and monitoring progress, and evaluating success by checking against clear milestones. Participants will walk through the creation of their own delivery chains.
Strand: Learners

Session: 213  Location: Riverview Plaza/Windjammer
Tamara Sanders
iLead with iPads
The iPad is a great tool for enhancing personal and professional productivity. Created for administrators, media specialists, and reading coaches, this session will help anyone who wants to use the iPad for file management, note-taking, presentations, and more.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 215  Location: Battle House/Moonlight D
Julie Turner
Developing and Implementing a Realistic Dropout Prevention Plan
Schools and/or school systems will leave with a dropout prevention program that works with the resources they have in their school.
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 238  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203A
Shanthia Washington/Alfredia Griffin/Angela Martin
Accountability Overview: Putting the Pieces Together
Are you puzzled about the transition to the new accountability system? Are you unsure how all the pieces of accountability fit? If so, this session will help you put the pieces together. The session will also allow time for questions and answers.
Strand: Schools/Systems  This session repeats Thursday (#338) and Friday (#438)
Session: 239  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202B
Alicia Myrick/Courtney Dotson
Training IN Transition: Using Assessment for Transition Planning
The Alabama Department of Education in collaboration with the Auburn Transition Leadership Institute will review Federal Indicator 13, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004, components of Alabama’s Individualized Education Program, and more specifically how to utilize appropriate assessments during transition planning. In accordance with IDEA, 2004, transition assessment(s) are required and must be age-appropriate. In this session, participants will be introduced to utilizing assessment(s) to assist in determining a student’s postsecondary transition goals in related areas such as training, education, employment, and, independent living skills. This session will include a “how to” segment offering participants the opportunity to gain feedback on four diverse case studies.

Strand:

Session: 247  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201D
Lysanne Matthews
TEACCH for Teachers, Autism Spectrum Disorders for Administrators, Supporting Pre-K Students with More Severe Behaviors, Supporting Students with High Functioning Autism and/or Asperger’s.
TEACCH for Teachers - In this session you will learn the importance of structuring the environment to support the learning of Students with Autism and other Developmental Delays. Specific strategies that can be easily implemented are reviewed. Tips on what can go wrong and what to look for while setting up are discussed. Visual Strategies support learning and language development in classrooms. Structured teaching utilizes visual cues which help children with autism focus on the relevant information which can, at times, be difficult for the person with autism to distinguish from the non-relevant information.

Strand: Support Systems  This session repeats Wednesday (#247) at 1:00 pm.

Session: 248  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201A
Judy Utley/Ada Griffin/Bob Crowe
Making The Grade: Retirement 101 Plus
Get up to speed on your retirement education: Teacher Retirement System (TRS) benefits; RSA-1 Deferred Compensation Plan, and PEEHIP. Remember the 5 Ps: Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. A secure and comfortable retirement does not just happen. It takes a lot of planning and preparation. Let’s face it: Retirement is not the time to make a failing grade. This session will provide answers to your questions and concerns regarding some very important topics.

Strand: Professionals  This session repeats Thursday (#348) and Friday (#448)

Session: 249  Location: Battle House/Moonlight A
Angela Mangum/Diane Murphy/Terri Tomlinson
The Alabama Leadership Academy Fellows Program: Developing and Supporting Highly Effective Instructional Leaders
This session will provide an overview of the Alabama Leadership Academy Fellows Program (ALAFP) which is a premier professional development effort that supports a selected cohort of school principals across the state of Alabama for two-years. You will learn about the research-based components which, when combined, provide a comprehensive program that strategically facilitates the growth and development of school principals through multiple face-to-face sessions, on-site visits and support from Instructional Leadership Coaches (ILCs), and relevant and applied learning that directly relates to the daily responsibilities of instructional leaders. Listen to the testimonies of both Fellows (principals) and their ILCs, and you will be truly impressed when you hear about the positive impact that the ALAFP has had on schools and their leaders, teachers, students, and the entire school community.

Strand: Professionals

Session: 251  Location: Mobile Convention Center/105
Kathy Poelker
"Learning With A SMILE!" - A Sensory Motor Program Set to Music to Enhance Readiness and Overall Child Development
Let’s explore powerful sensory-integration activities that help children develop a wide range of skills including laterality, directionality, hand-eye, hand-foot, visual-motor coordination, balance, motor-planning, listening, auditory memory, language, midline crossing, following directions, and MORE! Do the “Ball Exercise,” “Paper Plate Exercise,” “Shape Exercise,” “Balloon/Beach Ball Exercise,” “Petal Exercise” and as many more exercises as time permits! Help children develop motor coordination, motor planning, and motor memory. Excellent resource for typical children and children with special needs.

Strand: Learners
Session: 253  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRII  
Marna Reeves  
**Transition: Getting to the Heart of a Student Driven Individualized Education Program**
Life is full of transitions, and one of the more remarkable ones occurs when we get ready to leave high school and go out in the world as young adults. When the student has a disability, it’s especially helpful to plan ahead for that transition. In fact the Individual with Disabilities Education Act requires it. For the students themselves, transition activities are personally defined. This means that the postsecondary goals that are developed for a student must take into account his or her interests, preferences, needs, and strengths. To develop transition services for students, the first step is appropriate assessments. Once interest, preferences, strengths, and needs are established and the data is disaggregated, the IEP team can then begin to discuss postsecondary goals and how those goals can be met through coordinated services. The focus of this session will be to follow this process from assessment through deciding appropriate services. We will look at several case studies that include examples of information designed to organize a student driven IEP meeting. Specific tools will be discussed that can be utilized in the beginning and during this process.  
*Strand: [Learners]*

Session: 254  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204A  
Paul Morin  
**Grant Writing: Show Me the Money!**
Participants will gain a wealth of knowledge regarding the keys to writing, submitting, and successfully receiving educational, corporate, and non-profit grants. Session attendees will also learn of common errors that disqualify applicants from the competitive process; and gain insight to achieving as many possible points throughout the reading, scoring, and approval procedures. Helpful websites and resources to assist in garnering the desired results will also be offered.  
*Strand: [Schools/Systems]*

Session: 262  Location: Battle House/Moonlight C  
Peggy Haveard/Dely Roberts/Jan Murray  
**Coordination of Special Population Groups**
Panel discussion followed by a short Q&A session. The panel discussion will include: results from the cross-sectional state needs assessment from the three programs, Migrant, English Learner, and Homeless education; tracking and delivery of services; and internal systems collaboration.  
*Strand: [Schools/Systems]*

Session: 258  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRI  
Melinda Jacobs  
**Special Education Law Year in Review: 2013**
Get ready for a fast-paced review of the most significant legal decisions of the year! Attorney Melinda Jacobs presents her unique review of the cases impacting your school district’s provision of special education and related services to students with disabilities, including expert tips for avoiding litigation and responding to parental demands for services.  
*Strand: [Schools/Systems]*

Session: 260  Location: Mobile Convention Center/West Ballroom  
Jennifer Ventress/Janice Phelps  
**Learning Connection: Making a Case for Breakfast and Physical Fitness**
TBA  
*Strand: [Support Systems]*

**Wednesday, July 17 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 am**

Session: 214  Location: Riverview Plaza/Clipper  
Shannon Parks/Stephanie Baird/Jackie Hester  
**Stop Bullying in Alabama**
Every year, countless Alabama students endure painful encounters with peers, in person, as well as through the Internet. The Stop Bullying in Alabama website provides anti-bullying resources for students, parents, teachers, and school administrators to help fight this pervasive problem. Come hear renowned experts discuss bullying characteristics to identify bullying and strategies to both in school and cyber bullying.  
*Strand: [Professionals]*
Wednesday, July 17 ~ 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Session: 206  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRII
Edmund Moore/Federal Staff
Local Education Agency (LEA) and School-Based Fiscal Issues
This session is to be presented by staff from the Federal Programs Section to focus on addressing local education agencies and school-based fiscal issues related to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Guidance issued by the United States Department of Education on Title I Fiscal Issues will be reviewed and discussed. Topics that will be covered include: Maintenance of Effort, Comparability, Supplement Not Supplant, Carryover, and Charge Backs.
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 217  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201B
Valerie Burrell
Let’s Rephrase
Welcome to a quick review of some "psychology" basics regarding the spoken word, followed by my presentation of "25 Things Teachers Should Say a Different Way--Starting Today!"
Strand: Professionals

Session: 220  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202B
Julie Kornegay
Project-Based Learning and Personal Finance
Project-based learning is an essential part of 21st Century learning skills. Projects covered in the session include: budgeting, financial record keeping, goal setting, credit reports, buying a car, and much more! Participants will receive free classroom-tested personal finance project ideas, rubrics, and reflective writing assignments for their classroom.
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 222  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106B
Shavon Cummings/Kennita Allen
Alabama Teacher Certification 101
This session will inform educators and administrators of current regulations pertaining to certification procedures, requirements, and changes. This session will also include an open question and answer period.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 223  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107A
Ashley Catrett/Donna Ash
Ready, Set, Grow...with College- and Career-Ready Standards!
Is your “iceberg melting”? Has someone “moved your cheese”? Are you unsteady about College- and Career-Ready? If you answered yes to any of these, it is time for you to come think, pair, and share with the Crenshaw County CCRS Implementation Team as we discuss proven strategies for transitioning faculty, parents, and students from ordinary to extraordinary without losing your mind. Questions are welcomed and handouts will be provided.
Strand: Learners

Session: 224  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107B
Kelli Hendon/Amy Fetner
Making Teacher Advisement Programs Work for You
This session will provide information to make teacher advisement programs work for your school. It will include information about the history, purpose, implementation, and execution of teacher advisory programs. Advisory programs are not a new concept. They were designed to offer students support, skills, and knowledge to help them make informed decisions concerning goals and endeavors. Teacher advisory programs are a vehicle for building relationships with students as well as an opportunity to share in responsibility for academic achievement and goal attainment. With advisement programs, students are provided a resource and advocate. Let advisement programs work for you!
Strand: Support Systems
Session: 231  Location: Battle House/Moonlight C  
John C. Gilbert/John S. Kush/Becky Barlow

Online Mapping and Spatial Resources Tutorial
A map is a very important tool for users of all ages. This session highlights a booklet tutorial with examples of online spatial resources to help users make maps and utilize aerial photography, topographic layers, soils information, data collected with GPS units, and even visual simulations for an area of interest (timber stand, agriculture field, pasture, etc.). The booklet is designed for beginners and provides keywords, homepage links, tutorial information, examples, and screenshots for online programs like the USDA/NRCS Web Soil Survey, Google Earth, Alabama Historic Aerial Photo Archive, USDA/NRCS Geospatial Data Gateway, and USDA National Agroforestry Center CanVIS.

Strand: Professionals

Session: 240  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204B  
Kanetra Germany

New Assessment Grades 3-7
With the Alabama State Board of Education's determination to ensure that every student who leaves high school is college- and career-ready, all state assessments will become a part of a cohesive longitudinal assessment system that fully connects student performance from elementary through high school. The scale scores from the NEW assessments for students in Grades 3-7 will be linked to the college readiness benchmark scores used on the ACT, PLAN, and EXPLORE and will evaluate schools' and individual students' progress.

Strand: Learners  This session repeats Thursday (#340)

Session: 242  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204A  
Lucille Hatcher/Phyllis Brown

Implementing the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
Implementing the 7 Habits requires time and effort. For best results, we recommend you follow the 7 Habits process:

• Start and end the process by taking the 7 Habits Benchmark to measure improvement in your overall effectiveness.
• Attend the 7 Habits Signature Program, then complete the 7 Contract over the next seven weeks.
• Within 90 days, attend the 7 Habits Maximizer Workshop to reinforce and help you apply the 7 Habits to your current business issues.
• Continually improve your effectiveness by using your planning system.

Strand: Support Systems

Session: 250  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203A  
Shanthia Washington/Alfredia Griffin/Angela Martin

Accountability 101: Putting the Pieces Together
Are you puzzled about the transition to the new accountability system? Are you unsure how all the pieces of accountability fit? If so, this session will help you put the pieces together. The session will also allow time for questions and answers. Target Audience: All schools and central office personnel

Strand: Schools/Systems  This session repeats Thursday (#350)

Session: 228  Location: Riverview Plaza/Clipper  
Shannon Parks/Stephanie Baird

The College- and Career-Ready Standards Ate My Baby!
The Alabama Learning Exchange is sporting a new look! From the Home page to the Search Results, ALEX is full of new functions and features designed to help you find resources for teaching the CCRS. Come spend 90 minutes exploring the new functions and search for resources, activities, and learning assets that will engage your students--and make your life a bowl of cherries.

Strand: Professionals

Each MEGA 2013 session has a strand name and color included in the description to help identify the strand it is associated with.
Session: 203  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202A
Rosie Merold/Jennifer Boykin
“How to Effectively Co-teach in an Inclusion Setting: Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI)
Connections to Special Education”
Have you ever asked yourself, “Why am I here, and what am I expected to do?” Teachers often question their roles when thinking about co-teaching in an inclusion classroom. (“Inclusion is ever-changing, based on your current crop of students. Just when you think you have the perfect recipe, a new guest arrives and is allergic to what you are serving.”—Richard Villa). ARI staff and friends will explore ways to collaborate with colleagues to more effectively meet the increasingly complex needs of today’s students through co-planning and co-teaching.
Strand: Learners

Session: 219  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201C
Timothy Kowalski
100 Treatment Techniques for Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism
“But how do I get him to do it?” Now you will because this seminar will discuss 100 treatment techniques found useful when working with individuals diagnosed with Asperger syndrome or High Functioning Autism. Educators typically lack a firm foundation in working with students identified as having Asperger syndrome. This session will discuss techniques found useful when working with this unique population.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 221  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203B
Julian Johnson/Dwight Atkinson/Carl McDuffie
Investigator Julian Johnson
Gang Prevention/Intervention that Parents, Children and Teachers
Strand: Schools/Systems  This session repeats Thursday (#321)

Session: 225  Location: Mobile Convention Center/East Ballroom
Wendy Warren/Reeda Betts
Writing for Secondary Teachers
Secondary teachers will gain a deeper understanding of the ELA CCRS focusing on the shifts: Text complexity, reading, and writing.
Strand: Learners  This session repeats Thursday (#325)

Session: 227  Location: Riverview Plaza/Windjammer
Tamara Sanders
The World at Your Fingertips: Using Web Tools to Enhance Student Engagement
Engage the 21st Century learner and use the web to get student feedback...without purchasing a thing! In this session, participants will explore web tools such as Wall Wisher, Answer Garden, Poll Everywhere, and Diigo to enhance student engagement. These free tools can be geared toward any classroom or content area.
Strand: Learners

Session: 229  Location: Riverview Plaza/Schooner
Carol Macchia/Shirley Farrell
Learn how to “kick it up a notch” for students to increase achievement as a Response to Instruction for bright students. This session provides strategies and methods to use with secondary students who have mastered the objective, skill and/or content. Walk away with a curriculum guide packed with alternate activities aligned to the ALCOSS for Grades K-11. Participants will “play” with activities within the social studies guide.
Strand: Professionals
**Session: 233  Location: Battle House/Moonlight A**

*Edwin Ellis/Elizabeth Long*

**Visual Tools for Teaching Grades 6-12 Mathematics Literacy College- and Career-Ready Standards**

Research-proven visual tools and instructional routines for teaching math literacy college readiness standards using Essential Understandings of Math Concepts and Problem-Solving Smart Visuals; session is particularly pertinent for co-teaching situations.

**Strand:** [Professionals](#)

---

**Session: 246  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201A**

*Mabrey Whetstone*

**School-Based Mental Health Services in Alabama**

The Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Mental Health are collaborating with local education agencies to ensure that children of adolescents, both general and special education, have access to high-quality mental health prevention, early intervention, and treatment services in the public schools. This session will outline the greater integration of mental health services into the public schools.

**Strand:** [Support Systems](#)

---

**Session: 247  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201D**

*Lysanne Matthews*

**TEACCH for Teachers, Autism Spectrum Disorders for Administrators, Supporting Pre-K Students with More Severe Behaviors, Supporting Students with High Functioning Autism and/or Asperger's.**

TEACCH for Teachers - In this session you will learn the importance of structuring the environment to support the learning of Students with Autism and other Developmental Delays. Specific strategies that can be easily implemented are reviewed. Tips on what can go wrong and what to look for while setting up are discussed. Visual Strategies support learning and language development in classrooms. Structured teaching utilizes visual cues which help children with autism focus on the relevant information which can, at times, be difficult for the person with autism to distinguish from the non-relevant information.

**Strand:** [Support Systems](#)

---

**Session: 252  Location: Mobile Convention Center/105**

*Kathy Poelker*

"Sing A Song to Reading! Sing A Song to Writing! Sing A Song to Math! In the Early Childhood Classroom"

Learn the important “how-to’s” of successful music-making in the preK-2 classroom. Learn “how to” connect language, literacy, math, social studies, art, and music! Learn the important brain research behind Kathy's dances, songs, drama pieces, and music games. You will “sing-along and read-along” using Musical Big Book favorites - “At the Firehouse,” “Rhythm Echo,” and “Look At Me!” Learn “how to” use music to develop language skills, emergent literacy, writing, and early mathematics. View samples of children's work from classrooms throughout the United States, New Zealand, and more! Learn “how to” create these same classroom published works with your young learners! Great fun for ALL children!

**Strand:** [Learners](#)

---

**Session: 256  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRIII**

*Cindy Hunt/Darcie Miller/Joanna Schley*

**Broader Spectrum: Instructional Choices for Diverse Classrooms**

In this session, participants will have opportunities to gain knowledge and develop instructional strategies for making content accessible to diverse learners. Specific attention will be given to building academic literacy skills. Participants will be asked to mentor other teachers and facilitate capacity building in schools and systems.

**Strand:** [Learners](#)

---

**Session: 259  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRI**

*Melinda Jacobs*

**How to Handle Your Most Difficult IEP Meetings**

This session offers tips and guidance from a nationally-recognized special education attorney on how to handle difficult IEP meetings. Learn how to effectively and legally respond to demands for expensive IEP services, private placement, parental refusal to consent to placement, and more!

**Strand:** [Schools/Systems](#)
Wednesday, July 17 ~ 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Session: 205  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106B
Mark Kirkemier
Principal Candidate Semester Residency: An Overview
This session will focus on the components, application process, and timelines for the Principal Candidate Semester Residency Program.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 218  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201B
Valerie Burrell
Feeling Good – About Teaching!
What better session to involve teachers in than one that highlights all the positive trends in your state’s educational system/schools? Fun trivia and updated factual reports give your teachers’ morale a well-deserved boost for the school year! Leave feeling encouraged and ready to continue making a difference in your students’ lives.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 230  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203A
Nannette Pence/Susan Beard
Take a walk with the team from Student Assessment while we navigate thru the Special Populations Manual.
Join the Student Assessment team as we navigate and discuss the Alabama Student Assessment Program Policies and Procedures for Students of Special Populations. The team will walk thru step-by-step the decision-making process to use when selecting appropriate accommodations for state assessments.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 232  Location: Battle House/Moonlight C
Becky Barlow/John Gilbert/John Kush
Virtual Field Trip: Natural Resource Education Through Online Forest Tours
The goal of this session is to highlight existing virtual forest demonstration areas that can be accessed online. These sites will provide teachers and students with access to information on forest management and restoration in a way that they may not have had access to before. Information can be used to help students better understand the importance of natural resource management and history and apply skills learned in the classroom. Ideas for how teachers may use these sites in the classroom to meet multiple teaching objectives will also be discussed.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 234  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107A
Lamar Davis/Jacob Cook
Virtual Alabama School Safety Plans Online
This session consists of a demonstration of the online Virtual Alabama School Safety System that is required by all K-12 public schools in Alabama. This demonstration will include all eight steps of the school safety plan. A question and answer period will be included to assist schools in their preparation of these plans.
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 235  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107B
Kristen Dial
Developing a 4-Year Plan
A 4-Year Plan lays out all the courses that a student will take each year, for all four years of high school. All plans have some things in common, to ensure that each student meets high school graduation requirements, academy graduation requirements, and any requirements for what the student wants to do after high school (such as college admission requirements). But each plan is also unique, because academy students have a variety of choices, both in the electives they take, but also in the courses they choose to meet the requirements. Before students make their 4-Year Plans, we should ask our students to think about what their current plans and goals are after high school. Based on that, students choose a pathway. Students should review their 4-Year Plan at least once each year, when they are requesting classes for the following school year, and to update it as need be. This session will help educators on how to implement a 4-Year Plan.
Strand: Professionals
Session: 236  Location: Mobile Convention Center/West Ballroom  
Caroline Davis/Tuwanna McGee  
The Effects of Cancer and Sickle Cell Disease on Learning: What Can School Do?  
Children with cancer experience many changes during and even after treatment that can negatively impact school performance: reduced strength and energy, changes in appearance and daily routines, and cognitive changes. Children who are cancer survivors may also demonstrate cognitive late effects defined by problems with thinking, learning, and remembering due to the results of surgery, chemotherapy, and/or radiation. Many of these children require a 504 plan or special education services. This session will focus on the effects of cancer and treatment (including Sickle Cell disease) on learning and how schools can identify and address the individual needs of these children.  
Strand: Professionals

Session: 241  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204B  
Rebecca Mims/Billie Thompson/Gennine Brewer Holley  
Overview of High School Assessments and Educator Resources (ACT Plus Writing, QualityCore End-of-Course, EXPLORE, and PLAN)  
With the Alabama State Board of Education’s determination to ensure that every student who leaves high school is college- and career-ready, all assessments will become part of a cohesive longitudinal system that fully connects student performance from elementary through high school. Presenters will provide information and insights so high school counselors, district administrators, principals, and teachers can learn how to communicate with parents and students about the assessments; introduce strategies to faculty members; prepare for the administration of the ACT Plus Writing, QualityCore End-of-Course, EXPLORE, and PLAN; and utilize educator resources.  
Strand: Schools/Systems  
This session repeats Thursday (#341)

Session: 244  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202B  
Philip Cleveland  
A New Approach to K-12 Career Technical/Workforce Development at the school level. How and what is needed to provide career guidance for students to make informed career and course selection?  
Everyone that a student comes into contact with has the opportunity to support their knowledge of careers and career development. This session will outline how Alabama is developing guidance activities for Grades K-12 in the Career Domain. These activities can be done in a variety of school setting by members of a school faculty and staff. There will also be discussion about how to link to business and industry for support of the activities.  
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 261  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204A  
Howard Harrison/Vantney Alums  
Educational Transformers – Transforming Alternative Education in Alabama  
This session will center on providing strategies for educators working in Alternative Educational programs so that they can provide an environment that addresses any social, behavioral, emotional, or academic challenges that may interfere with students finding success in traditional or regular school settings.  
Strand: Support Systems

Session: 255  Location: Riverview Plaza/Clipper  
Shannon Parks/Stephanie Parks  
Mining for CCRS Resources with ALEX  
Is implementing the CCRS into your teaching a struggle? Are you looking for resources, activities, learning assets aligned to the CCRS that will engage your students? This is the session for you. ALEX contains a "gold" mine of resources. During this session you will explore high-quality resources aligned to the Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards using the Alabama Insight Tool and ALEX.  
Strand: Professionals

Each MEGA 2013 session has a strand name and color included in the description to help identify the strand it is associated with.
MEGA 2013 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Thursday, July 18 ~ 8:15 am - 4:30 pm

Session: 307  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106A
Christine Spear/Reeda Betts/Nettie Carson-Mullins

Using Formative Assessment within the RtI Framework
Formative assessments are necessary to effectively support students within a Response to Instruction (RtI) framework. Formative assessments should be used on a regular basis to determine student progress toward achievement goals at regular intervals. Teachers should collect such data through both informal and formal methods, orally and in writing. Formal and informal, written and oral assessments are formative only when teachers use resulting data as formative feedback to adjust instruction and/or provide students with informative feedback to assist them in correcting misunderstandings or adjusting their learning strategies. The purpose of this session will be to clarify formative assessment and the role that it can play within the RtI framework.

Strand: [Learners]

Session: 312  Location: Battle House/Moonlight A
Susan Goldthwaite/Ayanna Long/Gail Comins

"Mastering the Maze" Additional presenters/Staff: Crystal Richardson, Courtney Utsey
Staff from the Special Education Services Section of the Alabama Department of Education will conduct an all-day training session that consists of reviewing the five special education processes, including how to complete the process in Software Technology, Inc. (STI) and providing updates to the form changes. This training will be a question and answer session as presenters explain the special education process.

Strand: [Support Systems]

Session: 316  Location: Battle House/Leinkauf
Patty Gordon/Nic Zapko

Competence Through Creativity: Classroom Interpreting Made Visual
This session will take participants through a series of creative exercises including improvisation, creating ASL poems, experimenting with storytelling techniques and learning how to convey information more visually. Focus is on how the creative work leads to more effective use of sign language features emphasized in the EIPA such as discourse mapping, adjectival and adverbial markers, use of space and message cohesion. Participants will discuss and practice ways to make their classroom messages more visual and therefore more meaningful for the students.

Strand: [Professionals]

Session: 328  Location: Riverview Plaza/Mobile Bay BR
TBD
"Show Me WHY It Works For High Schools!"
High School administrators and teams from professional learning communities in schools will interact with invited teams to explore proven processes for increasing academic achievement in students from high poverty and other challenging environments. This session will help schools unlock the keys to improving school culture and increasing the effectiveness of teacher operational practices. (Different teams will be presenting in each of the two 3-hour blocks.)

Strand: [Schools/Systems]

Session: 331  Location: Battle House/Bienville Square
Ngoc-Diep Nguyen

Building Academic Language for All Students, Especially ELLs
All students need to have strong academic language skills in order to gain access to new academic content in the classroom. Students who are ELLs or who lack background knowledge need specific instruction that help to build their academic vocabulary as well as the academic discourse that is used in schools. This all day workshop will help teachers: a) gain an understanding of the effect of academic language in students’ content learning; b) explore teaching strategies that build academic vocabulary and language skills for all students. The emphasis will be on strategies that help ELLs gain better access to the curriculum.

Strand: [Learners]
Dealing with Difficult Behavior

Dealing with difficult behavior is one of the most difficult aspects of being a teacher. This session will discuss the purpose and procedures for conducting a functional behavior assessment and how to utilize this information in the creation of a usable behavior intervention plan.

Strand: Professionals

Thursday, July 18 ~ 8:15 - 9:45 am

Alabama Career Information Network ACIN

The ACIN website is a one-stop shop that provides valuable up-to-date information to educators, counselors, students, and parents. Information is available on career planning, financial aid, life after high school, ACT/SAT, FAFSA, college preparation, and resources.

Strand: Professionals

Thursday, July 18 ~ 8:15 - 11:30 am

Reading for Meaning – Fluently

Read Naturally, the pioneer in fluency-based instruction, has accelerated reading achievements for thousands of special education, ELL, Title I, and mainstream students nationwide for 20 years. By combining the research-proven strategies of teacher modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring, Read Naturally helps struggling students achieve confidence and success.

Strand: Professionals

This session repeats Thursday (#300) at 1:00 pm.

“An Effective Inclusion Model in Core Reading: Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) Connections to Special Education”

Is it possible to go from 3,600 minutes a year to 7,200 minutes a year of small group instruction for your most struggling students during the core reading block without taking time away from other students or increasing the time? YES! Doubling the amount of high-quality small group reading instruction on a daily basis can be accomplished by general education and special education teachers collaboratively planning for co-teaching during small group reading instruction. Let ARI show you how!

Strand: Learners

This session repeats Thursday (#348) at 1:00 pm.
Session: 303  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107B
Jeanne Montgomery Spencer/Bergeron Harris
The Joys of Discipline Classroom Management—Really!
This session is designed to provide participants with clear and concise frameworks for the development and implementation of an effective classroom management system for working effectively with both general education and special education students in Grades K-12. The emphasis is on diagnosis and prevention for the creation of a safe and orderly classroom environment. A second component of this professional staff development includes the presentation of processes and procedures for writing effective Behavior Intervention Plan and Functional Behavior Assessments for supporting classroom management. The target audience includes district and campus administrators, classroom teachers, instruction and behavior specialists and counselors.
Strand: [Support Systems]  This session repeats Friday (#403)

Session: 304  Location: Riverview Plaza/Windjammer
Elizabeth Sessions
Pinterest Party
Do you have a Pinterest account? What's on your boards? Who do you follow? Join us in this face-to-face Pinterest party as we take a look at this online phenomenon and explore how to use it for professional development and classroom collections. Come and share who you follow, get some tips on pining and repining and get ideas for using Pinterest with students.
Strand: [Learners]

Session: 306  Location: Riverview Plaza/Schooner
Joseph Phillips/Nancy Johnson
Learn how to "kick it up a notch" for students to increase achievement as a Response to Instruction for bright students. This session provides strategies and methods to use with elementary students who have mastered the objective, skill and/or content. Walk away with a curriculum guide packed with alternate activities aligned to the ALCOSS for Grades K-11. Participants will “play” with activities within the social studies guide.
Strand: [Professionals]

Session: 310  Location: Mobile Convention Center/East Ballroom
Wendy Warren/Reeda Betts
CCRS Text Complexity (Secondary)
Secondary teachers will gain a deeper understanding of the ELA CCRS focusing on the shifts: Text complexity, reading, and writing.
Strand: [Learners]

Session: 311  Location: Riverview Plaza/Grand Bay
Pam Higgins/Deborah Fitzgerald
CCRS Text Complexity (Elementary)
The participants will gain a better understanding of the new Alabama Course of Study Standards shifts that focus on text complexity, close reading, and writing.
Strand: [Learners]

Session: 321  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203B
Julian Johnson/Dwight Atkinson/Carl McDuffie
Investigator Julian Johnson
Gang Prevention/Intervention that Parents, Children and Teachers
Strand: [Schools/Systems]

Session: 324  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201D
Lysanne Matthews
TEACCH for Teachers, Autism Spectrum Disorders for Administrators, Supporting Pre-K Students with More Severe Behaviors, Supporting Students with High Functioning Autism and/or Asperger's.
TEACCH for Teachers - In this session you will learn the importance of structuring the environment to support the learning of Students with Autism and other Developmental Delays. Specific strategies that can be easily implemented are reviewed. Tips on what can go wrong and what to look for while setting up are discussed. Visual Strategies support learning and language development in classrooms. Structured teaching utilizes visual cues which help children with autism focus on the relevant information which can, at times, be difficult for the person with autism to distinguish from the non-relevant information.
Strand: [Support Systems]
Session: 327  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRII
Edmund Moore/Federal Staff
e-GAP 101
This session is to be presented by staff of the Federal Programs Section to focus on training users on the steps involved in developing their electronic grant applications. Users will be taught to develop goals, strategies, action steps, and budgets to support implementation.
Strand: [Schools/Systems]

Session: 329  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106B
Robert Gaston
ASVAB Career Exploration Program
THE ASVAB CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM is a career planning and exploration program that combines a multiple-aptitude test with an interest self-assessment and a wide range of career exploration tools. And it's FREE to participating schools!
Strand: [Schools/Systems]

Session: 336  Location: Battle House/Moonlight D
Rhonda Cotton/Kay Warfield
Utilizing the Graduation Tracking System (GTS) in Grades PK-12
The Graduation Tracking System (GTS) is based on a problem-solving approach that utilizes real-time data to make timely decisions regarding student progress. The guide and activities related to the GTS provide a data management protocol to use in district, school, and community RTI efforts. The presentation will focus on:
1. Utilization of the GTS in Student Problem-Solving Processes - What are the highly predictive academic and behavioral risk factors associated with student failure? - How do we use AGTS data to identify students with highly predictive risk factors and align wraparound supports to the unique academic and behavioral needs of individual students?
2. Alignment of High-Yield Interventions - School Level - What patterns of at-risk behaviors are identified through the AGTS analysis process? - What high yield school interventions can be aligned to identified at-risk patterns? - How do we use the AGTS to systematically monitor the success of school support efforts?
3. Alignment of High-Yield Interventions - Community/Family Level - What patterns of at-risk behaviors are identified through the AGTS analysis process? What high yield family and student interventions can be aligned to identified at-risk patterns? - How do we use the AGTS to systematically monitor the success of community and family support efforts?
Strand: [Support Systems]

Session: 337  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201B
Jim Littlejohn
"What Was He Thinking and Why Does He Do That?"
This session will answer the universal question, "what was he thinking?" More boys are facing difficulty in and out of school. Are we facing a real boy’s crisis in our society? We will review the cognitive, emotional, and social development of boys as we examine their hearts and minds. This is a must session if you have boys who are struggling and you want to help them succeed.
Strand: [Learners]  This session repeats Thursday (#337) at 1:00 pm.

Session: 338  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203A
Shanthia Washington/Alfredia Griffin/Angela Martin
Accountability Overview: Putting the Pieces Together
Are you puzzled about the transition to the new accountability system? Are you unsure how all the pieces of accountability fit? If so, this session will help you put the pieces together. The session will also allow time for questions and answers.
Strand: [Schools/Systems]  This session repeats Friday (#438)

Each MEGA 2013 session has a strand name and color included in the description to help identify the strand it is associated with.
Session: 339  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201A
Marna Reeves/Tracillia July
Co-Teaching: Collaborating To Establish An Inclusive Classroom
Collaboration is vital for special education and general education teachers working in the co-teaching model. In the co-teaching model, a general education and special education teacher work together to provide all instruction, both the general education curriculum and the special education services needed by children with disabilities. It means that the two teachers need to negotiate the use of the space, sharing instruction, evaluation, grading, lesson planning, and discipline. Collaboration in a full inclusion co-teaching classroom is hard work, and really requires the right kind of people. The worst thing a principal can do is to force people into co-teaching situations. Even teachers who have a history of sharing information and collaborating with teaching peers may find their comfort with another person in “their” space is very low, that sharing responsibility for a classroom with another adult is incredibly uncomfortable. This session will center on collaborating to create the inclusive environment where co-teaching takes place. Explanations of the different models will be discussed and those same techniques will be modeled for use in today’s classrooms.

Session: 354  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204A
Paul Morin
Grant Writing: Show Me the Money!
Participants will gain a wealth of knowledge regarding the keys to writing, submitting, and successfully receiving educational, corporate, and non-profit grants. Session attendees will also learn of common errors that disqualify applicants from the competitive process; and gain insight to achieving as many possible points throughout the reading, scoring, and approval procedures. Helpful websites and resources to assist in garnering the desired results will also be offered.

Session: 358  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRI
Melinda Jacobs
Special Education Law Year in Review: 2013
Get ready for a fast-paced review of the most significant legal decisions of the year! Attorney Melinda Jacobs presents her unique review of the cases impacting your school district’s provision of special education and related services to students with disabilities, including expert tips for avoiding litigation and responding to parental demands for services.

Thursday, July 18 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 am

Session: 320  Location: Riverview Plaza/Clipper
Keith George/Davina Mann/Paige Craig
Productivity Uses for the iPad
This session focuses upon productivity uses of the iPad for teachers and administrators.

Thursday, July 18 ~ 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Session: 309  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202B
Charlotte Griffeth/Keith Davis
Navigating Change in Alabama Schools
Navigating Change in Alabama Schools is designed to take participants on an inspiring voyage that will motivate, encourage, and challenge them to embrace innovative practices that adequately prepare students for the future! Managing change in schools involves many factors: resources, staff, students and funding, to name a few. But above all, it is about a process – how to change the climate and culture and get where you want to be that will ultimately raise the retention and achievement levels of all students. Participants will be exposed to the latest and most exciting insights and ideas that have effectively changed the educational paradigm in most communities. Participants will leave prepared to NAVIGATE CHANGE and transform students!

Thursday, July 18 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 am

This session repeats Thursday (#309) at 3:00 pm.
Session: 314  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106B
Telena Madison
Designing High-Quality Professional Learning Opportunities
This session is organized into four sections: Designing Professional Learning, Implementing Professional Learning, Evaluating and Improving Professional Learning, and Sharing Professional Learning. It will review some of the best practices in Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD) approved professional studies and organizes them into a step-by-step plan. It also will help you follow these strategies:
• Put Ideas Into Action. Move from "thinking" about change to "doing" it.
• Prepare to Work Hard Together. Overcome barriers with a balance of determination and patience.
• Recognize That You Do Not Need to Be an “Expert.” Most providers are not “experts.”
• Use Available Resources.
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 315  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107A
Cindy Freeman
What’s New with the College- and Career-Ready Standards?
With one year of mathematics implementation behind us and ELA implementation coming up, what is the SDE planning to further assist with implementation? Topics discussed will include CCRS Implementation Teams, Teaching Academies, Regional Planning Teams (RPTs), and much more. Come join a discussion about where we have been as a state, where we want to go, and how we plan to get there.
Strand: Learners  This session repeats Thursday (#315) at 1:00 pm. and Friday (#415)

Session: 317  Location: Riverview Plaza/Riverboat
Tony Thacker
A Data Driven Look at Plan 2020: Where We Are and Where We Are Headed
This session will provide an in-depth overview of leading indicators of success found in Plan 2020, where the state currently stands in its effort to address those leading indicators, and what can be done on the local level to accomplish the goals found in Plan 2020. The primary goal for this session is to ensure that attendees walk out knowing where we are with regard to Plan 2020, where we are going at the local and state level, and how we will measure our progress in getting there.
Strand: Learners

Session: 323  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203B
Jim Toney
Alabama Student Assistance Plan (ASAP)
The session will address ASAP issues and regulations. Questions regarding the ASAP requirements and application completion will be discussed through formal presentation and open forum. New and current requirements concerning the At-risk, Children First, and Governor’s High Hopes in Alabama public schools will be presented.
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 335  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204A
Randall Swann
Credentialing, Accountability, and Perkins: Making the Connection
Perkins IV requires that credentialing must be made available to all students who are considered concentrators in a program where career and technical skill proficiencies are aligned with industry-recognized standards, if available and appropriate. This session will provide an overview of how Alabama's approach to credentialing connects the four core principles of career and technical education to the blueprint for a reauthorized Perkins Act.
Strand: Learners

Session: 340  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204B
Kanetra Germany
New Assessment Grades 3-7
With the State Board of Education's determination to ensure that every student who leaves high school is college- and career-ready, all state assessments will become a part of a cohesive longitudinal assessment system that fully connects student performance from elementary through high school. The scale scores from the NEW assessments for students in Grades 3-7 will be linked to the college readiness benchmark scores used on the ACT, PLAN, and EXPLORE and will evaluate schools' and individual students' progress.
Strand: Learners
Session: 342  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107B  
Camille Cooper/Cynthia Savo  
Comer School Development Program: Developing Well and Learning Well, Making the Connections  
This interactive session will provide knowledge of the essential nine elements of the School Development Program and an understanding of the Six Developmental Pathways as the foundation of the Comer Process. Participants will explore the potential impact strong supportive relationships among all school constituents can have upon students and their learning. Educators will learn how utilizing knowledge of child and adolescent development can change the culture of schools as well as support student self-management of social behaviors. Attendees will discover how teacher collaboration and full program implementation can create a psychologically safe learning environment in which all students can academically thrive.  
Strand: Support Systems  
This session repeats Thursday (#342) at 3:00 pm.

Session: 350  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203A  
Shanthia Washington/Alfredia Griffin/Angela Martin  
Accountability 101: Putting the Pieces Together  
Are you puzzled about the transition to the new accountability system? Are you unsure how all the pieces of accountability fit? If so, this session will help you put the pieces together. The session will also allow time for questions and answers. Target Audience: All schools and central office personnel  
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 319  Location: Riverview Plaza/Clipper  
Keith George/Davina Mann/Paige Craig  
iPad Power Up! Teachers  
The iPad is becoming an integral part not only our daily lives but also the everyday classroom activities. The latest ALEX module is iPad Power Up! This session includes "best practices" interactive learning resources teachers can use to engage students in learning. It also focuses on productivity uses of the iPad for teachers.  
Strand: Professionals

Session: 344  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRIII  
Nona Vickers/Juda Smith/Faith Burns  
St. Clair County Summer Migrant Program  
The St. Clair County School System provides a program for the children of migrant workers who migrate to St. Clair County each summer to work tomatoes on Chandler Mountain. The students attend the program 11 hours per day for six weeks. The session will describe how the system recruits families; Parenting Day; the daily instructional schedule of the program; pre and post-testing, etc.  
Strand: Schools/Systems

Thursday, July 18 ~ 1:00 - 4:30 pm

Session: 300  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201C  
Sandra Strong  
Reading for Meaning—Fluently  
Read Naturally, the pioneer in fluency-based instruction, has accelerated reading achievements for thousands of special education, ELL, Title I, and mainstream students nationwide for 20 years. By combining the research-proven strategies of teacher modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring, Read Naturally helps struggling students achieve confidence and success.  
Strand: Professionals

Session: 301  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202A  
Brandolyn Barnes/Laurin Tew  
“An Effective Inclusion Model in Core Reading: Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) Connections to Special Education”  
Is it possible to go from 3,600 minutes a year to 7,200 minutes a year of small group instruction for your most struggling students during the core reading block without taking time away from other students or increasing the time? YES! Doubling the amount of high-quality small group reading instruction on a daily basis can be accomplished by general education and special education teachers collaboratively planning for co-teaching during small group reading instruction. Let ARI show you how!  
Strand: Learners
Session: 318  Location: Riverview Plaza/Windjammer
Elizabeth Sessions
Appy Hour: More Apps than you can shake a stick at!
Take your iPad and make every hour “Appy Hour.” Join us as we examine apps for digital devices and take a look at best practices for using these devices in the classroom. Participants will be learning about iPad management, classroom tips for using iPads, and looking at a brand new MEGA “Appy Hour” website full of free and low cost educational apps.
Strand: Learners

Session: 325  Location: Mobile Convention Center/East Ballroom
Wendy Warren/Reeda Betts
Writing for Secondary Teachers
Secondary teachers will gain a deeper understanding of the ELA CCRS focusing on the shifts: Text complexity, reading, and writing.
Strand: Learners

Session: 332  Location: Riverview Plaza/Schooner
Sylvia Dean/Nancy Johnson
Learn how to "kick it up a notch" for students to increase achievement as a Response to Instruction for bright students. This session provides strategies and methods to use with elementary students who have mastered the course of study objective, skill and/or content. Walk away with a curriculum guide packed with alternate activities aligned to the ALCOSS for Grades K-11. Participants will “play” with activities within the math curriculum guide.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 333  Location: Battle House/Moonlight D
Edwin Ellis/Elizabeth Long
Visual Tools for Teaching 6-12 Science Literacy College- and Career-Ready Standards
Research-proven visual tools, instructional routines, and project-based learning tactics for increasing Grades 6-12 college-readiness standards for content-area literacy and science knowledge among diverse-ability adolescents; session is particularly pertinent for co-teaching situations.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 334  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201D
Lysanne Matthews
TEACCH for Teachers, Autism Spectrum Disorders for Administrators, Supporting Pre-K Students with More Severe Behaviors, Supporting Students with High Functioning Autism and/or Asperger’s.
TEACCH for Teachers - In this session you will learn the importance of structuring the environment to support the learning of Students with Autism and other Developmental Delays. Specific strategies that can be easily implemented are reviewed. Tips on what can go wrong and what to look for while setting up are discussed. Visual Strategies support learning and language development in classrooms. Structured teaching utilizes visual cues which help children with autism focus on the relevant information which can, at times, be difficult for the person with autism to distinguish from the non-relevant information.
Strand: Support Systems

Session: 337  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201B
Jim Littlejohn
"What Was He Thinking and Why Does He Do That?"
This session will answer the universal question, "what was he thinking?" More boys are facing difficulty in and out of school. Are we facing a real boy’s crisis in our society? We will review the cognitive, emotional, and social development of boys as we examine their hearts and minds. This is a must session if you have boys who are struggling and you want to help them succeed.
Strand: Learners

Each MEGA 2013 session has a strand name and color included in the description to help identify the strand it is associated with.
Session: 348  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201A
Judy Utley/Ada Griffin/Bob Crowe
Making The Grade: Retirement 101 Plus
Get up to speed on your retirement education: Teacher Retirement System (TRS) benefits; RSA-1 Deferred Compensation Plan and PEEHIP. Remember the 5 P’s: Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. A secure and comfortable retirement does not just happen. It takes a lot of planning and preparation. Let’s face it: Retirement is not the time to make a failing grade. This session will provide answers to your questions and concerns regarding some very important topics.
Strand: Professionals  This session repeats Friday (#448)

Session: 359  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRI
Melinda Jacobs
How to Handle Your Most Difficult IEP Meetings
This session offers tips and guidance from a nationally-recognized special education attorney on how to handle difficult IEP meetings. Learn how to effectively and legally respond to demands for expensive IEP services, private placement, parental refusal to consent to placement, and more!
Strand: Schools/Systems

Thursday, July 18 ~ 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Session: 308  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203B
Meg Lowry/Dede Coe
Navigating the College- and Career-Ready Standards
The Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards (CCRS) require the implementation of literacy standards across the ENTIRE curriculum. The CCRS substantially expand the literacy demands in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical subjects requiring significant shifts in these curricula. Presented guidelines will help guide librarians, teachers, and curriculum developers to be purposeful and strategic when choosing classroom resources. A sample of texts of appropriate quality and complexity for study in these disciplines will be presented.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 309  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202B
Charlotte Griffeth/Keith Davis
Navigating Change in Alabama Schools
Navigating Change in Alabama Schools is designed to take participants on an inspiring voyage that will motivate, encourage, and challenge them to embrace innovative practices that adequately prepare students for the future! Managing change in schools involves many factors: resources, staff, students and funding, to name a few. But above all, it is about a process – how to change the climate and culture and get where you want to be that will ultimately raise the retention and achievement levels of all students. Participants will be exposed to the latest and most exciting insights and ideas that have effectively changed the educational paradigm in most communities. Participants will leave prepared to NAVIGATE CHANGE and transform students!
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 313  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204A
Debra Williams/Drew Sellers
The Advantage of PAPERLESS HR - The STATEWIDE Advantage - TEACHinALABAMA
The session will include information regarding the statewide application TeachinAlabama. Data will be presented based on usage of Alabama school districts that have a paperless HR system. Different phases of the program will be discussed. Information will be provided from an applicant, school district, and statewide perspective.
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 315  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107A
Cindy Freeman
What’s New with the College- and Career-Ready Standards?
With one year of mathematics implementation behind us and ELA implementation coming up, what is the SDE planning to further assist with implementation? Topics discussed will include CCRS Implementation Teams, Teaching Academies, Regional Planning Teams (RPTs), and much more. Come join a discussion about where we have been as a state, where we want to go, and how we plan to get there.
Strand: Learners  This session repeats Friday (#415)

> > 34 <<
**Session: 322  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRII**  
*Beth Joseph*

**Best Practices in Serving Neglected and Delinquent Students**
This session will feature local education agency Title I, Part D coordinators and facility staff who will present strategies and activities that support neglected and delinquent students. A major focus of the session will be the coordination of Title I, Part D funds as a supplement.

**Strand:** [Schools/Systems](#)

---

**Session: 330  Location: Mobile Convention Center/106B**  
*June Barrett*

**Food Insecurities - A Barrier to Learning**
"A hungry child cannot learn". Hunger and food insecurity sees no boundary in between social economic stratas of school age children. Discussion will include identification and learning potential and limitations of a child who may be impacted by food insecurity. Let’s work together to ensure that Alabama's children are better prepared to learn by identifying and eliminating student hunger.

**Strand:** [Learners](#)

---

**Session: 341  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204B**  
*Rebecca Mims/Billie Thompson/Gennine Brewer Holley*

**Overview of High School Assessments and Educator Resources (ACT Plus Writing, QualityCore End-of-Course, EXPLORE, and PLAN)**
With the State Board of Education's determination to ensure that every student who leaves high school is college- and career-ready, all assessments will become part of a cohesive longitudinal system that fully connects student performance from elementary through high school. Presenters will provide information and insights so high school counselors, district administrators, principals, and teachers can learn how to communicate with parents and students about the assessments; introduce strategies to faculty members; prepare for the administration of the ACT Plus Writing, QualityCore End-of-Course, EXPLORE, and PLAN; and utilize educator resources.

**Strand:** [Schools/Systems](#)

---

**Session: 342  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107B**  
*Camille Cooper/Cynthia Savo*

**Comer School Development Program: Developing Well and Learning Well, Making the Connections**
This interactive session will provide knowledge of the essential nine elements of the School Development Program and an understanding of the Six Developmental Pathways as the foundation of the Comer Process. Participants will explore the potential impact strong supportive relationships among all school constituents can have upon students and their learning. Educators will learn how utilizing knowledge of child and adolescent development can change the culture of schools as well as support student self-management of social behaviors. Attendees will discover how teacher collaboration and full program implementation can create a psychologically safe learning environment in which all students can academically thrive.

**Strand:** [Support Systems](#)

---

**Session: 343  Location: Riverview Plaza/Riverboat**  
*Lisa Johnson/Jodie Battison*

**Dealing with Mental Health & Behavioral Challenges in School Settings**
This session addresses both mental health and behavioral challenges that are manifested in our schools. It outlines a framework of key factors for addressing mental health and behavior which include: intensive learning both cognitive and affective, behavior staff as learners, special education professionals as coaches for both students and parents, and social workers and mental health staff as strong support base between school and home.

**Strand:** [Support Systems](#)

---

**Session: 320  Location: Riverview Plaza/Clipper**  
*Keith George/Davina Mann/Paige Craig*

**Productivity Uses for the iPad**
This session focuses upon productivity uses of the iPad for teachers and administrators.

**Strand:** [Professionals](#)
Session: 346  Location: Riverview Plaza/Bon Secour BRIII  
Whitney Pate/Tenna Anderton  
**A Day In the Life of An EL: From Arrival to After School**  
This session will provide useful information about English learner (EL) students from enrollment to early identification, teacher training to classroom implementation, regular school year to summer programs. Presenters will share effective strategies that will give EL students access to the challenging core academic content utilizing multiple instructional supports and varied assessment practices. Participants will be given the opportunity to share effective EL strategies they have used in their classrooms.  
**Strand:** Learners

---

**MEGA 2013 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Friday, July 19 ~ 8:15 - 9:45 am**

Session: 402  Location: Mobile Convention Center/202B  
Craig Collins/Mandy Nichols  
**"The Expansion of the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Cluster"**  
This session will provide an overview of the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Cluster. It will detail the three pathways within the cluster area and the need to expand the offering by cluster, so that offerings are available to students throughout the State. Additionally, this session will provide industry specific workforce data detailing the future workforce needs.  
**Strand:** Learners

Session: 404  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203B  
Davis Brock  
**Engaging Students with Technology & College- & Career-Ready**  
Districts spend a great deal of money on technology in the classroom. Teachers often say, "Great, now how do I teach with these tools?" This session will provide practical applications for using educational technology to create more empowering and progressive curriculum using College- and Career-Ready Standards that engages students and encourages them to learn.  
**Strand:** Professionals

Session: 410  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201C  
Kay Spivey/Jan Enstrom  
**Preschool Updates**  
A review of new and existing information relative to the requirements for the three preschool indicators will be presented. An update on any changes in programs will be discussed. ELPP data submission will be reviewed. Instruction in using outcome data to improve programs and services for preschool children with disabilities will be highlighted.  
**Strand:** Professionals

Session: 415  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107A  
Cindy Freeman  
**What’s New with the College- and Career-Ready Standards?**  
With one year of mathematics implementation behind us and ELA implementation coming up, what is the SDE planning to further assist with implementation? Topics discussed will include CCRS Implementation Teams, Teaching Academies, Regional Planning Teams (RPTs), and much more. Come join a discussion about where we have been as a state, where we want to go, and how we plan to get there.  
**Strand:** Learners
Session: 400  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201B
Valerie Burrell
New to the Game
Tried-and-true (and researched) classroom management tips that lead to better teacher-student rapport, improved lesson presentation/student participation, and life-long teacher-student mentorships.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 401  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201D
Theresa Farmer/Denise Perkins
Project Closing the Gap: Improving Literacy and Mathematics Outcomes for Students with Disabilities
The Alabama State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) Project: Closing the Gap (CTG) is designed to improve reading and math outcomes for all students, especially those with disabilities, through the provision of evidence-based professional development. Project CTG is especially important as we strive to align our work with Plan 2020 to increase the number of college- and career-ready graduates in Alabama. Project CTG’s goal is to implement a coordinated Professional Development system that will increase the capacity of educators and families to understand and utilize a multi-tiered system of support for SWD, which will lead to improved student performance and graduation outcomes.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 403  Location: Mobile Convention Center/107B
Jeanne Montgomery Spencer/Bergeroon Harris
The Joys of Discipline Classroom Management – Really!
This session is designed to provide participants with clear and concise frameworks for the development and implementation of an effective classroom management system for working effectively with both general education and special education students in Grades K-12. The emphasis is on diagnosis and prevention for the creation of a safe and orderly classroom environment. A second component of this professional staff development includes the presentation of processes and procedures for writing effective Behavior Intervention Plan and Functional Behavior Assessments for supporting classroom management. The target audience includes district and campus administrators, classroom teachers, instruction and behavior specialists and counselors.
Strand: Support Systems

Session: 405  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204A
Debra Williams/Drew Sellers
The Advantages of 21st Century Electronic Application
TeachInAlabama Online Application
Strand: Professionals

Session: 406  Location: Mobile Convention Center/204B
Edwin Ellis/Elizabeth Long
Visual Tools for Teaching 6-12 English Literacy College- and Career-Ready Standards
Research-proven visual tools and tactics for teaching college and career readiness standards via increasing literature literacy among diverse-ability adolescents; session is particularly pertinent for co-teaching situations.
Strand: Professionals

Session: 407  Location: Riverview Plaza/Windjammer
Elizabeth Sessions
Smart Boards: To Infinity and Beyond
Take your Smart Board to infinity and beyond as you learn to manipulate the Notebook software and add pizzazz and engagement to an interactive whiteboard lesson. Participants will learn to add video clips, sound, animation, and other cool tools to their “Smart” toolbox.
Strand: Learners
Session: 408  Location: Riverview Plaza/Clipper
Debbie Holliday/Nancy Johnson
SOAR: Sensational Opportunities to Amplify Reading
Project SOAR as Response to Instruction (RTI)- Independent Literacy Study Stations. Join us to explore Project SOAR- Supplemental, independent reading stations designed to challenge all levels of readers from struggling to high-end. These stations offer engaging activities and opportunities based on William & Mary's Jacob's Ladder Curriculum, for high-level, motivating discussions related to poetry. The self-contained stations are attractive, self-checking, kid friendly, and provide continuous progress through differentiated levels of reading and learning styles. Created through a collaborative effort among an ARI Literature Coach, gifted specialists, and State Department of Education employees, Project SOAR provides meaningful and cognitively appropriate curriculum to students while teachers provide direct or small group instruction. SOAR activities correlate to course of study standards for reading and with the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) objectives. (For Grades 2-7)
Strand: Professionals

Session: 409  Location: Riverview Plaza/Schooner
Shirley Farrell
Embedding Web 2.0 into your Curriculum and Instruction
BYOD-Bring Your Own Device and explore the Web sites that will help you increase learning and achievement for all students. These websites will help you have a Response to Instruction for all grade levels, for all subjects, and for all students. Even if you do not have your own device join us!
Strand: Learners

Session: 438  Location: Mobile Convention Center/203A
Shanthia Washington/Alfredia Griffin/Angela Martin
Accountability Overview: Putting the Pieces Together
Are you puzzled about the transition to the new accountability system? Are you unsure how all the pieces of accountability fit? If so, this session will help you put the pieces together. The session will also allow time for questions and answers.
Strand: Schools/Systems

Session: 448  Location: Mobile Convention Center/201A
Judy Utley/Ada Griffin/Bob Crowe
Making The Grade: Retirement 101 Plus
Get up to speed on your retirement education: Teacher Retirement System(TRS)benefits; RSA-1 Deferred Compensation Plan and PEEHIP. Remember the 5 P's: Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. A secure and comfortable retirement does not just happen. It takes a lot of planning and preparation. Let's face it: Retirement is not the time to make a failing grade. This session will provide answers to your questions and concerns regarding some very important topics.
Strand: Professionals

Each MEGA 2013 session has a strand name and color included in the description to help identify the strand it is associated with.
2013 MEGA CONFERENCE ◆ PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
JULY 15-19, 2013

RENAISSANCE RIVERVIEW PLAZA HOTEL
RENAISSANCE BATTLE HOUSE HOTEL
MOBILE CONVENTION CENTER

DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING REGISTRATION FORM

1. Use ONE Registration Form per registrant.
2. Please PRINT your name and all other information legibly.
3. It is important that you provide your HOME ADDRESS; this is the address to which your registration receipt and name badge will be mailed.
4. Identify your position and level in the spaces indicated at the bottom of page.

DIRECTIONS FOR MAILING REGISTRATION FORM AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE
NOTE: (IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT REGISTRANTS FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS.)

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE: $90.00
To receive this special fee, the registration form and payment MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 12, 2013. Payment and registration received after this date will be returned to the registrant.

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE: $110.00
To pre-register after the April 12 early bird deadline, payment MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN May 20, 2013. Payment and registration postmarked after this date will be returned to the registrant. Participants who do not meet the May 20 deadline may register on site at the Mobile Convention Center beginning at 8 am on Monday, July 15, 2013.

CONFERENCE ON-SITE REGISTRATION FEE: $135.00
NOTE: (ALL CONFERENCES REGISTRATION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.)

ACCEPTABLE METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. Early Bird and Pre-registration: CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS ONLY WILL BE ACCEPTED. PURCHASE ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
2. Make CHECK or MONEY ORDER payable to:

   Montgomery Public Schools – MEGA Conference

3. Mail the registration form, along with the check or money order to:
   Mega Conference - 2013
   ATTN: Beverly Jackson
   P. O. Box 302101
   Montgomery, AL 36130-2101
2013 MEGA CONFERENCE
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
JULY 15-19, 2013
RENAISSANCE RIVERVIEW PLAZA HOTEL
RENAISSANCE BATTLE HOUSE HOTEL
MOBILE CONVENTION CENTER
MOBILE, ALABAMA

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER REGISTRANT. REFER TO DIRECTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM FOR COMPLETION.

NAME
Mr. - Mrs. - Ms. - Dr.: ________________________  ____
(Circle One)               First                   MI     Last

HOME ADDRESS: __________________________________________________________

City     State   Zip

HOME PHONE:     ______________________  SCHOOL PHONE:     ______________________

FAX:           ______________________  E-MAIL:     ______________________

SCHOOL/ ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS: __________________________________________________________

City     State   Zip

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Date Rec’d:__________ Check #:__________ Amt. Rec’d:$__________ By:__________