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 |  **Media Alert:**Contact: Erica Pippins Franklin334-335-1497epippins@alsde.edu**EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOUR DATES ANNOUNCED***New law will help strengthen Alabama’s educational priorities* **WHAT:** [**The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/%E2%80%8B)replaces the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law and affords states greater flexibility. The ESSA encourages states and schools to innovate and at the same time maintain a focus on accountability, an emphasis on state and local systems of improvement, and a more balanced assessment system. The **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Community Engagement Tour** will highlight the beneﬁts to Alabama public school students and professionals as well as detail how ESSA will complement Alabama’s Plan 2020. **WHO:** Members of the [**Every Student Succeeds Act Implementation Committee**](http://governor.alabama.gov/essa/) will provide an overview of [ESSA](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/%E2%80%8B), which continues to build upon the [framework](http://www.alsde.edu/sec/rd/Plan%202020/Alabama%20PLAN%202020.pdf) the Alabama State Department of Education has [established](http://www.alsde.edu/sec/rd/Plan%202020/Alabama%20PLAN%202020.pdf) for preparing Alabama’s students for college or career upon graduation from high school. Appointed by Governor Robert Bentley, the [committee](http://governor.alabama.gov/essa/) is comprised of educators, lawmakers, school board members and parent advocates. Upon conclusion of the presentation, attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to [ESSA Implementation Committee](http://governor.alabama.gov/essa/) members on how Alabama can develop a more equitable K-12 public education system. The [committee’s](http://governor.alabama.gov/essa/) work will continue throughout 2016, culminating with a final recommendation made to Governor Bentley, followed by a vote of the Alabama State Board of Education.  **WHEN:** The Every Student Succeeds Act Community Engagement Tour will be hosted at eight\* school systems throughout the state. All tour stops will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 7 p.m., followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. Dates and locations are as follows: **August 9**Montgomery County Schools – Carver High School2001 W. Fairview Ave.Montgomery, AL 36108 **August 16**Auburn City Schools – Auburn High School Performing Arts Center405 S. Dean RoadAuburn, AL 36830 **August 18**Shelby County Schools – Helena High School1310 Hillsboro ParkwayHelena, AL 35080 **August 23**Birmingham City Schools – Parker High School400 Rev. Abraham Woods Jr. Blvd.Birmingham, AL, 35204 **August 25**Mobile County Schools – Davidson High School3900 Pleasant Valley RoadMobile, AL 36609 **September 6**Huntsville City Schools – The Academy for Academics and Arts4800 Sparkman Drive NWHuntsville, AL 35810 \***The dates and locations for two additional tour stops will be announced at a later date.** **INFORMATION:** To learn more about [ESSA](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/%E2%80%8B), visit the Every Student Succeeds Act page on the Alabama State Department of Education website, the [Every Student Succeeds Act Implementation Committee](http://governor.alabama.gov/essa/) page, or click [here](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/%E2%80%8B). Follow the ESSA Community Engagement Tour on Twitter at **#ESSAAlabama**. ###  |   |
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