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| http://assets.alsde.edu/sites/graphics/ALSDE%20Graphics/ALSDESEAL.jpg | **State of Alabama** Department of Education Dr. Philip Cleveland Interim State Superintendent of Education | http://assets.alsde.edu/sites/graphics/ALSDE%20Graphics/STATESEALCOLOR.gif |
| |  | | --- | |  | | Alabama State Board of Education | |  | | Governor Robert Bentley President | |  | | Matthew S. Brown, J.D. District I | |  | | Betty Peters District II | |  | | Stephanie Bell District III | |  | | Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D. District IV Vice President | |  | | Ella B. Bell District V | |  | | Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D. District VI | |  | | Jeff Newman District VII | |  | | Mary Scott Hunter, J.D. District VIII President Pro Tem | |  | | Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D. Interim Secretary and Executive Officer | |  | |  | | **Media Alert:**  Contact: Erica Pippins Franklin 334-335-1497 [epippins@alsde.edu](mailto:epippins@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/​)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/​), 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 School  2001 W. Fairview Ave.  Montgomery, AL 36108    **August 16**  Auburn City Schools – Auburn High School Performing Arts Center  405 S. Dean Road  Auburn, AL 36830    **August 18**  Shelby County Schools – Helena High School  1310 Hillsboro Parkway  Helena, AL 35080    **August 23**  Birmingham City Schools – Parker High School  400 Rev. Abraham Woods Jr. Blvd.  Birmingham, AL, 35204    **August 25**  Mobile County Schools – Davidson High School  3900 Pleasant Valley Road  Mobile, AL 36609    **September 6**  Huntsville City Schools – The Academy for Academics and Arts  4800 Sparkman Drive NW  Huntsville, 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/​), 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/​). Follow the ESSA Community Engagement Tour on Twitter at **#ESSAAlabama**.    ### |  |
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