



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 731

ENSURING PROGRESS TOWARD FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF FOUNDATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES

WHEREAS attaining excellence in education for Alabama’s children has been my top priority since I became Governor, resulting in significant educational progress, including historic investments, landmark legislation, and ground-breaking initiatives;

WHEREAS we have invested more dollars in education through the Education Trust Fund in each of the last four fiscal years than has ever been invested in Alabama history;

WHEREAS I signed the Alabama Literacy Act into law in 2019 to improve unacceptably low reading test scores through leadership and targeted support and to ensure that all students enter fourth grade reading at grade level;

WHEREAS I signed the Alabama Numeracy Act into law in 2022, which places the same level of focus on mathematics that the Alabama Literacy Act placed on reading;

WHEREAS I signed the Computer Science for Alabama Act in 2019, which requires every Alabama high school to offer computer science in the 2020-2021 academic year, every middle school in the 2021-2022 academic year, and every elementary school in the 2022-2023 academic year;

WHEREAS, in 2022, I worked with the Alabama State Board of Education to adopt a policy requiring students to earn a college and career readiness indicator prior to graduation beginning with the class of 2028;

WHEREAS, in 2017, I signed a law requiring high school seniors to pass the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics test before graduation beginning with the 2018-2019 school year;

WHEREAS, despite these educational achievements, Alabama students' scores on national reading, mathematics, and science proficiency tests remain unacceptably low; and

WHEREAS it is therefore appropriate for me, as Governor, to seek progress reports on the implementation of these most prominent initiatives and legislation from my first time in office;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, do hereby direct the State Superintendent of Education to report to me as follows, no later than June 30, 2023, on the progress and state of implementation of the specified laws and initiatives, each of which are vital to continuing Alabama's progress toward educational excellence:

1. **Alabama Literacy and Numeracy Acts.** The State Superintendent shall provide a report and recommendations for meeting implementation deadlines for programs contained within the Alabama Literacy Act and the Alabama Numeracy Act. *See* Ala. Act No. 2019-523 (Literacy Act); Ala. Act No. 2022-249 (Numeracy Act). The report shall include justifications for existing deadlines, as well as implementation actions that have already occurred.
2. **Computer Science for Alabama Act.** The State Superintendent shall report on the implementation of the Computer Science for Alabama Act. *See* Ala. Act No. 2019-389. The report shall include a plan, to include a timeline, for ensuring compliance with the Act's requirement that each public elementary, middle, and high school offer at least one high-quality computer science course.
3. **College and career readiness indicator attainment.** The State Superintendent shall report on the number of college and career readiness indicators offered to students at each local school system in Alabama. The report shall provide recommendations for increasing the number of college and career readiness indicators available in each local education agency aligned to the regional and statewide list of in-demand jobs published by the Alabama Committee on Credentialing and Career Pathways.

4. **Civics test.** The State Superintendent shall report as follows on the implementation of the civics test requirement contained in Act 2017-173.
- a. **Data.** The report shall include data on the number of high school students who have passed the civics test from the 2018-2019 school year to present and the number of students who have been granted a good-cause exemption.
 - b. **Reporting.** The report shall include a proposed common reporting format for local education agencies to report the number of students who pass the civics test before graduation, and the number of students who have been granted a good-cause exemption, to be implemented no later than the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.
 - c. **Recommendations.** The report shall include concrete recommendations to local superintendents for increasing the number of students who complete the civics test without good-cause exemptions.

DONE AND ORDERED this 18th day of January 2023.




KAY IVEY
Governor

ATTESTED


WES ALLEN
Secretary of State