



2024 Policy Agenda

Modernize Alabama's school funding policy

Every child deserves a well-resourced school. Alabama's school funding formula is outdated and does not meet the needs of students. It's time to modernize Alabama's student funding formula to ensure that every child has the resources they need to reach their full potential.

Policy Actions:

- Replace the 30-year-old Foundation Program with a student-weighted formula, with a strong base amount and strong weights to support students from low-income backgrounds, students with disabilities, students from rural communities, English learners, and students in charter schools.
- Publicly report all education revenue and expenditures in an annual, longitudinal, disaggregated, transparent, and usable interactive format to increase transparency and accountability of school funding decisions at the local level.
- Support districts and schools to most effectively use student-centered, evidence-based budgeting strategies to ensure impact on student achievement.

Increase educator and school leader quality

Every child deserves effective teachers and school leaders. For Alabama to close the opportunity and achievement gaps that have existed long before COVID, it will be critical that all students have access to great teachers and school leaders.

Policy Actions:

- Ensure all teachers, regardless of preparation pathway, enter the classroom ready to teach the science of reading and mathematics on day one.

- Ensure that teachers have access to ongoing, evidence-based, job-embedded professional learning.
- Increase access to advanced teacher pathways so we can retain and reward our most effective teachers. Launch the Teacher Pathways, Support, and Advancement Pilot program, a policy proposal from the Teacher Quality and Quantity Roundtable in 2020.
- Ensure principals, especially in high-priority schools and districts, have access to mentorship and high-quality professional development through the Alabama Principal Leadership & Mentorship Act. Publish statewide data on the number of school leaders who take advantage of these opportunities by district.



Increase access to usable education data

Every stakeholder deserves to understand if our education system is serving our children well. Families, community members, and educators need the correct information to understand if children are getting what they need to learn and thrive in school. Data can be a flashlight, and the right tools and dashboards can help Alabama stakeholders understand if we are improving student outcomes and closing academic gaps.

Policy Actions:

- Publish statewide data on the percentage of educators and school leaders who have mastered the LETRS science of reading course by district.
- Provide students and families access to meaningful, personalized, secure data that helps students seamlessly navigate education pathways from pre-K into college and career. This should include access to information about course taking, careers, and school options, as well as data about needed skills, job options, and available training programs for high-quality career pathways.
- Create public-facing dashboards that help the public understand the successes and challenges in the state's education system. We need to understand what to celebrate and expand, where to innovate, and where to focus energy and resources for improvement.
- Publish statewide, real-time teacher and school leader retention, turnover, and vacancy data by district, licensure area, demographics, experience level, and other factors to understand the educator and school leader workforce better.