



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent
of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

December 10, 2007

MEMORANDUM

Governor Bob Riley
President

TO: Parents and Guardians of English Language Learners

Randy McKinney
District I
President Pro Tem

FROM: Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters
District II

RE: Reporting of 2004 Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives

Stephanie W. Bell
District III

President George Bush signed the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) legislation in 2002. Part of the law requires each state to annually test the English proficiency of all English language learners (ELLs) in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition, each state must establish Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) to report student progress, attainment of English proficiency and adequate yearly progress (AYP) in the areas of reading and mathematics.

Dr. Ethel H. Hall
District IV
Vice President
Emerita

In 2002 when NCLB was signed, Alabama did not have a test that measured proficiency in all four areas. The development of a high-quality English language proficiency test was a challenge and Alabama joined a group of other states to participate in the development of Accessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State (ACCESS) for English language learners (ELLs). Because ACCESS was given for the first time in the spring of 2005, Alabama was unable to report all required AMAOs in 2004-2005. We are proud of the steady increases our ELL students have made academically since 2004-2005. Annual Accountability Proficiency Indices for reading and mathematics are as follows:

Ella B. Bell
District V

2004-2005	Reading	-6.69
2004-2005	Mathematics	-3.29
2005-2006	Reading	8.98
2005-2006	Mathematics	23.28
2006-2007	Reading	9.19
2006-2007	Mathematics	20.36

David F. Byers, Jr.
District VI
Vice President

Sandra Ray
District VII

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor
District VIII

A sample of our fourth grade ELL students also scored above the national average on the Reading Test of the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Alabama now has AMAO results posted on-line with other state accountability information, and the state will continue to report on the progress in English language acquisition of our students. We appreciate the contributions each of your students make to classrooms around the state of Alabama and look forward to the language and academic progress of every child. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Gayle deJong, Education Administrator, by phone at 334-242-8199 or by e-mail at gdejong@alsde.edu.

Joseph B. Morton
Secretary and
Executive Officer

JBM/GdJ/JRE

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