



# Alabama Achieves

Dr. Eric G. Mackey

June 21, 2026



# ALABAMA ACHIEVES – STRATEGIC PLAN



Academic Growth & Achievement

College, Career, & Workforce Ready

Safe & Supportive Learning Environment

Highly Effective Educators

Engagement



**Every Child.  
Every Chance.  
Every Day.**

## Fundamental Questions

1. Will it help our students become better readers?
2. Will it help our students be better prepared for success in Algebra?
3. Will it help our students become more productive, responsible citizens when they graduate and enter the workforce?



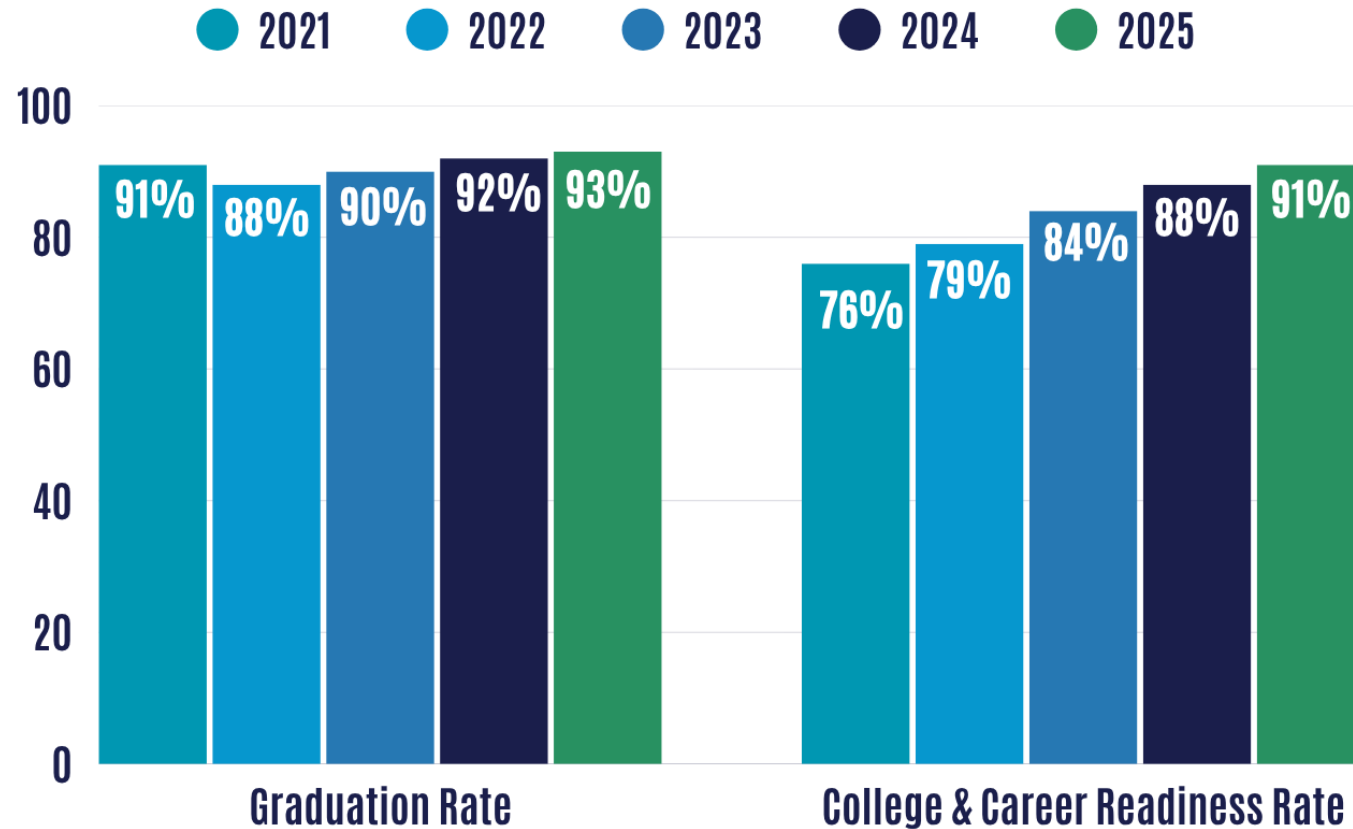
Strategy.  
Focus.  
Investment.



# ACHIEVEMENT on a whole new level



## ALABAMA GRADUATION AND COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS RATES





# ACHIEVEMENTS

## ACAP

### Grade 3 Reporting Categories

- **2023 & Beyond:** Phonological awareness/phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension

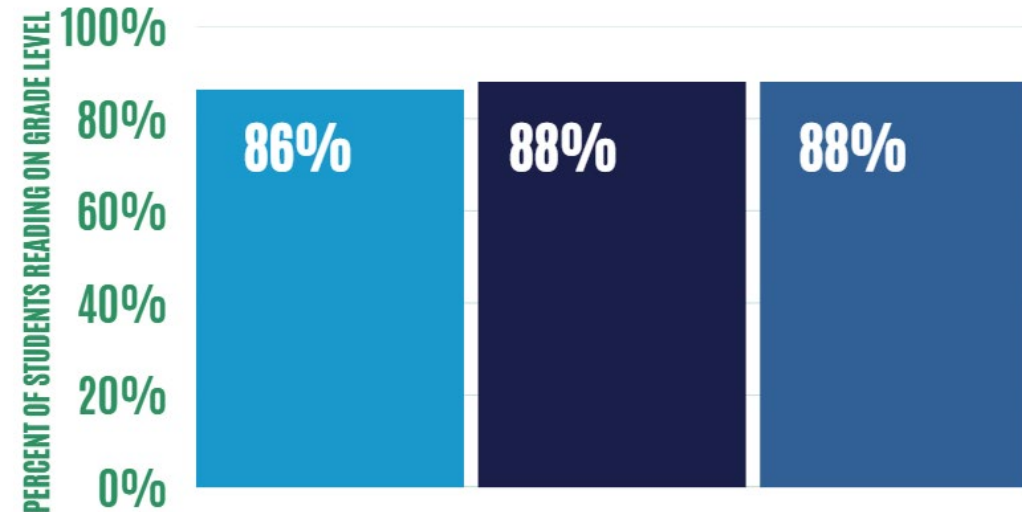
### Cut Score

- **2024-25 School Year = 444**
- **2025-26 School Year = 444**
- ***2026-27 School Year = 454***

## 3RD GRADE READING\*

\*READING IS A SUBSET OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

● 2024 ● 2025 ● 2026



\*\* ALIGNED TO THE NEW COURSE OF STUDY

\*\*\*BASED ON A CUT SCORE OF 444 FOR 2025 AND 2026



# ACHIEVEMENT on a whole new level

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade READING – ACAP

### 99% OF 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS READING ON GRADE LEVEL:

- Mountain Brook City
- Vestavia Hills City
- Brewton City

### 98% OF 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS READING ON GRADE LEVEL:

- Piedmont City
- Saraland City
- University Charter School
- Muscle Shoals City

### DISTRICTS THAT IMPROVED FIVE PERCENTAGE POINTS OR MORE:

- Fairfield City = 87%, +13.3 points
- Elba City = 97%, +9.7 points
- Marengo County = 97%, +7.3 points
- Sheffield City = 88%, +7 points
- Sylacauga City = 90%, +6.3 points
- Anniston City = 85%, + 5.8 points
- Alexander City = 92%, + 5.4 points
- Pickens County = 94%, +5.1 points

**34 SCHOOLS HAVE 100% OF 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS  
READING ON GRADE LEVEL**



# ACHIEVEMENT on a whole new level



## Outperformed Similar Districts Nationwide

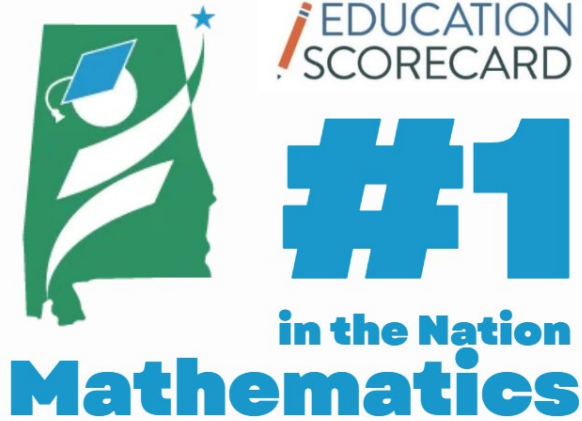


## System on the Rise





# ACHIEVEMENT on a whole new level



Alabama has exceeded pre-pandemic levels of achievement in mathematics and has the largest increase in mathematics in the Nation

- Franklin County
- Geneva County
- Marion County

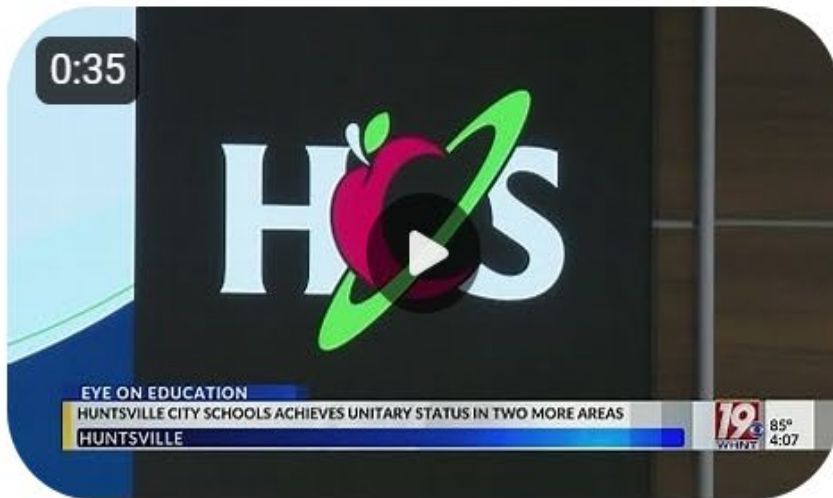


Alabama has the second highest growth in reading scores in the nation since 2019

- Cullman City
- Homewood City
- Hoover City
- Houston County



# ACHIEVEMENT on a whole new level



**Huntsville City Schools Achieves Unitary Status**  
in Two More Areas | April 14, 2026 | News 19 at ...

 YouTube · WHNT News 19  
67 views · 2 months ago



# TRAIN Act

## Talent Readiness and Industry Needs (TRAIN Act)

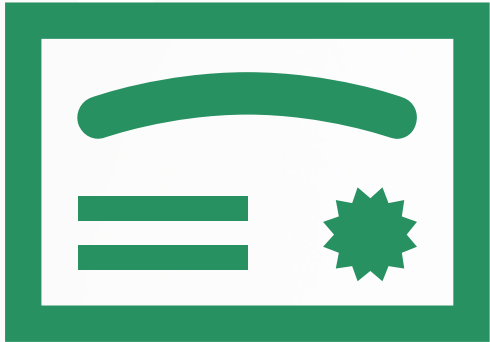


Allows private employers to loan  
qualified employees to teach CTE  
courses at eligible institutions



# Teacher Certification

## Lifetime / Permanent Teaching Certificate for Retirees



Educators who have retired with at least 25 years of service in Alabama are eligible to apply for conversion of their renewable certificate(s) to the new Lifetime Certificate.

### Requirements to apply:

- Application submission (will be available August 17, 2026)
- \$200 fee
- Background clearance (if the individual's certificate(s) is expired)
- Verification of retirement with at least 25 years of service in Alabama

*Note: The Educator Certification Section will verify the years of service with The Retirement Systems of Alabama.*

If requirements are met, the following renewable certificates will be converted to the Lifetime Certificate:

- Professional Educator Certificate
- Professional Leadership Certificate
- Career/Technical Certificate

*Note: This option is not applicable for holders of nonrenewable certificates.*

If an individual decides to return to teaching after retirement and conversion of this certificate, training and/or professional learning may be required by the employer.



# Reminders

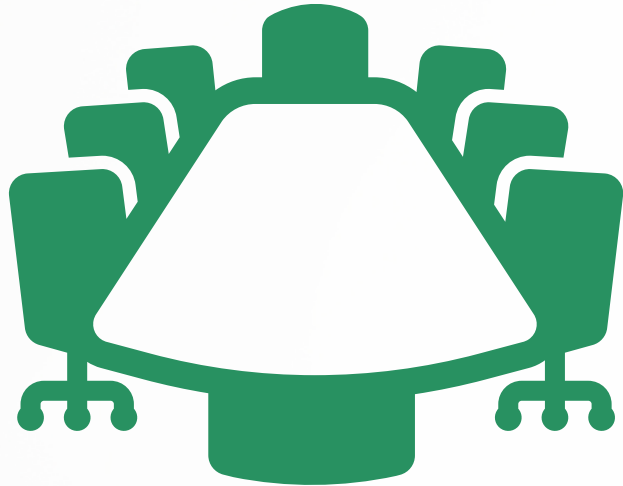


The safety and security of students is a priority – we strive to provide safe and secure learning environments for all students across Alabama.

- Mandatory Reporting
- Background Checks
- Check References



# Reminders



Effective Board Governance requires collegiality and a commitment to collective responsibility.



# SSA Conference



School Superintendent's Conference begins tomorrow and will include discussions on:

- Career & Technical Education Grants
- FY27 Budget including Transportation & Fleet Renewal

Official MEMOS will be distributed following SSA Conference



 Daily Times on MSN · 2h

**Lionel Messi equals World Cup scoring record with hat-trick against Algeria**  
**Published on: June 18, 2026 11:52 AM**

Pakistan, June 18 -- Lionel Messi used the front of his white-and-blue, sweat-soaked jersey to wipe the tears from his eyes, a flood of emotions cracking his usually calm, confident...



His approach emphasizes:

**-Consistency**  
**-Quality**  
**-Recovery** over long, grueling sessions.

Lionel Messi's training load is **high but not extreme**, thanks to his focus on quality over quantity, injury prevention, and recovery.

#### **Daily training time**

- **Individual sessions:** Around **1–1.5 hours** in the morning, typically between 9:00–11:00, focusing on speed, strength, and flexibility [habitmentors.com](https://habitmentors.com).
- **Team sessions:** **2–3 hours** in the afternoon/evening (17:00–20:00) for team drills, tactics, and match simulation [habitmentors.com](https://habitmentors.com)+1.
- **Strength training:** 2–3 times per week, about **90 minutes** in the gym, with light weights, high reps, and plyometrics [ShunSpirit](https://shunspirit.com).
- **Recovery work:** Daily stretching, yoga, and physiotherapy sessions [ShunSpirit](https://shunspirit.com).

#### **Weekly total**

- **Total training per week:** ~6–8 hours of structured training (individual + team + strength) plus recovery sessions.
- This includes skill drills, ball work, speed drills, and injury prevention.

#### **Annual total**

- Assuming 52 weeks in a year and averaging **7 hours of training per week** (including recovery), Messi's total annual training time is roughly **364 hours**.
- If we exclude recovery-only sessions, it's closer to **250–300 hours** of active training and skill work.

#### **Key factors in his schedule**

- He prioritizes **match fitness over endurance**, often walking more than sprinting [habitmentors.com](https://habitmentors.com).
- Rest days (1–2 per week) and match schedules reduce total training hours.
- Recovery and injury prevention are as important as training load.

#### **Summary:**

Lionel Messi trains and works out about **250–364 hours per year**, depending on whether recovery sessions are counted.



**In all worthy endeavors,  
the most important work  
is done in the most difficult times,  
under the most challenging circumstances,  
when the reward seems distant,  
and anything but certain.**



The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
The wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like crocus, it will burst into bloom;  
It will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

-Isaiah 35: 1-2a



# Alabama Achieves

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION



@DrEricMackey



@DrEricMackey



@egmackey