

For Immediate Release:
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Alabama Teachers Call on Legislators to Support Alabama's College and Career Ready Standards

The 2013 State Teacher of the Year among those thanking legislators for their support

MONTOMGERY — As members of the Alabama Senate Education Committee are set to consider a second round of bills to repeal Alabama's College and Career Ready Standards, those charged with applying the standards in Alabama's classroom are encouraging legislators to allow implementation of the state's new standards to continue.

Suzanne Culbreth, the 2013 Alabama Teacher of the Year, authored a letter to lawmakers today also signed by 21 distinguished Alabama educators to encourage them to "stay the course with the current College and Career ready standards. They write, "We all believe that Alabama's teachers can take this rigorous framework, collaborate to create engaging and challenging lessons, and then teach Alabama's students who will achieve at a level that prepares them well for the next grade; be it first grade, tenth grade, or as they prepare for college or career."

Mrs. Culbreth, a math teacher at Spain Park H.S. in Hoover, wrote in the letter, "Please help us keep up the momentum that I see all over the state as teachers are learning how to bring these standards to life in their classrooms and as students are challenged more than ever." She cited examples of the successes teachers across the state are having in the implementation of the new standards, as it requires a higher level of teaching while focusing on deeper learning for understanding.

The teachers, many of whom have spent the last year teaching to the new standards in Alabama classrooms say, "[Alabama College and Career Ready Standards] provide what we need as teachers in Alabama to guide valuable learning experiences in our classrooms."

"We believe that [Alabama College and Career Ready Standards] are the impetus for helping more of our students to become graduates who are ready for college and/or careers and for helping our state to become more competitive for business and industry that demand a better educated workforce."

The letter was delivered today to all Senators. Tomorrow, the Senate Education Committee will consider SB 403. SB 403 is virtually identical to SB 190, the bill that was "indefinitely carried over" at the March 13 meeting of this same committee.

A+ Education Partnership is a nonpartisan 501(c)3 organization that strives to ensure every child in Alabama has a great school to attend in order to receive an excellent education. Founded in 1991, A+ is home to two divisions working in schools and with teachers and students across the state: the [Alabama Best Practices Center](#) and [A+ College Ready](#).

Text of the Alabama Distinguished Educators' Letter to Legislators (next page)

April 10, 2013

Dear Legislator,

As the current Alabama Teacher of the Year and on behalf of the undersigned educators, I want to thank you for your support of Alabama's students and teachers by staying the course with the current College and Career Ready Standards. We all believe that Alabama's teachers can take this rigorous framework, collaborate to create engaging and challenging lessons, and then teach Alabama's students who will achieve at a level that prepares them well for the next grade; be it first grade, tenth grade, or as they prepare for college or career.

I personally have had experience teaching the new math standards that were implemented this year. My students are thriving! Each day they are learning through inquiry and building on those foundational concepts to fluency through practice and application. For example during our unit on Trigonometry, topics have been added to specifically prepare students for Algebra II, making their journey through high school math seamless. **I recently spoke with a first grade teacher and she was so excited about our new standards. Her students were experiencing tremendous success developing their number sense through addition activities.** She is convinced that multiplication will be a breeze for them because they truly understand the concept of addition beyond rote memorization of facts. **I have received numerous notes and emails from current teachers throughout the state thanking me for defending Alabama's College and Career Ready Standards during the public hearings at the State House.** These standards provide what we need as teacher in Alabama to guide valuable learning experiences in our classrooms.

We know that there are still very loud voices working to repeal the College and Career Ready Standards. Late last week, we learned that bills have been introduced to limit and/or prohibit their implementation. Perhaps the voices of those of us who believe in the benefit these standards can bring to our schools, our students and our state have not been loud enough. **Most of us are very busy, day after day, teaching students and/or leading schools or districts and we do not spend our time reaching out to you. However, we are united in our support of these standards and will also be united in our support of lawmakers who join us in helping Alabama students have the opportunity to learn and achieve at the higher level that is required by the College and Career Ready Standards.**

We ask for your continued support of Alabama's College and Career Ready Standards. Please help us keep up the momentum that I see all over the state as teachers are learning how to bring these standards to life in their classrooms and as students are challenged more than ever. We believe that these new standards are the impetus for helping more of our students to become graduates who are ready for college and/or careers and for helping our state to become more competitive for business and industry that demand a better educated workforce. **Those of us who signed this letter (next page) stand ready to provide more information to you about the positive impact of the new standards.** We invite you to visit schools in your district, and I'd be happy to set that up for you. We thank you in advance for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Culbreth
2013-2014 Alabama Teacher of the Year

Co-signatories

Alabama State Teachers of the Year

Dr. Gay Barnes

2011 Alabama Teacher of the Year, NBCT*
1st Grade Teacher, Horizon Elementary
Madison City Schools

Mr. Phil Wilson

2010 Alabama Teacher of the Year, NBCT
Ogletree Elementary, Auburn City Schools

Mr. Roy Hudson

2009 Alabama Teacher of the Year
Director of Theater Education, Troy University

Ms. Cameron McKinley

2007 Alabama Teacher of the Year, NBCT
Technology Coach, Hoover City Schools

Ms. Pamela Harman

2006 Alabama Teacher of the Year, NBCT
Spain Park High School, Hoover City Schools

Ms. Tammy Dunn

2003 Alabama Teacher of the Year, NBCT
Program Director, A+ College Ready

Dr. Betsy Rogers

2002 Alabama Teacher of the Year
2003 National Teacher of the Year, NBCT
Chair, Teacher Education, Samford University

Dr. Tonya Perry

2000 Alabama Teacher of the Year
Finalist National Teacher of the Year, NBCT
Assistant Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Ann Dominick, Ed.D.

1999 Alabama Teacher of the Year, 1994 NSF Presidential
Award winner for Teaching of Elem. Mathematics
Assistant Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Ms. Robin Litaker

1997 Alabama Teacher of the Year
Hoover City Schools

Milken Education Award Winners

Jennifer Edwards

Milken National Educator, 2010
Reading Interventionist, Crumly Chapel Elementary
Jefferson County Schools

Mrs. Dilhani Uswatte

Milken National Educator, 2009
Asst. Principal, Rocky Ridge Elem., Hoover City Schools

Lynn McCain

Milken National Educator, 2006
5th Grade Teacher, J E Turner Elementary
Mobile County Schools

Stoney M. Beavers, Ph.D.

Milken National Educator, 2005
AL Secondary Teacher of the Year, 2007
Sec. Curriculum Coordinator, Blount County Schools

Gwen Childs

Milken National Educator, 2002; NBCT
1st Grade Teacher, Vestavia Hills Elementary East
Vestavia Hills City Schools

Tammy Alexander, Ph.D.

Milken National Educator, 1998
Director, AAMU/UAH Regional Inservice Center

Ron Dodson, Ph.D.

Milken National Educator, 1998
Asst. Superintendent, Hoover City Schools

Oveta W. Pearce

Milken National Educator, 1998
Director, Federal Programs, Enterprise City Schools

Testified at Hearing

Deborah B. Fletcher

Principal, St. Elmo Elementary, Mobile County Schools

Amy Lowe

Teacher, George Hall Elementary, Mobile County Schools

Susan Pruet

Program Director, Engaging Youth through Engineering
Mobile Area Education Foundation

Judy Welch

Teacher, Wetumpka Elementary School, Elmore Co. Schools
Member of Alabama Math Course of Study Committee

*National Board Certified Teacher