## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## A+ Education Partnership releases its first edition of Alabama Public Education at a Glance

A+ Education Partnership released this week its newest publication, <u>Alabama Public Education at a Glance</u>, a collection of important data on P-12 (pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) public education in Alabama. This publication is the first in what will be an annual series to inform policymakers and the public about where Alabama schools and students stand.

## The book includes:

- data on college and career readiness of high school graduates,
- demographics for school systems,
- breakdowns of various achievement gaps,
- summaries of education revenues and expenditures, and
- pre-k information on how Alabama stacks up compared to other states.

A+ pulled together the most currently available data from reliable and impartial sources into one publication for a simple reference of statewide and local school information. Because the book was published prior to the release of the first year of ACT Aspire scores, it includes assessment information from the 2012-13 Alabama Reading and Math Test (ARMT) in order to provide a snapshot for each district. ACT Aspire has replaced the ARMT for grades 3 - 8, and will be included in future editions.

A+ created this publication to help inform leaders and policy makers of Alabama's current progress and its challenges.

"It's critical to root important decisions in hard data and facts," said A+ policy director, Thomas Rains. "This book provides that by presenting unbiased information about where Alabama stands, and it highlights how critical it is to continue working toward finding more of the many solutions needed to solve the complex issues in our education system."

An electronic copy can be <u>downloaded</u> from the A+ website, aplusala.org. Hard copies are also available to order <u>online</u> for \$10 per book to cover the costs of printing and shipping. Contact A+ communications director, Jill West, for bulk quantities or special requests. (334) 279-1886, ext. 207, or jill@aplusala.org.