

A+ Education Partnership will actively work to:

Business Education Alliance's Teachers Matter Report

- + Ensure through regulation, legislation and/or appropriation of funds the implementation of recommendations from the BEA's 2015 report, Teachers Matter, including:
 - Raising standards for recruitment and admission to and graduation from teacher preparation programs.
 - Providing financial incentives for teachers who commit to work in hard-to-staff schools and high-need fields.
 - Implementing in all school systems a teacher effectiveness evaluation system that includes measures of student performance, encourages professional growth, and can ultimately inform employment and tenure decisions. These evaluations should be accompanied by support for improving effectiveness for teachers entering and continuing in the field, including mentors for new teachers.
 - Developing pathways for teachers to grow professionally while remaining in teaching roles.
 - Creating financial incentives for schools that achieve improved high-level student results.

College and Career Ready Standards

- + Protect and fully implement the College and Career Ready Standards and Plan 2020.

Innovation

- + Foster innovation through flexibility waivers and the creation of sound policy and regulation for public charter schools. This includes:
 - Creation of a clear and thorough process for approval/denial of public charter school applications to the Alabama Public Charter School Commission
 - Promotion of innovative ideas in flexibility waivers approved by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Transparency

- + Improve transparency of Alabama schools and systems' performance through creation and dissemination of Alabama Public Education at a Glance, and promotion of PARCA's district-level data analysis.

Pre-k

- + Expand the number of students entering school ready to learn through expansion of state-funded high-quality First Class pre-k classrooms.



State Longitudinal Data System

- + Create a State Longitudinal Data System and other means of improving transparency and data-driven policymaking in Alabama’s education and workforce systems.

Education Trust Fund Budget

- + Maintain funding in Education Trust Fund budget for programs with proven effectiveness, including but not limited to:
 - Advanced Placement
 - Alabama Reading Initiative
 - Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative
 - Student Assessments
 - Office of School Readiness (First Class Pre-k)
 - Teach For America
 - Arts Education
 - Other items outlined in the State Department of Education budget request

A+ will support efforts to:

- + Create a **common definition of remediation** for all students entering post-secondary education in Alabama, whether two-year or four-year schools.
- + Launch a **grade-level reading campaign** with the Alabama Literacy Alliance.
- + Expand high-speed wireless Internet connectivity in schools through adoption of the **WIRED plan** for improved infrastructure across Alabama.
- + Improve **wrap-around services** for students in Alabama schools, including but not limited to law enforcement, social workers, guidance counselors, and mental health providers.
- + Improve Alabama’s **school funding** formula by:
 - Shifting to a weighted, per-pupil-based formula.
 - Create a statewide “Achievement School District” of low-performing schools similar to those in Louisiana and Tennessee.
 - Promote school innovation through after-school and summer-learning programs.
 - Return Alabama to performance-based budgeting, as endorsed by PARCA.
 - Improve data transparency around performance of students who attend private schools with the help of tax credits and scholarships.