



Great Schools for Every Child

2019-2020



The A+ Approach: Advocacy and Practice



STATE ACTION



A+ Education Partnership serves as the voice for students at the state level, working with elected and appointed officials to advocate for statewide policies and funding that support a high quality education for all Alabama students, no matter where they live.

LOCAL IMPACT

A+ also works directly with local schools and districts. We advance quality teaching and learning in county and city school districts while simultaneously seeking to create change "at the top" for critical funding and resources that local school districts need.



The Alabama Best Practices Center supports local teachers, principals, and superintendents from across the state with cutting-edge, network-based professional learning.



A+ College Ready partners with middle and high schools to increase access to and preparation for Advanced Placement courses by training teachers to raise academic expectations in grades 6-12.

Shifting and Adapting Support: A Letter from our President



A+ Family,

Needless to say, 2020 has been an unprecedented year. While we all work to address immediate needs of our communities, our focus at A+ Education Partnership remains constant: what's best for Alabama students.

Over the last year, A+ has focused on supporting the implementation of new laws passed in 2019 by the Alabama Legislature on literacy and computer science, along with advocating for the successful passage of a new Math Course of Study by the State Board of Education and providing new teacher training in math and computer science.

When the pandemic hit in March, schools were closed for the last two months of the year and suddenly we were in the new normal of remote learning. So, A+ adapted to serve the changing needs of teachers and students.

Our team built a [one-stop shop](#) of curated resources to help teachers and parents with the immediate challenge of remote teaching and learning. We also provided continuous updates regarding school closures and the impact of the pandemic. Our Alabama Best Practices Center and A+ College Ready programs immediately shifted the professional learning we provide to nearly 2,000 teachers each year from in-person to online.

In addition, our advocacy work continues to have an impact. The education budget passed by the Alabama Legislature included increased funding backed by A+ in literacy, math, summer learning, computer science, and more.

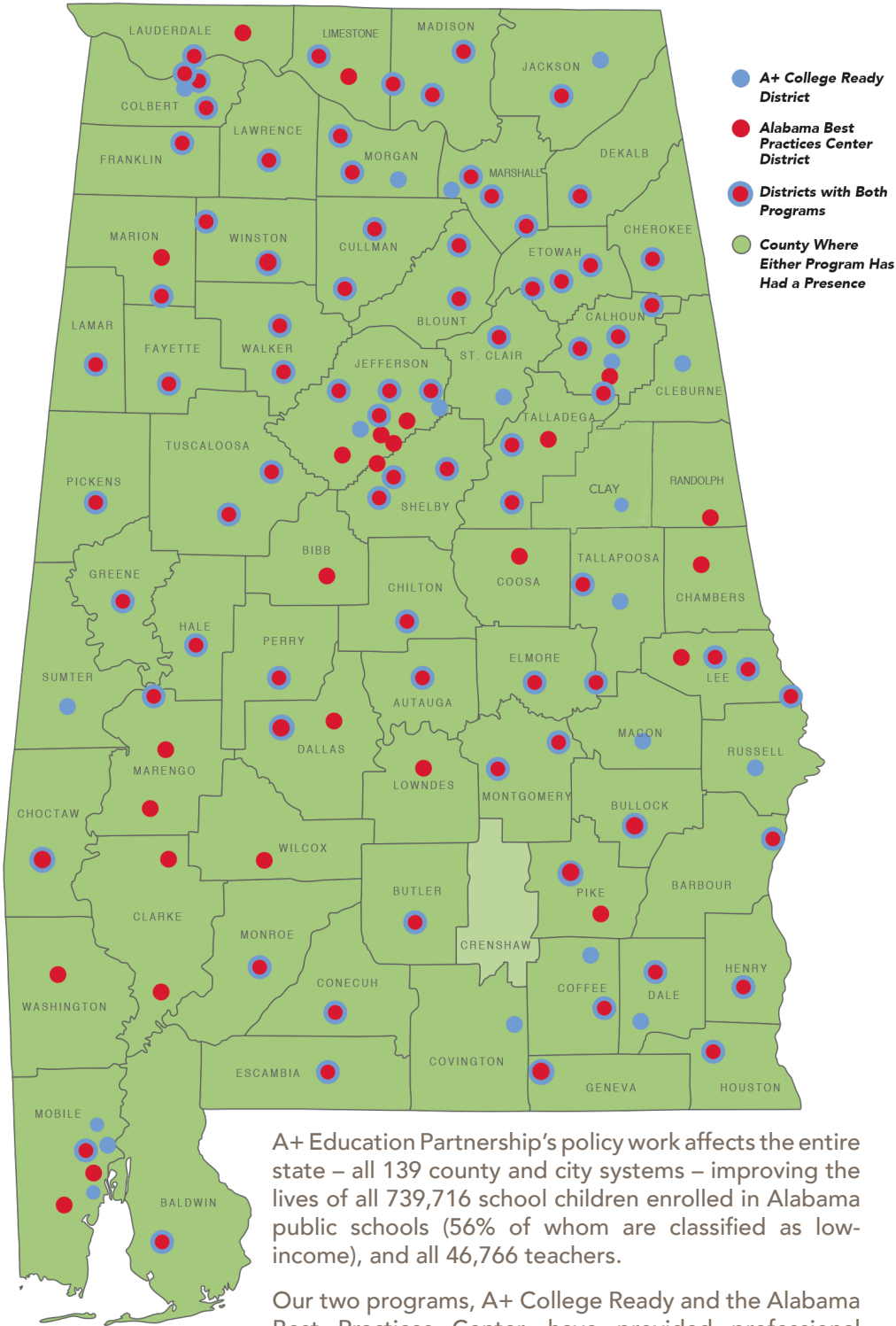
The latest research shows students may lose 30% of their reading progress and half to all of their math growth from last year due to the "COVID Slide." Add in poverty, lack of access to devices and broadband, and no in-person teaching, and the future is challenging for Alabama, which was already 49th in reading and 52nd in math. Addressing these challenges will require a multi-faceted approach from state and local leaders, and A+ will be there to support them.

In this report you will find examples of the work we are doing to meet the changing needs of Alabama students. I am incredibly proud of how quickly, nimbly, and effectively our team has responded and adapted to the crisis, and we are grateful for the ongoing support of our partners as we work to continue creating great schools for every child.

#GreatSchoolsForEveryChild

Mark E. Dixon
President

Who We Serve



A+ Education Partnership's policy work affects the entire state – all 139 county and city systems – improving the lives of all 739,716 school children enrolled in Alabama public schools (56% of whom are classified as low-income), and all 46,766 teachers.

Our two programs, A+ College Ready and the Alabama Best Practices Center, have provided professional development and training in 125 city and county public school systems, about 90% of all Alabama systems.

State Action: A+ Education Partnership



A+ Education Partnership is the most respected and influential driver of student-focused public education transformation in Alabama. As a non-profit, non-partisan advocate, our work with state leaders results in significant improvement to public education for **ALL** Alabama students.

For the 2020 Legislative Session, A+ worked to advance budgetary decisions that provide critical supports for students and teachers. While the economic fallout of the COVID-19 epidemic resulted in fewer dollars allocated towards education than originally planned, A+ worked tirelessly with state leaders to ensure that budget allocations for the FY 2021 Education Trust Fund budget were made strategically to advance student achievement.

To view our full **2020 Legislative Priorities Playbook**, visit

aplusala.org/2020-legislative-playbook.



Wins for the Fiscal Year 2021 Education Trust Fund Budget:

- ✓ Increased funding for the Alabama Literacy Act to help all students read on grade level by the end of 3rd grade: **\$26.9 million** for literacy coaches and summer school. Plus an additional **\$9.8 million** in supplemental funds for teacher training.
- ✓ Increased funding to support Alabama's nationally-recognized computer science education expansion: **\$2 million** for teacher training.
- ✓ Supported efforts to provide high-quality math instruction to all students: **\$2.7 million** for math coaches and teacher training.
- ✓ Continued expanding access to Advanced Placement courses for all students: **\$7.4 million** total, level funding from last year.
- ✓ Continued expanding Alabama's First Class Pre-K Program: **\$6 million** increase.

Local Impact: A+ College Ready



Our A+ College Ready program continues to open the door for all middle and high school students in Alabama to aim higher and reach their academic potential, including participation in Advanced Placement (AP) work. We provide teacher training to develop a diverse pipeline of students prepared for rigorous high school coursework.



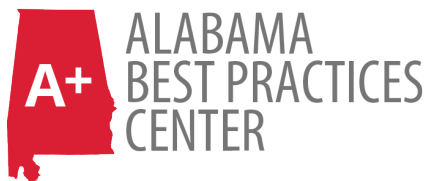
In 2008, A+ Education Partnership created A+ College Ready in collaboration with the Alabama State Department of Education to increase access to Advanced Placement courses. This 3-year grant program is now available to Alabama middle and high schools.

In response to COVID 19, our trainings for 6th through 12th grade teachers in 25 courses in math, science, English, social studies, and computer science, have gone virtual.

Specific Actions Taken for COVID-19 Support:

- Produced 28 virtual study sessions preparing students for Advanced Placement exams, with **100-250 students attending each session**.
- Recreated E3 training (rigorous curricula program for 6th-10th grade teachers) as a virtual model so teachers can implement rigorous coursework when students return to the classroom. **Over 1,500 Alabama teachers have registered so far.**
- Developed a **virtual computer science training for 350+ teachers statewide** to meet new state requirements for providing high-quality computer science courses in every high school for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Created a **virtual training experience for administrators** of program schools, replacing what had been a 2 day, in-person training.

Local Impact: Alabama Best Practices Center



Our Alabama Best Practices Center is a dynamic program that empowers teachers and administrators to develop the competence, commitment and courage to improve student learning through collaborative networks with cutting-edge professional learning.



A+ Education Partnership launched the Alabama Best Practices Center in 1999 to fill the need for effective professional learning for teachers, principals and superintendents in Alabama.

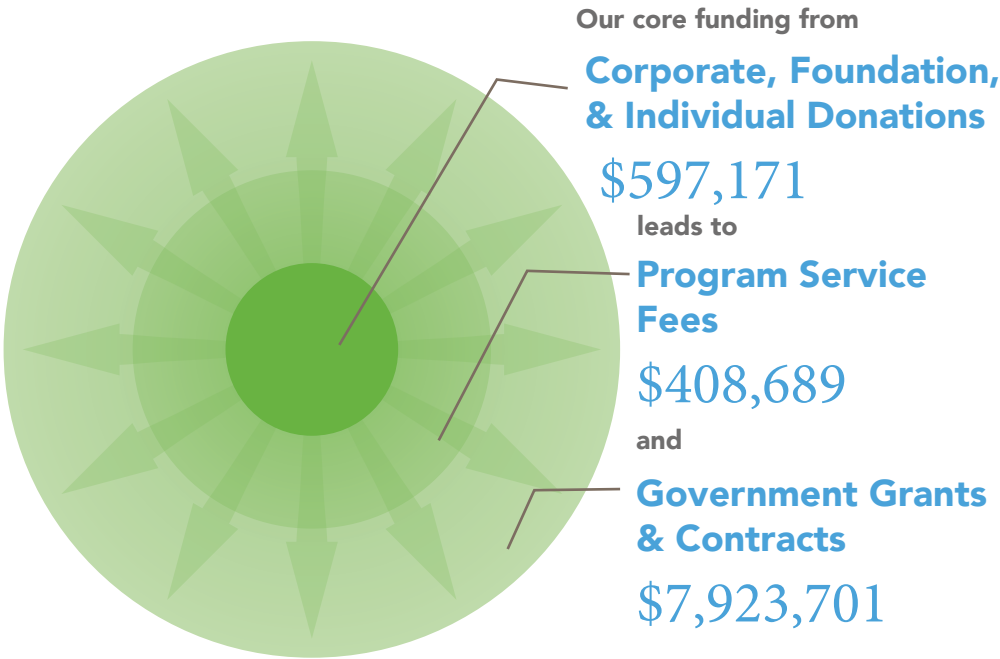
In response to **COVID 19**, we adapted our networks of teachers, principals, and superintendents to virtual learning, so they could continue to receive quality, timely professional learning when and where they needed it.

Specific Actions Taken for COVID-19 Support:

- Created **online courses for 611 network members** (superintendents, principals and teachers) to share challenges and solutions with one another and earn recertification credits, **impacting approximately 400,000 (over 1/2) of all Alabama students.**
- Collaborating with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) to create a new network **to support and provide training to 75 schools deemed "failing"** under Alabama law (bottom 6%).
- Developed a **comprehensive online resource bank** along with other interactive social media content for educators, parents, and students with links to vetted lessons, ideas, and materials for online learning.
- Held **weekly meetings with key ALSDE staff** to ascertain and address needs.
- **Created "office hours" for any Alabama educators** needing real-time support during remote learning.

What it Takes

A+ changes the way public dollars are spent on education in the state of Alabama. Through a public-private partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education, A+ manages the legislative allocation for Advanced Placement, Computer Science teacher training, AP test fees for low-income students, professional development for teachers and school leaders, and rigorous curricula in middle schools. In fact, every dollar we receive from our donors generates thirteen dollars from grants and program fees.



A+ uses its money efficiently, limits administrative costs, and maintains reserves to invest in continuously improving our programs.

*FY 2019 Total Expenses –	\$877,652 – Administrative (10%)
	<u>\$7,906,853</u> – Programming Services
	\$8,784,505

*Per FY 2019 audited revenues and expenses

Every \$1 received from donors generates \$13 from government grants and program participants.



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in **ALABAMA** has
the **OPPORTUNITY**
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to **SUCCEED**
in **EDUCATION,**
the **WORKFORCE**
and **CIVIC LIFE.**

#GreatSchoolsForEveryChild

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