

A top-down photograph of a child's hands holding a brown football with white laces. The child is wearing a red sweater and blue pants. The background is a blurred green field.

**CREATING GREAT SCHOOLS  
for EVERY CHILD**

*The 2020 Legislative Playbook*



**EDUCATION  
PARTNERSHIP**





A+ Education Partnership, a trusted education adviser in Alabama, presents this **2020 Legislative Playbook** to highlight essential policies to improve public education for EVERY Alabama student.

We believe ALL students can be champions. If we work as a team to execute these plays, more Alabama graduates can cross the goal line prepared for college, career, and life.

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PLAY  
#1

LITERACY



## **INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE ALABAMA LITERACY ACT TO HELP ALL STUDENTS READ ON GRADE LEVEL BY THE END OF 3RD GRADE**

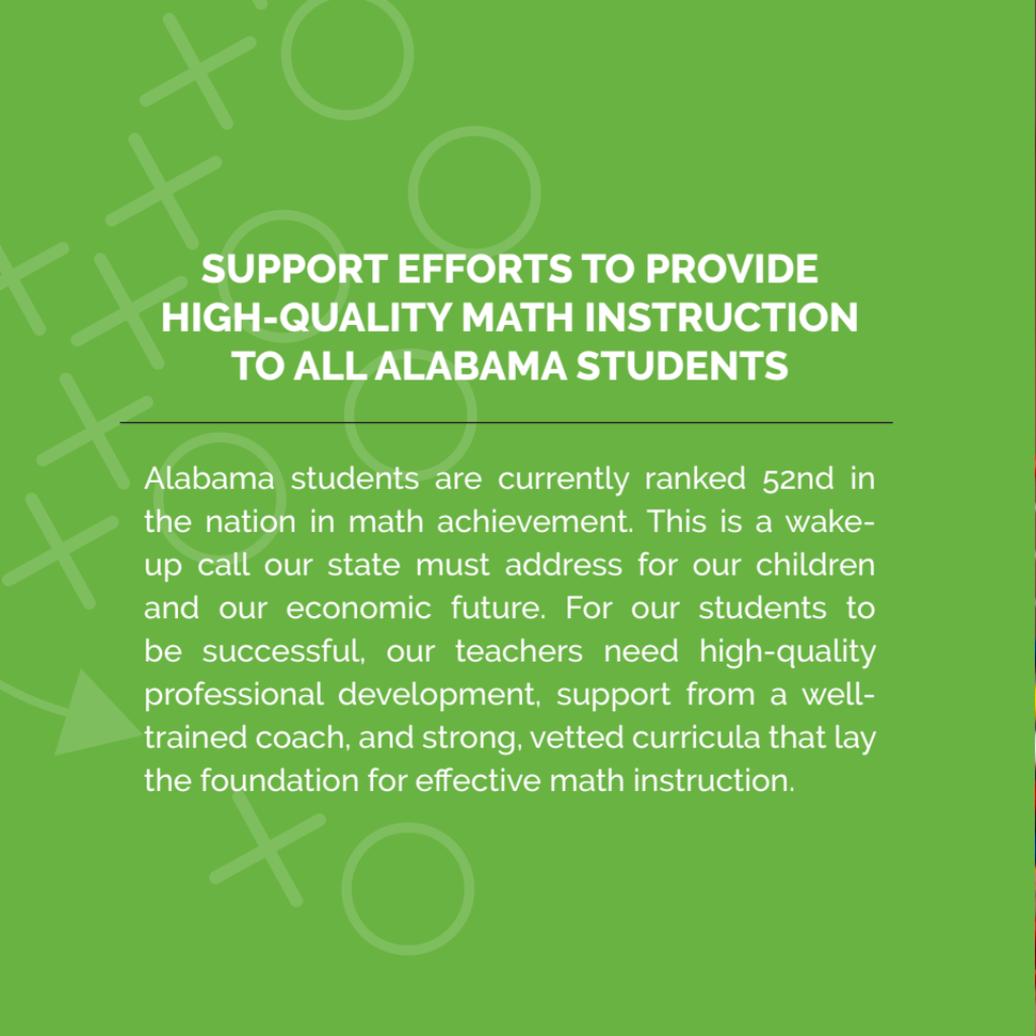
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According to the American Educational Research Association, a student who can't read on grade level by 3rd grade is 4X less likely to graduate high school. Add poverty to the mix, and a student is 13X less likely to graduate than their wealthier peers. By contrast, 96% of 3rd graders who are reading on grade level will graduate from high school. Funding would support expanded training in the science of reading, additional coaches, and summer programs.

PLAY  
#2

MATH





## **SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY MATH INSTRUCTION TO ALL ALABAMA STUDENTS**

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Alabama students are currently ranked 52nd in the nation in math achievement. This is a wake-up call our state must address for our children and our economic future. For our students to be successful, our teachers need high-quality professional development, support from a well-trained coach, and strong, vetted curricula that lay the foundation for effective math instruction.



PLAY  
#3

PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

# FUND PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS PILOT, CREATING CAREER ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO KEEP OUR BEST TEACHERS IN THE CLASSROOM

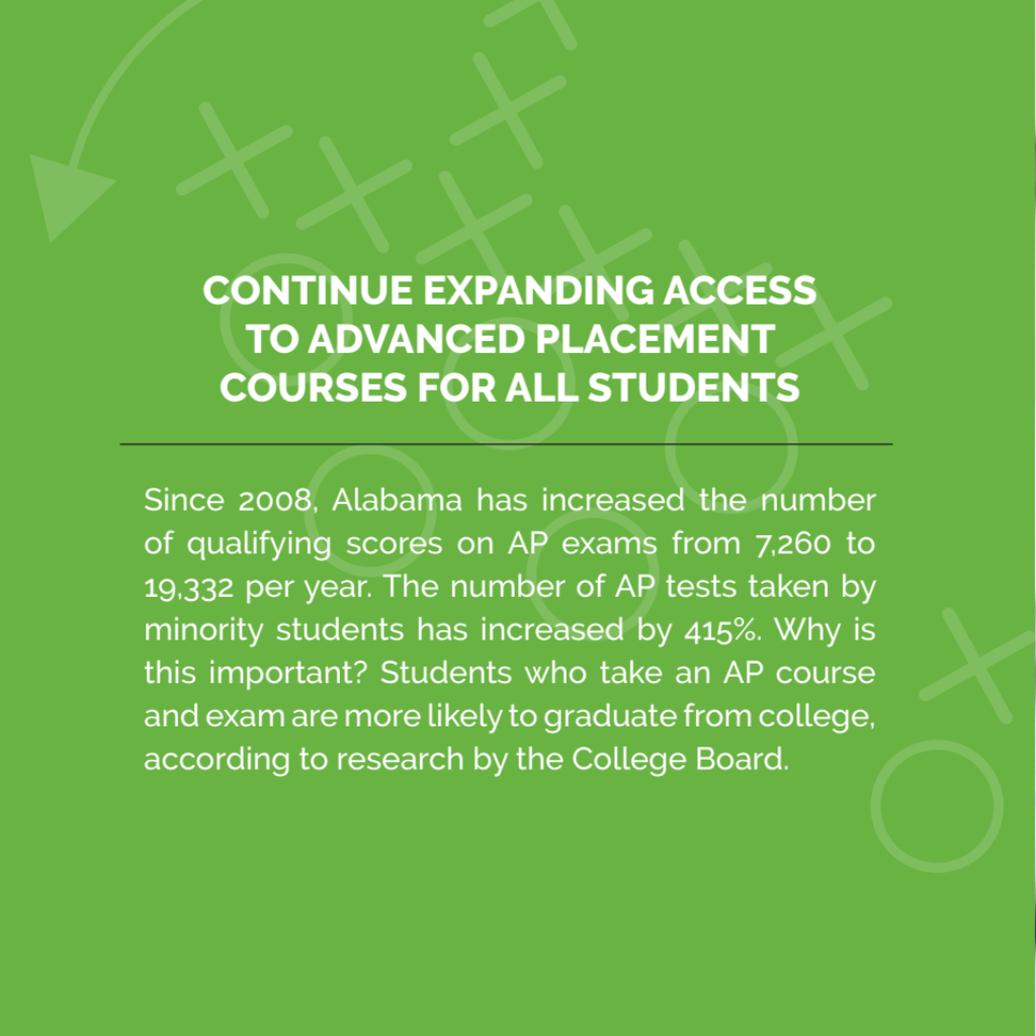
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Alabama is facing a teacher shortage crisis that requires immediate action to both recruit and retain talent. Nearly 1 in 10 Alabama teachers leave the classroom every year,  $\frac{2}{3}$  of whom seek other career opportunities, according to Alabama's Teacher Shortage Task Force. Moreover, the top two reasons students surveyed by the ACT in 2018 say they are not interested in becoming teachers are low pay (63%) and lack of career advancement opportunities (43%). Providing effective teachers more growth opportunities, such as becoming Master Teachers, allows them to expand their impact and earn higher salaries without going into administration.

PLAY  
#4

ADVANCED PLACEMENT





## **CONTINUE EXPANDING ACCESS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES FOR ALL STUDENTS**

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Since 2008, Alabama has increased the number of qualifying scores on AP exams from 7,260 to 19,332 per year. The number of AP tests taken by minority students has increased by 415%. Why is this important? Students who take an AP course and exam are more likely to graduate from college, according to research by the College Board.



PLAY  
#5

COMPUTER SCIENCE

## **INCREASE FUNDING TO SUPPORT ALABAMA'S NATIONALLY- RECOGNIZED COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION EXPANSION**

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With the passage of the 2019 Computer Science Bill, Alabama became a national leader in expanding computer science education. All of Alabama's public schools will be required to teach the computer science skills students need to enter a changing workforce and fill the 5,000+ open computer science jobs in Alabama. Increased funding is needed to expand training for Alabama teachers to teach this important subject matter.



PLAY  
#6

EQUITABLE SCHOOL FUNDING

## **ENSURE MORE RESOURCES AND FUNDING ARE GOING TO SCHOOLS THAT NEED THEM MOST**

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Students living in poverty need more support to succeed in school and life. According to data from the AL State Department of Education, 4/10 white public school students live in poverty while a staggering 7/10 Black students live in poverty in our state. According to EdBuild, Alabama is currently 1 of only 8 states that doesn't consider student characteristics when distributing state funding to schools and students. Policymakers can begin to ensure each child gets the adequate resources they need in school by studying other states' funding models and their impacts.



PLAY  
#7

HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS



## DEFEND HIGH STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS, ASSESS THEM EFFECTIVELY, AND HOLD OUR SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABLE

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High academic standards and data matter! When we commit to challenging **every student** in the classroom and consistently assessing their progress, we have a truly accurate picture of how we're performing and where to make necessary adjustments.

PLAY  
#00

PRE-K



## **CONTINUE EXPANDING ALABAMA'S FIRST CLASS PRE-K PROGRAM**

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Children who have access to Alabama's high quality Pre-K are more likely to be proficient in reading and math and are less likely to have discipline infractions later in school. These gains are sustained through 8th grade, according to the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA). Continued expansion would ensure more 4-year-olds have access to this nationally-recognized program.





**ALABAMA STUDENTS WIN**  
*With a Quality Education!*



**A+ Education Partnership** is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works with elected and appointed officials in Montgomery and beyond to promote policies that move Alabama public school education in the right direction.



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