

A



If your plan is for one year, plant rice.

If your plan is for ten years, plant trees.

*If your plan is for one hundred years,
educate children.*

— CONFUCIUS



“ Our schools and systems were never designed for what we’re asking them to do today—to rigorously educate every child in a diverse nation. Making that possible will indeed require big changes to policies governing staffing, spending, and much else...School reform isn’t about having good ideas...it’s about how those ideas actually work for students and educators.”

— FREDERICK HESS

Director of Education Policy Studies,
American Enterprise Institute

Our MISSION is to drive improvements in public education for every Alabama student. We set and deliver high expectations by advocating for policies, practices, and investments that advance learning, and by partnering with schools to build the capacity of teachers and leaders.





Who we are

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



Alabama's Challenge

2016

2017

graduation rate

87%

Federally Reported
Graduation Rate for AL

89%

college and career
readiness rate

66%

Students that Met at Least
1 of 6 Readiness Indicators

71%

readiness gap

21%

18%

“ The Readiness Gap is one of the most serious issues facing our schools. Failure to address this will only result in more high school graduates and their families being led to believe they are ready for the next step in their lives when they are not, harming public education and depressing our state's economic growth. ”

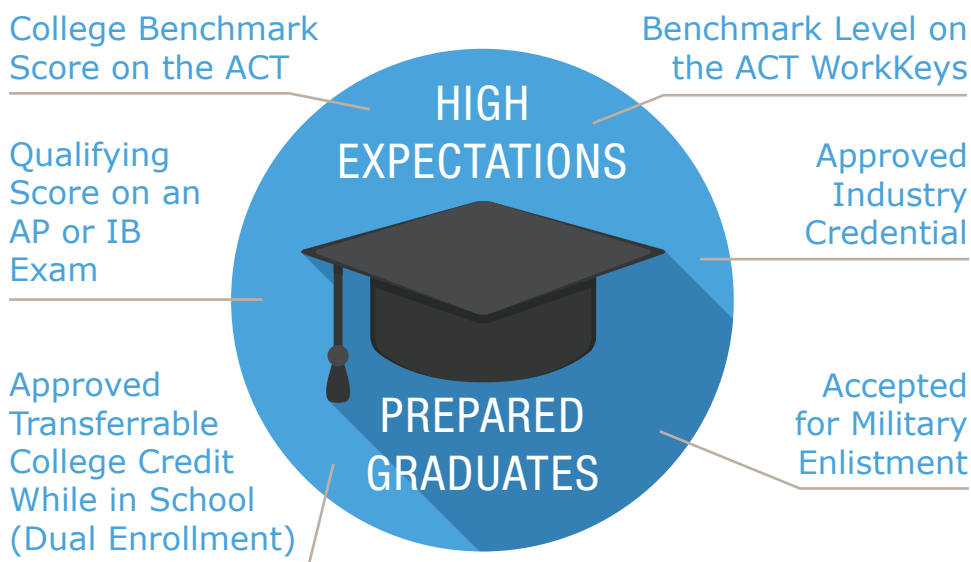
— DR. ED RICHARDSON

Former AL State Superintendent of Education

The A+ Solution

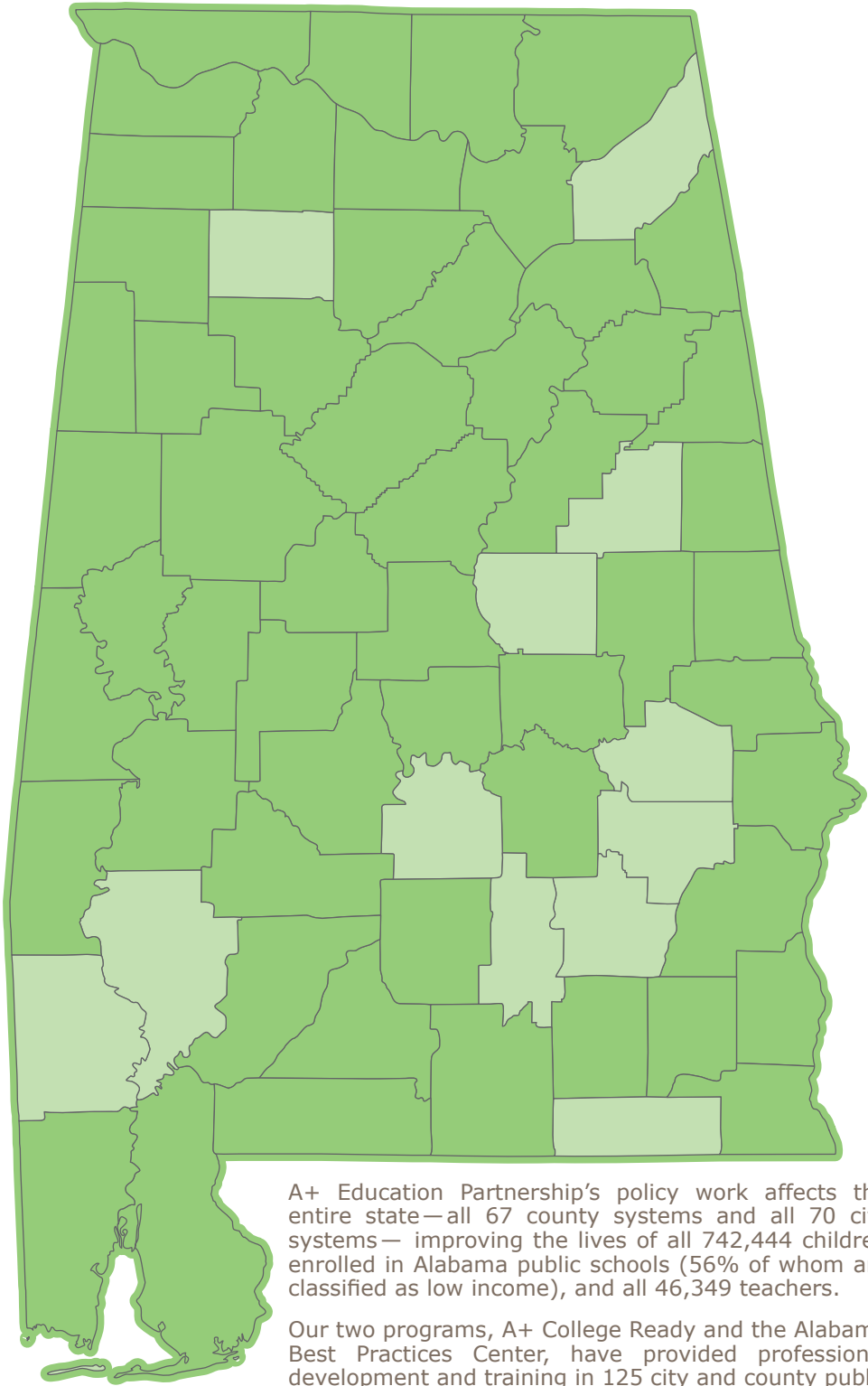
In 2012, with the guidance of A+ Education Partnership, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted 6 College- and Career-Readiness Indicators in order to provide more real-world measures of a student's preparation for life after high school.

In order to be deemed prepared for a future in post-secondary education, the workforce, or life, a student must meet at least one of the following indicators:



Our **GOAL** is to ensure that **EVERY CHILD** has multiple pathways to **SUCCESS** in POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, the **workforce** and **citizenship**.

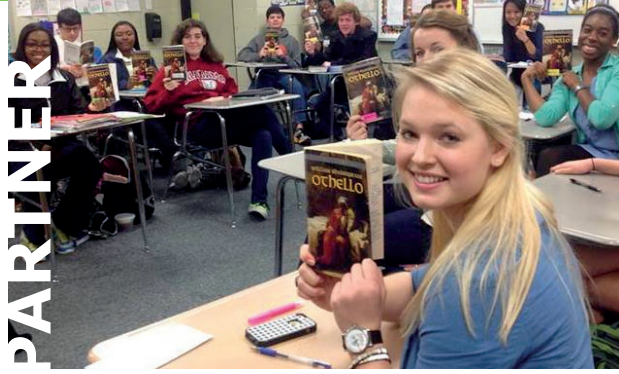
The Reach of A+



A+ Education Partnership’s policy work affects the entire state—all 67 county systems and all 70 city systems— improving the lives of all 742,444 children enrolled in Alabama public schools (56% of whom are classified as low income), and all 46,349 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 91% of all Alabama districts.

What We Do



A+ Education Partnership works to **EQUIP**, **EMPOWER**, and **EXPECT MORE** for Alabama students and teachers.

We **EQUIP** through our policy work, partnering with elected and appointed officials to help shape policies and promote public investments in proven practices, such as high-quality pre-k, professional development for teachers and school leaders in STEM, English, social studies, and computer science, and holding students to high standards that prepare them to be competitive.

We **EMPOWER** through our Alabama Best Practices Center, leading and facilitating networks of teachers, principals, and district leaders across Alabama and supporting our educators with timely professional development, resulting in improved teaching and learning.

We **EXPECT MORE** from our students through A+ College Ready, by partnering with middle and high schools to develop a diverse pipeline of students prepared for rigorous high school course work and Advanced Placement, so as to ensure more of our high school graduates are prepared for college, career, and life.

Equip.
Empower.
Expect More.

2017 Accomplishments

Equip

142_{pre-k}
CLASSROOMS ADDED

As a founding member of the Alabama School Readiness Alliance (ASRA), worked to increase spending for Alabama's "First Class" Pre-K program by \$18.5 million, adding 142 more pre-k classrooms

\$4_{million}
ADDED TO THE ALABAMA
READING INITIATIVE

Advocated for adding \$4 million to state budget to reinvigorate the Alabama Reading Initiative for kindergarten through third grade, raising the total state investment to over \$44 million

15_{th} state
TO ADOPT COMPUTER
SCIENCE STANDARDS

Partnering with the Governor, ALSDE, State Board of Education, the University of Alabama, and Code.org to develop and adopt Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards, making Alabama the 15th state to adopt the standards

Empower

72_{sessions}
ACROSS THE STATE

Facilitated 72 research-based professional learning sessions for 58 districts and 135 schools

15_{instructional rounds}
CONDUCTED
Held 15 Instructional Rounds, adapted from medical rounds, for teachers, principals and school leaders

5_{regional networks}
FACILITATED
Facilitated five regional Powerful Conversations Network divisions with 122 schools, providing teachers and leaders the opportunity to learn with and from one another four times a year

Expect More

28,000
students

TOOK AP EXAMS

Expanded program to 161 high schools and 76 districts with 28,000 students taking AP exams, (quadruple the number since 2008)

170%
increase

IN AP QUALIFYING SCORES

Effected a 170% increase in qualifying AP exam scores, potentially saving Alabama families over \$80 million in college costs, expanding access to under-represented students in rigorous coursework

72 schools

ADDED COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

Brought Computer Science Education initiative to 72 Alabama high schools, receiving national attention from partner Code.org for being the second state in the nation, per capita, in students enrolled in AP Computer Science

900+
teachers

USED OUR CURRICULAR FRAMEWORKS

Built curricular frameworks used by 900+ teachers for 21 courses in 6th – 10th grades and pre-calculus, creating a more robust and more diverse pipeline of students prepared for challenging courses in high school

A+ Equips Through Policy



A+ Education Partnership has been a tireless supporter of Alabama students, teachers, and leaders since its inception. A+ plays an integral role in opening the doors for increased opportunity for all students, from their involvement in the highly successful Alabama Reading Initiative to their Alabama Best Practices Center and A+ College Ready programs, all designed to enhance opportunities for both students and teachers.

— DR. ERIC MACKEY
AL State Superintendent of Education

How We Do It



EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP



A+ partners with other organizations, public officials, and individuals to ensure every child in Alabama has the opportunity for success. We work directly, often behind the scenes, with elected and appointed officials to shape education policy and spending.

We promote investments in what works, like:

- **Research-based practices** such as high-quality pre-k
- **Professional development**
- **High academic standards**
- **Innovation** in schools

Because good policy alone cannot ensure the quality of day-to-day teaching, we also operate two direct service programs. These connect teachers and leaders to each other and to proven educational practices. These educators also identify needs that we translate into policy. This two-pronged approach, working in both the field and policy arena, is what sets us apart in our state and in our region.

A+ Empowers Through ABPC



“ My entire career has been immensely impacted and positively shaped by the professional learning I have experienced through the Alabama Best Practices Center (ABPC). The ABPC has a powerful ripple effect on countless educators, instructional leaders, and most importantly, students. Through my learning with ABPC I have discovered a multitude of best practices and high-impact strategies, more than I ever would have learned through any other trainings. The most critical impact has been on my students. ”

— BETH SANDERS

Coordinator of Instructional Technology,
Pike Road Elementary School

How We Do It



The Alabama Best Practices Center (ABPC) is a program designed to support Alabama's teachers, principals, superintendents, and other leaders with ongoing and timely professional development. Our goal is to help those who serve our students develop the competence, confidence, and courage to do whatever it takes to improve learning.

The purpose of our work:

- **Develop the next generation of leaders**
- **Raise expectations** for what is possible by inspiring and informing teachers across the state
- **Connect superintendents, principals, and teachers** across the state to each other, and to proven education strategies
- **Conduct instructional rounds**, adapted for schools from the medical rounds process, to identify specific areas of focus and gather evidence of progress
- **Connect instructional coaches** to ongoing professional learning and support so they can help teachers improve their practice

The learning from all networks combined now impacts about 26,800 teachers and 400,000 public school students.

A+ Expects More Through A+CR



“You wouldn’t imagine sending your kid to a school that didn’t teach biology, or that didn’t teach history or English. Today you shouldn’t imagine sending your kid to a school that doesn’t offer computer science either. Alabama is actually one of the states that is leading in the grassroots support of computer science. It came from being one of the last states per capita to offer computer science, and now it is #2 in the nation.”

— HADI PARTOVI
Founder & CEO of Code.org

How We Do It



A+ College Ready (A+CR) partners with middle and high schools to create cultures of high expectations for all students, teachers and administrators. We develop a diverse pipeline of students prepared for rigorous high school coursework and promote Advanced Placement (AP). We “open the doors” to AP for all students, including those who have previously been overlooked, by providing professional development, equipment, and incentives for teachers in 6th–12th grades in math, science, English, social studies, and computer science.

We believe all Alabama students should be well-prepared to pursue post-secondary education or any other path they choose.

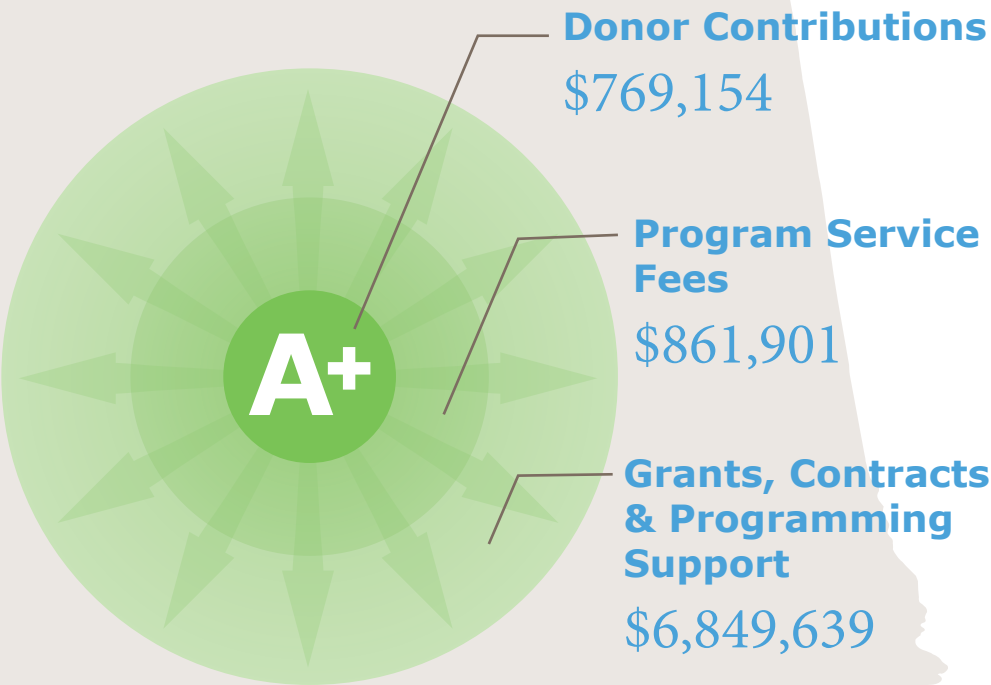
How we achieve this:

- **Increasing the number of students** engaged in cognitively complex tasks that promote access to higher-level academic classes
- **Training, supporting and equipping** teachers with research-based teaching strategies, deeper content knowledge, and classroom resources
- **Empowering administrators** to be more effective instructional leaders

In 2017, A+CR also emerged as a leader in the state in the expansion of K-12 computer science education. We partnered with Code.org, ALSDE, Governor Ivey, and the University of Alabama to bring computer science to **every** Alabama school by 2022.

What It Takes

A+ leverages donor contributions to generate funding for programs through grants, programming support from the Alabama State Department of Education, and participant fees.



For every \$1 invested in A+ by donors and program participants, we generate \$10 from grants and the public sector.

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

*FY 2017 Total Expenses –	\$569,854	– Administrative (7.5%)
	\$7,010,377	– Programming Services
	<u>\$7,580,231</u>	

*Per FY 2017 audited revenues and expenses

How We Do It



A+ changes the way public dollars are spent by demonstrating how wise investments in good programs can be replicated and expanded. Revenue sources include a public-private partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education to manage the legislative allocation for Advanced Placement. The state contributes a sustainable funding stream, and A+ College Ready delivers measurable impact. Fees-for-service from school systems provide sustainable funding for the Alabama Best Practices Center, and ABPC delivers the support educators choose to increase their effectiveness.

A+ work supported by our donors includes:

- Research and briefs
- Advocacy for policies and investments in proven practices
- Communicating the need for reform and high expectations for students
- Management of all advocacy and programming work
- Fiscal oversight and advocacy for the Alabama School Readiness Alliance (ASRA) and Alabama GRIT (*Graduate Ready. Impact Tomorrow.*), two coalitions of existing organizations focusing on specific policy objectives, without creating new 501(c)(3) organizations

“What I find remarkable about A+ Education Partnership is its return on a donor's investment. Very few nonprofits are able to say that for every dollar donated they are able to generate \$10 in grants and public sector support.”

JOHN M. TURNER

CEO Regions Financial Corporation and
Board Member of A+ Education Partnership





Our VISION is that every child in Alabama has the opportunity and support to succeed in education, the workforce, and civic life.



APLUSALA.ORG

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