



EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP



2025-2026 | Annual Report
**Strengthening Opportunities
for Alabama Students**



Who We Are

A+ Education Partnership works to support successful classrooms by utilizing our unique approach through our advocacy and programmatic work to ensure every student has the resources and support they need to thrive.



We do this through:

STATEWIDE, STUDENT-CENTERED ADVOCACY

Advising state leaders on evidence-based education policy and budgetary solutions to provide a world-class education for every Alabama student.

- ✓ \$737 million invested in A+ priorities in the FY 2027 Education Trust Fund Budget
- ✓ 33 students through our A+ Student Voices Team held 15 meetings with education decision makers

EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

Providing educators on the ground with high-quality professional learning opportunities and ongoing support in the classroom.

- ✓ Over 1,500 educators served by the A+ College Ready program
- ✓ Over 500 educators served by the A+ Best Practices Center

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

Building a statewide coalition of advocates and organizations to expand access to great schools and economic mobility for all students, regardless of circumstance.

- ✓ Reached over 100 school district leaders and local advocates through the RAISE Act Implementation Webinars and Toolkits
- ✓ 15 ECA members joined A+ at the statehouse and spoke to advocate for increased RAISE Act funding
- ✓ Convened 400 advocates at the Opportunity Summit in partnership with Teach for America - Alabama

Our Mission

DRIVEN BY OUR RELENTLESS BELIEF IN EVERY CHILD, WE PARTNER WITH EDUCATORS, COMMUNITIES, AND POLICYMAKERS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION SO THAT EVERY STUDENT CAN THRIVE.



A Letter from Our Board President

Dear A+ Family,

This year reaffirmed what we have always believed: when Alabamians unite around a shared commitment to our children, real progress follows. The work reflected in this report is evidence of that commitment in action.

Centering Students and Supporting Educators

Your support has allowed A+ to reach deeper into schools and communities across the state. Through the A+ Best Practices Center and A+ College Ready, more than **2,000 educators** participated in high-quality professional development and training this year, building stronger instruction and leadership in schools statewide.

Students met that investment with remarkable results. With A+ College Ready's support, Alabama students earned a record-breaking **33,312 qualifying scores on Advanced Placement exams**, proof of what becomes possible when students are given rigorous preparation and consistent support.

The **A+ Student Voices Team** now comprises 33 student leaders from across Alabama. This year, they held 15 meetings with education decision makers, gathered more than 1,000 responses through their student impact survey, and continued developing the skills and confidence to shape the future of our state.

Investing in Our Schools

Our advocacy has translated into meaningful investments for students and educators, including funding for literacy and numeracy initiatives, principal leadership, expanded

access to high-quality pre-k, rigorous coursework, and excellent instruction.

Last year's passage of the RAISE Act represents a historic shift. After 30 years, Alabama is moving to a student-centered school funding formula that directs more resources to the students who need them most and helps every school support every learner.

At the heart of this progress is community. **The Every Child Alabama Coalition** has grown to 30 nonprofits, businesses, advocates, and parents who share the conviction that a child's zip code should never determine the quality of their education. This coalition deepens our roots in local communities and builds partnerships grounded in a bold, unified vision.

Looking Ahead

There is still much to do, and we have never been more prepared to do it. Your belief in this mission is what drives our momentum. Together, let's keep building an Alabama where every child has the resources, support, and opportunity to thrive.

With deepest gratitude and optimism,



Gordon G. Martin



A+ Board of Directors

Gordon G. Martin; Chair; University of Alabama
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Jim Williams; PARCA - Retired
Mark E. Dixon; A+ Education Partnership - President; ex-officio

Advocating for Alabama Students

There has never been a better time to reimagine our education system and enact smart policies and investments that center the needs of our students. A total of \$737 million was appropriated for A+ priorities in the 2027 Education Trust Fund budget, including the following:



We are working to build an Alabama where...

EVERY CHILD HAS A STRONG START.

Expand access to First Class Pre-K and high-quality childcare programs.

- **2026 Policy Win:** \$209.87 million (\$12.4 million increase)

EVERY CHILD CAN READ ON GRADE LEVEL.

Continue to invest in the strong implementation of the 2019 Alabama Literacy Act.

- **2026 Policy Win:** \$151.95 million (level funded)

EVERY CHILD CAN DO MATH ON GRADE LEVEL.

Continue to invest in the strong implementation of the Alabama Numeracy Act.

- **2026 Policy Win:** \$114 million (\$19 million increase)

EVERY SCHOOL HAS A HIGH-IMPACT PRINCIPAL AND EFFECTIVE TEACHERS.

Continue to invest in strong implementation of the 2023 Alabama School Principal Leadership and Mentoring Act.

- **2026 Policy Wins:** \$33.2 million (\$603,115 increase)

EVERY STUDENT HAS ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY, TRANSFORMATIVE SCHOOLS.

Continue to expand access to high-quality public charter schools in Alabama.

- **2026 Policy Win:** \$10 million was included in the supplemental education budget to support charter schools, in addition to the state funding they already receive.

EVERY STUDENT IS COLLEGE AND CAREER-READY AND HAS ACCESS TO PATHWAYS TO ECONOMIC MOBILITY.

- Continue to expand Advanced Placement.
- Continue to fund Computer Science Education.
- Invest in the successful implementation of the Alabama Works Act to build and expand access to high-quality career pathways for students.

- **2026 Policy Win:** \$13.5 million total for Advanced Placement (level funded)

- **2026 Policy Win:** \$7 million total for Computer Science Education (\$1 million increase)

The RAISE Act: A Groundbreaking Win for Alabama Students

In 2025, Alabama passed the Renewing Alabama Investment in Student Excellence (RAISE) Act, a monumental win sponsored by Representative Danny Garrett and Senator Arthur Orr. This landmark legislation modernized Alabama's school funding formula to direct more resources to students with specific needs, including students in poverty, special education students, English language learners, charter school students, and gifted students. And during the 2026 Legislative Session, the momentum continued with even more funding committed for student needs.



This coming year, a record \$191 million will be distributed to districts to meet student needs, with \$58 million from the Education Trust Fund budget and \$133 million from the RAISE Act Fund. This is an increase of \$25 million from last year.

- **\$86.8 million** for students in poverty, an increase of about \$18.6 million
- **\$54 million** for Special Education Students, an increase of about \$5 million
- **\$34.4 million** for English Language Learners, an increase of about \$900,000
- **\$13.6 million** for Gifted Students, an increase of about 1.4 million
- **\$1.4 million** for Charter School Students, an increase of about \$300,000

Learn More and Get Involved

The passage of the RAISE Act is the first step in increasing funding for Alabama students. As implementation begins, A+ is working to ensure new funding drives effective strategies for students. This year, A+ partnered with national experts at Bellwether to create a four-part webinar series and toolkits outlining best practices for supporting each student group covered by the RAISE Act. Each episode features field experts and Alabama examples, with accompanying toolkits that equip educators and advocates to support implementation at the local level.



**Access these resources
and take action**

The Every Child Alabama Coalition



Launched by A+ in 2024, Every Child Alabama (ECA) is a coalition of 30 organizations and advocates united around ensuring every child in Alabama has access to a world-class education. ECA members played a critical role in the passage of the RAISE Act in 2025 and successfully advocated for increased funding for the RAISE Fund during the 2026 Legislative Session.

During the 2026 Legislative Session, 15 ECA members joined A+ at the statehouse to advocate for increased investment in the RAISE fund. Members spoke directly to over 20 legislators about the importance of ongoing implementation and the impact it is already having in their communities.

“We thought change was impossible and intimidating, but now we are excited to advocate and engage legislators.”

- Emily Herring, School Social Workers of Alabama (SSWAL)

Meet Our Members

Teach For America Alabama
Birmingham Promise
Alabama Arise
New Schools for Alabama
Mobile Area Education Foundation
Black Alabamians For Education
Breakthrough Birmingham
Alabama Goodwill
Faith in Action Alabama
Baldwin County Education Coalition, Inc.
Alabama Possible
Education 4 Life, Inc.
The Hispanic and Immigrant Center of Alabama (¡HICA!)
Alabama Expanded Learning Alliance
New Life Church of God in Christ
Montgomery Ed. Foundation
Alabama Families for Great Schools
VOICES for Alabama's Children
Huntsville Committee of 100
The E.WE Foundation
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program
STAIR
Amp Up Arts
Dr. Anna-Margaret Goldman
Dr. Andrew Pendola
Akribos Group
Dr. Melissa Capehart
Birmingham Ed Foundation
School Social Work Association of Alabama
Joan Wright



Preparing and Supporting Student Advocates



Advocacy in Numbers:

33

Team Members

1,171

Alabama Students Surveyed

22

Schools Represented

15

Meetings with
Education Decision Makers

50

Counties Reached
by Survey

Since 2018, the A+ Student Voices Team has empowered high school students to lead meaningful change by equipping them to analyze education challenges and drive student-centered solutions, ensuring policymakers hear directly from the students their decisions impact most. Each year, students conduct a student climate survey to gather feedback on the most pressing issues in their schools.

Our 2026 student survey revealed:

- 1 Students feel overwhelmed during the school day, and many believe that greater access to mental health professionals would strengthen their support systems.
- 2 Students' motivation is deeply influenced by teacher passion, yet uncertainty about approaching teachers and frequent staff turnover create instability in their learning environments.
- 3 Students face gaps in academic support, with many valuing AI tools but still struggling to access guidance — and few feeling prepared for the next grade level, college, or the workforce.



A+ Students Visit D.C.

The A+ Student Voices Team traveled to Washington, D.C. in June to tour the nation's capital and advocate for Alabama's students! Students met with Senator Britt, Congressman Figures, and Congressman Moore to discuss the findings of their 2026 Student Survey.

“I love that SVT allows me to be a part of the solution in creating significant positive changes in the Alabama education system and helps me rediscover my passion for community engagement.”

- JaMya Hinton, Greensboro High School

Direct Impact in Alabama Schools



A+ BEST PRACTICES CENTER

Founded in 1991, the A+ Best Practices Center provides collaborative, research-based professional learning networks. The program's approach to supporting district and school leaders, instructional coaches, and classroom teachers has been proven to increase student achievement in reading and math for participating schools.



IN THE 2025-2026
SCHOOL YEAR:

+ 550

educators from across the state

+ 121

schools impacted

+ 57

districts represented

+ 20

coaches, lead teachers, and administrators
trained in the Instructional Partners Network

+ 13,000

educators impacted by the learning as
participants transferred the learning directly
into their schools and classrooms

**Schools participating in the A+Best Practices Center show
increased student achievement in reading and math.**

A+ is helping educators across the state achieve success

A+ COLLEGE READY

Through a partnership with the State of Alabama, A+ College Ready provides middle and high school students access to Advanced Placement (AP) and other rigorous coursework, building a diverse pipeline of students prepared for college, career, and life. The program also expands access to computer science courses and high-quality teacher training for K-12 educators.



IN 2025, ALABAMA RANKED 17TH NATIONALLY IN PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS FROM RECENT GRADUATING CLASSES WHO SCORED A 3 OR HIGHER ON AN AP EXAM. (COLLEGE BOARD, GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025)



+ 1,500

educators served through summer training

+ 359%

increase in students receiving qualifying scores since 2009

+ 901%

increase in students of color receiving qualifying scores since 2009

+ 216%

increase in students in poverty receiving qualifying scores since 2009

+ 665

computer science educators trained

Our Success Starts in Middle School: **Students in our MSTIP program gained 33 points in English Language Arts and 40 points in Math, outperforming their peers.** This growth is closing the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and their affluent peers.

What It Takes

A+ exhibits strong management and accountability, attracting multiple, diverse sources of support. Our 34-year history of serving as a trusted voice and sound fiscal partner has resulted in many long-term relationships in the public and private sectors, including our partnership with the State Department of Education. A+ is working to grow investment in our educational advocacy and programs, as the success of future economic outcomes and workforce development in our state is so closely tied to educational efficacy and action now.

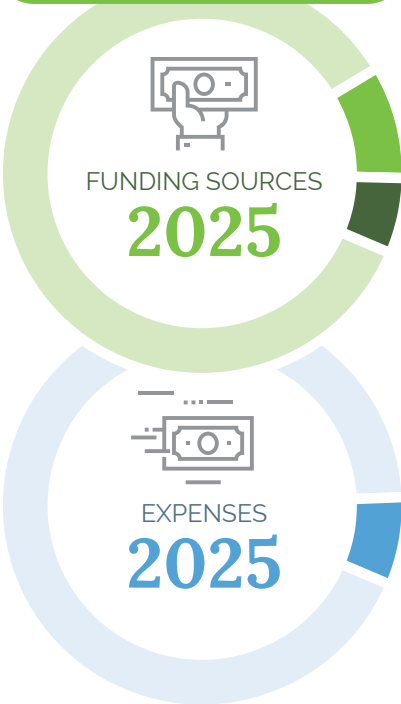
In sum, A+ leverages every \$1 received from corporations, foundations, and individual donors to secure \$18 from grants, fees, and contracts, meaning an investment in A+ directly correlates to educational impact for Alabama’s students.



**For every \$1 from donors --->
Generates \$18 from grants
and program participants**

**Per FY 2025 audited
revenues and expenses*

A+ FINANCIALS



Corporate, Foundation, & Individual Contributions	Government Grants & Contracts
\$838,650	\$14,012,775
Program Service Fees	
\$1,094,222	
Program Services	Administrative
\$13,089,322	\$992,869
Total Expenditures	
\$14,082,191	

Champions of Education

\$50,000+

- + The Boeing Company
- + EBSCO
- + Max & Lorayne Cooper Foundation
- + Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation
- + Regions Bank
- + Strada Education Foundation
- + Vulcan Materials Company
- + Walton Family Foundation
- + W.K. Kellogg Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

- + Alabama Partnership for Children
- + Alabama Power Foundation
- + Altec/Styslinger Foundation
- + The Caring Foundation/Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
- + Charles and Estelle Campbell Foundation
- + The Daniel Foundation
- + Medical Properties Trust
- + Michael and Barvette Patterson
- + PNC Bank
- + Protective Life Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

- + Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC
- + CB&S Bank
- + Coca-Cola UNITED
- + Hugh Kaul Foundation
- + J.K. Lowder Family Foundation
- + Tom and Susan Lowder
- + Jobs for the Future

- + McKinney Capital
- + McWane
- + O'Neal Industries, Inc.
- + Robert Meyer Foundation
- + Robins & Morton
- + Royal Cup, Inc.
- + ServisFirst Bank

\$5,000-\$9,999

- + Bill and Becky Smith
- + River Bank and Trust

\$1,000-\$4,999

- + Dawn Barranco
- + Christopher and Mary Boehm
- + Preston Bolt
- + Dave G. Borden
- + Rennie and Barry Crabb
- + Mark E. Dixon
- + Will French
- + T. Michael and Gillian Goodrich
- + Miller Gorrie
- + Holman Head
- + Liz and Tom Hutchins
- + Don and Anna James
- + Bill and Walker Jones
- + Janet Kavinoky
- + Barbara Larson
- + Debbie Long
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- + William and Beth McDavid
- + Harris V. Morrisette
- + John D. and Pat Moorehouse
- + Wayne and Cheryl Nelson
- + Claude and Kate Nielsen
- + Caroline and Tabor Novak
- + Robert Powers

- + Will and Carolyn Ratliff
- + Bruce and Emilie Reid/Hobbs Foundation
- + James Rein
- + Deak F. Rushton
- + Bill Stevens
- + Mike and Anne Warren
- + George Zorn

\$500-\$999

- + Cristi Dixon
- + Ann Forney
- + Samuel H. Frazier
- + Eddie and Catharine Friend
- + Cathy and Rick Gassenheimer
- + Maura and Williams Goodwyn
- + Charles and Hattie Nash
- + Jerry Powell
- + John and Laura Richey
- + Megan Skipper
- + Arthur F. Toole III
- + Jim and Harriet Williams



Donate

Our Vision

A world-class
education for
every Alabama
student,
regardless of
circumstance.



aplusala.org

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