



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Michael Sentance, J.D., LL.M.
State Superintendent of Education

July 26, 2017

MEMORANDUM

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Betty Peters
District II

Stephanie Bell
District III
Vice President

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Ella B. Bell
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI
President Pro Tem

Jeff Newman
District VII

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
District VIII

Michael Sentance, J.D., LL.M.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

TO: County and City Superintendents of Education
FROM: Michael Sentance *MS*
State Superintendent of Education
RE: 2017-2018 State Superintendent Student Advisory Council Application

The [State Superintendent Student Advisory Council](#) is a group of 16 middle or secondary school students who discuss how decisions are made at the state level that may affect students throughout Alabama. For the third year, we will offer this program to students beginning with an application period that will **open August 1 and end on August 31**.

We are thankful to the previous councils of students who worked diligently to inform the Alabama State Board of Education of the needs of students in our state. Now, I am pleased to once again invite students in Grades 7-12 at Alabama schools to participate in this exciting opportunity. The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pleased to announce the call for applications for the 2017-2018 State Superintendent Student Advisory Council.

To apply, superintendents and high school principals may share the link to the State Superintendent Student Advisory Council [webpage and Application](#) with all students in Grades 7-12 in their schools. Student interaction and interest in state-level policies and programs are integral to the work of the ALSDE and the goals of Alabama Ascending. Having a Student Advisory Council allows for direct input from our greatest stakeholder—the student. Students may apply by visiting the [webpage](#) and filling out the application online. Students will fill out an online application, scan in and upload a letter of recommendation, and follow the instructions. No mailed applications will be accepted. **Applications for the 2017-2018 State Superintendent Student Advisory Council are due by August 31.**

Members are chosen by a committee of ALSDE staff and education organization representatives using an approved rubric. Members will gather input from their district on students' needs or opinions on state-level policies or directives. **Students will be selected and notified by September 25.**

Council members will meet up to three times throughout the school year. The State Superintendent will then bring recommendations to the Alabama State Board of Education at a late spring 2018 work session. Topics discussed by the student advisory council could include: technology needs, teacher training, college and career readiness, dropout rate, student leadership, graduation requirements, testing, school climate, career and technical education, or any variety of issues or concerns that students may have.

MS:MVH:RS

FY17-1022