

Alabama and The Southern Regional Education Board

This report details Alabama's participation in SREB programs and services from June 2014 through May 2015. Appropriations from member states support SREB's core operations and general services. SREB leverages the long-standing commitment of member states to attract external funding for an array of targeted projects for educational improvement efforts in member states. Alabama receives a number of general services, plus access to programs funded by grants, contracts and fees for specific services.

Leadership

SREB Board

Robert Bentley, Governor
Alan Baker, State Representative
Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education
Caroline Novak, President, A+ Education Partnership
Chuck Smith, Demopolis

SREB Legislative Advisory Council

Alan Baker, State Representative, Brewton
Dick Brewbaker, State Senator, Montgomery
Terri Collins, State Representative, Decatur
Vivian Davis Figures, State Senator, Mobile
Trip Pittman, State Senator, Montrose
Rod Scott, State Representative, Fairfield

Policy

Goals for education | Monitoring state policies

Monitoring, measuring and reporting through comparative and state-specific reports to assist education leaders and policymakers as they shape public policy in education. SREB tracks trends and analyzes the progress of all 16 SREB states in each area in the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education and provides Legislative Reports that detail legislative and budget actions in each state.

Alabama information is included in all reports, as applicable, and several are targeted specifically for Alabama. 2014 reports:

Alabama: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

2014 State Progress Report on the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education

High School to College and Careers, 2014

The ACT and SAT: No Longer Just College Admission Tests

SREB States Transform School Accountability with NCLB Waivers, 2014

Workforce Development in SREB States: The Role of Two-Year Colleges in Preparing Students for Middle-Skill Jobs

Focus on Compulsory Attendance Policies: About Age or Intervention?

Notes on School Finance: Selected Information on Funding for Low-Income Students in SREB States

Legislative Reports and Legislative Briefing

More information: Joan.Lord@SREB.org or Jeff.Gagne@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

College and career readiness

Intensive work to help states implement essential components of SREB's recommendations for statewide college and career readiness.

1. Adopt statewide readiness standards for literacy and mathematics skills.
2. Assess high school juniors to determine their progress toward the standards.
3. Offer transitional readiness courses. Require juniors assessed as underprepared to take the courses in 11th or 12th grade.
4. Apply the standards in deciding whether students need learning support after admission to college.
5. Hold schools accountable for increasing postsecondary readiness.

SREB has worked with Alabama on several of these elements.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Readiness

Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards

Tracks and reports state progress on how states are implementing college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB launched a new phase of benchmarking in February 2015. In this work, SREB tracks and will report on implementation of standards and related reforms in **all 16 SREB** states.

Publications

In January 2015, SREB published ***Benchmarking State Implementation of College-and Career-Readiness Standards, Aligned Assessments and Related Reforms***. Six reports make up the set covering 14 states: a cross-state findings report that describes trends across the states — plus five reports with detailed state profiles by topic.

The reports note Alabama as a ***strong state*** for standards and assessments, aligned instructional materials, professional development and accountability.

Support for States

SREB convened leaders from eight SREB states — including staff from the **Alabama Department of Education** — to share information about and resources for implementation of standards. National experts also attended the meeting in August 2014 in Atlanta.

SREB's benchmarking staff provided information and support to state leaders on the implementation of standards and related reforms during fall 2014 and winter 2015.

Benchmarking staff presented on implementation of college- and career-readiness standards to:

- SREB Board and Legislative Advisory Council members, including attendees from Alabama, at SREB's 2014 Annual Meeting in June.
- Legislative and governors' staff, including attendees from Alabama, in October 2014.

More information: Kim.Anderson@SREB.org | (404) 775-9366 | SREB.org/1600

English Learners

Conference on preparing English language learners for college and career, co-hosted in May 2014 by SREB, the National Council on La Raza and the Hunt Institute.

Alabama sent a team to the conference, and a **fact sheet for Alabama** includes population trends, state and federal policies, and programs, standards and assessments for English learners.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1785

Educator effectiveness

Helps states create policies that support teacher effectiveness so students learn more in the classroom. SREB staff work with policymakers and state agencies in all member states to help them translate current research on what works into evaluation systems that create an environment where teaching improves.

At the request of the Alabama Department of Education, SREB's educator effectiveness team **spoke with Alabama teachers and administrators in focus groups** in April about their experiences developing district evaluation policies. The focus group feedback will be analyzed together with survey data, and SREB will provide recommendations to the department later this year.

Representatives from the Alabama Department of Education shared their experience building and implementing evaluation systems and networked with other SREB state representatives at **SREB's annual educator effectiveness convening** in Atlanta in February.

Staff shared findings and best practices for educator evaluation with **more than 150 Alabama assistant principals** at three workshops held by the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools in January and February.

Staff refreshed the **educator effectiveness Bill Tracker** in January, which allows Alabama policymakers to track bills across eight topics, including teacher preparation, evaluation and professional learning.

Educator effectiveness staff updated Alabama representatives on **recent changes to educator evaluation** at SREB's Legislative Advisory Council meetings in December, and at the Meeting of Legislative and Governors' Staff Meeting in October.

SREB released the **Elements of Evaluation interactive database** in October, which allows Alabama policymakers to explore policies across 16 states on classroom observations, student growth measures and professional learning systems.

Forty superintendents, district personnel and principals attended an Alabama Department of Education workshop in September, during which **SREB presented findings and best practices**. The workshop was held for districts piloting the state's new teacher and leader effectiveness system.

Staff traveled to Montgomery four times this year to meet with the **Alabama Department of Education** and provide technical assistance to those leading the implementation of the state's new educator evaluation system.

More than 1,000 policymakers and practitioners across the 16 SREB states receive the bi-weekly educator effectiveness e-newsletter.

The SREB educator effectiveness team provided technical assistance, brokered expertise and provided policy and practice resources to Alabama:

- SREB Board and LAC members
- State legislators and legislative staff
- Governor's staff
- State education agency staff
- District superintendents
- School principals
- Teachers

More information: Andy.Baxter@SREB.org | (704) 247-7497 | SREB.org/EE

Early childhood education

SREB Early Childhood Commission

Convenes leaders to recommend policies that will give more young children a solid start when they enter school. The Commission's focus is on access to high-quality programs and the importance of highly skilled teachers to young children's learning experiences. The Commission will present draft recommendations for the SREB Board to consider in summer 2015 and will publish its report later in 2015.

Alabama member of the Commission:

Vivian Davis Figures, State Senator, Alabama

More information: Mark.Emblidge@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EarlyLearning

Career and technical education

State Leaders' Forum

Convenes state education leaders and policymakers to consider policies for high-quality career and technical education. Co-sponsored with the State Consortium for Improving High School Career and Technical Studies.

Alabama attendees at the November 2014 Forum: **1**

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

SREB Commission on Career and Technical Education

Explored optional career pathway programs of study to help more students acquire the academic and technical knowledge and skills to earn industry and postsecondary credentials and secure high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs.

The Commission's April 2015 report, *Credentials for All: An Imperative for SREB States*, offers states policies and practices to build high-quality career pathways that transform their educational systems and increase attainment of postsecondary credentials and degrees.

Alabama members of the Commission:

Alan Baker, State Representative, Alabama

Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education, Alabama Department of Education

More information: Gene.Bottoms@sreb.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CTECommission

Postsecondary education

Two commissions carried SREB's completion initiative into the states in 2014 and 2015 with strong emphasis on readiness and pathways for community colleges and affordability for all students. Building on the success of the 2011-14 regional working groups of legislators to vet issues and craft recommendations, both commissions included Board and Legislative Advisory Council members and other key policymakers in the states.

SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South

Charged with recommending postsecondary policies that lead with the need for affordability and adjust institutional appropriations, student aid and tuition policies accordingly.

Alabama member of the Commission:

Alan Baker, State Representative, Alabama

Dr. Gregory Fitch, Executive Director, Alabama Commission on Higher Education

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 8759211 | SREB.org/Affordability

State Services

Connects policymakers with custom information, presentations and assistance on education issues as they arise.

SREB staff visited Alabama to meet with legislators and staff and attend committee meetings in March 2015.

Governor's staff: about SREB

Legislator: state standards, early learning

Legislator: nepotism policies

Legislator: workforce issues

Legislative staff: teacher compensation

Legislator: higher education governance

Legislator: low-performing schools

Legislator: local school superintendents

Legislator: charter schools

Legislative staff: state two-year college boards

More information: Gale.Gaines@SREB.org | (404) 879-5582 | SREB.org/StateServices

Professional Development for Teachers, Principals and Counselors

Literacy Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students learn the literacy skills of college- and career-readiness standards such as the Common Core. Teachers learn to design assignments that engage students to learn subject content, while advancing reading and writing skills. SREB's innovative training starts with exemplary teachers, who then work with other teachers to help them adopt the strategies.

Alabama teacher experts trained by SREB in 2014-15: **65**

Alabama local trainers trained by SREB in 2014-15: **11**

Number of schools: **25**

Mathematics Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students understand basic mathematics concepts, become fluent with mathematics procedures, and develop the reasoning to apply them to solve problems. MDC teachers use formative assessment lessons — a hybrid of assessment and instruction — to help students master college- and career-readiness standards. SREB's innovative training builds the capacity of lead teachers to become trainers of other teachers.

SREB and the Alabama Department of Education have partnered to roll out LDC and MDC to up to 40 middle and high schools per year for three years for a total of 120 schools. After meeting with 163 representatives from 26 districts, the first cohort began with 25 schools, and SREB plans to include 55 schools in the second group, which will begin in August 2015. Five elementary schools will pilot LDC and MDC in the upper elementary grades beginning in August.

Alabama teacher experts trained by SREB in 2014-15: **50**

Alabama local trainers trained by SREB in 2014-15: **8**

Number of schools: **25**

"I see all students are learning to think more and become problem-solvers."

— Scott Faulk, Principal, **Honeysuckle Middle School, Dothan**

"Our teachers' lessons aren't just haphazard. There's a goal: teachers begin with an end in mind, and they develop quality mini-tasks to get to their goal."

— Keyanna Cole, Science Teacher, **Honeysuckle Middle School, Dothan**

More information: Dan.Mollette@SREB.org | (404) 962-9623 | SREB.org/LDCMDC

Enhanced Project-Based Learning in CTE

Training model for existing career and technical education programs in high-demand, high-skill, high-wage fields. Teachers improve assignments and assessments by working with business and industry partners to develop projects that require students to apply technical, college- and career-readiness and technology skills.

In the 2014-15 school year, **20 teachers** from **Dothan Technology Center** and **Dothan Middle School** participated in training and follow-up coaching for vertical planning of project-based learning projects with a career focus.

Birmingham City Schools and **Ozark City Schools** will participate in training and coaching in the development of career-theme projects in the 2015-16 school year.

More information: Sandy.Culotta@SREB.org | (302) 258-5787

High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

Annual conference for thousands of school leaders, teachers and counselors from middle grades, high schools and technology centers across the country. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta, July 15-18.

Alabama attendees at the 2014 conference: **2**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/SummerConference

College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference

Conference on the proven strategies of the Literacy and Mathematics Design Collaborative frameworks. More than 1,200 teachers and leaders attend to collaborate and share effective instructional strategies. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 13-15.

An invitation to apply for a stipend of \$700 for a school team of three to attend the SREB College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference was sent to 80 schools in Alabama that are participating in SREB professional development programs on college- and career-readiness literacy and mathematics standards.

Alabama attendees at the July 2014 conference: **58**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/SummerConference

National Professional Development Workshops

Intensive two- to three-day workshops that address current priorities for school improvement. Attendees leave with a plan of action for their schools. During the 2014-15 school year, SREB offered the Aligning High Schools and Middle Grades With Emerging Priorities for College and Career Readiness workshop and the National Technology Centers That Work Leaders' Forum.

Alabama teachers, counselors and leaders who participated: **71**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/PD

Principals

Learning-Centered Leadership Program

Works with district, state and university partners to prepare aspiring principals and school leadership teams to lead school reform to ensure that students are ready for college and careers. This program offers training, guidance and technical assistance.

Alabama attendees at the 2015 Annual Leadership Forum: **3**

Alabama leaders received custom consulting from SREB staff in reviewing **university preparation programs**.

The staff of the **Council for Leadership in Alabama Schools** have been trained on SREB leadership modules and have redelivered training across the state through an agreement with SREB.

More information: Jon.Schmidt-Davis@SREB.org | (404) 879-5591 | SREB.org/Leadership

Counselors

College and Career Counseling Initiative

Training to improve the effectiveness of teachers, counselors and college access program staff to prepare students from low-income families for postsecondary education. A 2014 survey of more than 500 enrollees found that 92 percent are changing their practice as a result of the training; 93 percent are implementing action plans developed in the program; and 95 percent would recommend the training to colleagues.

Alabama is one of 14 participating states and one of the founding six states.

More information: AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org | (404) 879-5601 | SREB.org/1663

High School and Middle Grades Improvement

Jefferson County

The Jefferson County School District in Birmingham is SREB's first partner in a program to bring special opportunities to an entire district. School district teams will learn proven strategies and practices to get students ready for college and careers, including:

Literacy Design Collaborative

Mathematics Design Collaborative

Advanced Career pathways

School leadership training

Career counseling program support

Readiness Courses for high school seniors and middle grades students

The goal: Within five years, districts will improve student readiness in high school, postsecondary studies and the workplace.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@sreb.org | (404) 875-9211

SREB Readiness Courses Math Ready and Literacy Ready

Ready for postsecondary study

SREB courses that teach the reading, writing and mathematics skills young adults must have to succeed in college study and the workplace after high school — how to think independently, read for information and solve problems. Developed by teams of educators and faculty from partner states around the nation, they are being field tested in several states and are available at no cost.

Alabama representatives are exploring the SREB Readiness Courses and may pursue opportunities for teachers to attend training meetings and test the curricula.

More information: John.Squires@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Ready

Advanced Career

A new approach to career and technical education that combines college-readiness academic content with a sequence of four courses designed around hands-on, project-based assignments. The aim is to prepare more students for as many career options as possible in emerging high-demand, high-wage fields such as health informatics, and energy and power.

As one of nine state members of the Advanced Career consortium, Alabama worked with SREB and local higher education and economic development leaders to develop the **aerospace engineering** pathway, a four-course sequence of study. Two schools from other states will implement the aerospace engineering pathway in fall 2015.

Five Alabama schools implemented **AC courses** by 2014-15. **Dothan Technology Center** is the newest adopter of the aerospace engineering pathway.

Baker High School, Theodore High School and Williamson High School in the Mobile County School District will adopt AC energy and power in fall 2015.

In 2014-15, Alabama teachers, schools and leaders participated in SREB's Summer Teacher Training Institute for the pathways, AC end-of-course assessments and AC Steering Committee meetings.

Teacher Roberta Ludwigsen's aeronautics engineering applications course at **Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School in Montgomery** is featured in a vignette at SREB.org/AC: "Hands-On, Project-Based Learning: It Reaches Students."

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/AC

High Schools That Work

Helps states transform public high schools into places where all students learn at high levels and complete at higher rates. Reforms create career pathway roadmaps for college and career readiness to meet regional and state workforce needs. HSTW serves more than 1,350 schools in 30 states. Schools receive services through membership in the HSTW state network or through contracts for intensive, customized support.

HSTW State Network

Member states select schools to receive services. The fee for state membership in the consortium covers several services and visits.

Alabama is a member of the High Schools That Work state network, with **22 schools** active in 2014-15.

Philip Cleveland, Director of Career and Technical Education, Alabama Department of Education, serves on the HSTW Board.

Rene Day, Career and Technical Student Organization Coordinator, Alabama Department of Education, is the Alabama HSTW State Coordinator.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Contracts for Direct Support

Schools, districts and states contract with SREB for targeted school improvement services such as on-site coaching, technical assistance and professional development.

In Alabama, **16 schools** contracted for direct services through HSTW in 2014-15, and SREB delivered **115 days** of on-site coaching and **51 days** of on-site staff development at the schools.

More information: Cindy.VanBuren@SREB.org | (803) 984-5986 | SREB.org/HSTW

HSTW Assessment

Subject tests, along with student and teacher surveys to establish baseline data, track progress and identify areas for improvement.

In Alabama, **three high schools** participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment.

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Making Middle Grades Work

Engages state, district and school leaders in partnerships with teachers, students, parents and the community to raise student achievement in the middle grades. The network includes 663 schools in 20 states.

In Alabama, in 2014-15:

165 schools were active in the network.

13 schools contracted with SREB for direct services.

85 days of on-site coaching were delivered to schools.

32 days of on-site staff development were delivered to schools.

7 site development workshops

26 technical assistance visits

SREB contracted with GEAR UP Alabama for a seven-year grant to the University of Alabama at Birmingham to work with **52 middle-grades schools** in 23 districts across the Black Belt region of central Alabama. SREB will provide schools with a comprehensive audit report, training, coaching and professional development to help better prepare students for college and careers.

MMGW Student Survey

During 2014, **36 Alabama schools** participated in the MMGW Teacher Survey or the MMGW Student Survey, which measures student perceptions of school and classroom practices.

More information: Deborah.Bass@SREB.org | (404) 7881235 | SREB.org/MMGW

Technology Centers That Work

Helps shared-time centers produce high-demand, high-wage graduates. SREB provides staff development, technical assistance, publications and assessment services. The network includes almost 200 sites in 18 states.

In Alabama, during 2014-15:

10 centers were active members.

40 days of on-site coaching were delivered to schools.

6 days of on-site staff development were delivered to schools.

7 centers participated in the HSTW Assessment.

SREB's Technology Centers That Work focused leadership training in two of the 10 Workforce Development Councils of Alabama. Leadership training on the **Tuscaloosa** and **Dothan** areas focused on assisting centers to improve college and career readiness, decrease remediation and increase the percentage of high school graduates with industry-recognized credentials as outlined in Alabama Plan 2020.

School directors participated in a two-day training and created professional growth plans for 2014-15 to improve school facilities, student achievement, and climate and culture. Directors also participated in leadership training. Training was followed by onsite coaching.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org or Lynda.Jackson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/TCTW

2014 Award-Winning Schools

The MMGW Depth of Implementation Award is given to schools that participated in the 2014 MMGW Surveys, achieved MMGW deep implementation status, and had at least 50 percent of students to experience one or more of the MMGW engaging academics indices and rigorous curriculum indices. The following schools were awarded the MMGW Depth of Implementation Award in 2012 and 2014.

Beverly Magnet School, Dothan

Carver Magnet School, Dothan

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 879-5611

Higher Education Programs and Services

Tuition savings, access to uncommon degrees

Academic Common Market

Provides in-state tuition access to degree programs not available in a student's home state. Approximately 2,500 new students participate each year in 1,900 programs at 150 institutions.

Participating Alabama students, calendar year 2014: **124**

ACM State Representative:

Paul B. Mohr Sr., Director of Special Programs, Alabama Commission on Higher Education

An Alabama representative attended the 2015 Academic Common Market annual meeting webinar.

Electronic Campus

Partners with colleges and universities to give students access to almost 37,000 online courses and more than 3,400 online degree programs.

Programs provided by Alabama institutions as of April 2015: **341**

Alabama EC Representative:

Paul B. Mohr Sr., Director of Special Programs, Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Alabama representatives attended the 2014 Electronic Campus Annual Meeting.

Regional Contract Program

Gives students the opportunity to earn a professional health degree from participating institutions in other states through in-state tuition rates at public institutions or reduced tuition at private institutions. SREB is fiscal agent and handles administrative duties without additional fees to the state, institutions or students. More than 700 students participate each year.

Alabama institutions provide programs to the Regional Contract Program, making it possible for residents of other states to contract for entry into **Auburn University** and **Tuskegee University** in veterinary medicine and the **University of Alabama at Birmingham** in dentistry and optometry. These Alabama institutions currently receive **more than \$5 million** from other SREB states.

SREB Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement

*Allows institutions to be authorized by their home state to eliminate the need for individual approvals in SREB states where they serve students online. SREB states opt in to SECRRA. A new, nationwide system of reciprocity — **SARA, or the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement** — will open more high-quality online offerings for students and ease regulatory burdens on institutions.*

Alabama participates in SECRRA.

More information: Mary.Larson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1083

Comparative data

SREB-State Data Exchange

Collects, compiles and publishes data and descriptive statistics on postsecondary education. Data are updated annually on a wide range of policy topics: degree and certificate completion, student persistence and progression, time- and credits-to-degree, student credit hours (including those taken in high school), tuition and fee levels and policies, and faculty salaries. Postsecondary agencies in each SREB state participate and appoint coordinators.

Participating agency and its Data Exchange Coordinator for 2015-16:

Diane Sherman, Director of Research Services, Alabama Commission on Higher Education

SREB Fact Book on Higher Education

One of the nation's most comprehensive collections of comparative data. The Fact Book keeps policymakers informed with trend data for all 50 states on the population and the economy, college enrollment, degrees awarded, tuition and fees, student financial aid and cost of attendance, faculty and administrators, as well as revenue and expenditures including state appropriations. Fact Book tables are updated regularly at SREB.org/Data.

Alabama leaders receive the annual ***SREB-State Data Exchange Indicators Report***, the ***SREB Fact Book on Higher Education***, as well as ***Alabama: Featured Facts from the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education***, ***Fact Book Bulletins*** and special reports.

More information: Susan.Lounsbury@SREB.org | (404) 879-5546 | SREB.org/Data

Nursing education

Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

Helps expand and strengthen schools of nursing to reduce the critical shortage of nurse educators needed to educate the nation's registered nurses. The Council surveys institutions for nursing education trends and shares online graduate nursing courses.

In Alabama, **12 institutions** participated in the Council as of June 2015.

Representatives from each institution, with leadership positions on the Council:

Auburn University: Gregg Newschwander, Dean; SREB Nursing Council: Vice President, Membership

Faulkner State Community College: Jean Graham, Director

Jacksonville State University: Christie Shelton, Dean

Oakwood University: Flora Flood, Dean

Samford University: Eleanor Howell, Dean

Troy University: Diane Weed, Director

Tuskegee University: Doris Holeman, Associate Dean

University of Alabama: Suzanne S. Prevost, Dean

University of Alabama at Birmingham: Doreen C. Harper, Dean; Research Committee: Chair

University of Alabama at Huntsville: Marsha Adams, Dean

University of Mobile: Jan Wood, Dean

University of North Alabama: Birdie Irene Bailey, Dean

More information: Eula.Aiken@SREB.org | (404) 879-5567 | SREB.org/Nursing

Minority Ph.D. scholars

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

Supports minority students to help them earn their Ph.D.s and seek employment that helps colleges and universities diversify their faculties. The Doctoral Scholars Program hosts the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars — with more than 1,200 attendees.

Scholars funded by Alabama in 2014-15: **15**

2014 Institute attendees from Alabama: **49**

Scholars Alabama has supported since joining in 1993: **162**

Graduates since 1993: **107**

Graduates currently employed: **91**

Percent employed in education: **79**

Alabama-supported students have attended these institutions since 1993:

Auburn University

Clemson University

Howard University

Meharry Medical College

Texas A&M University

University of Alabama

University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of Kentucky

Vanderbilt University

More information: Ansley.Abraham@SREB.org | (404) 879-5573 | SREB.org/DoctoralScholars

Interstate Cooperatives

Educational Technology Cooperative

Membership group of state K-12 and higher education coordinating and governing boards representing more than 800 colleges and universities and 3,100 school districts in SREB states. The ETC focuses member agencies and state policymakers on using technology wisely, reports on educational technology topics and connects members.

Alabama member agencies and representatives for membership year 2014-15:

Alabama State Department of Education: Earlene Patton, Coordinator

Alabama Commission on Higher Education: Paul B. Mohr Sr., Director of Special Programs

Alabama sent attendees to the 2014 annual meeting, and Alabama ETC representatives helped determine SREB's **10 Critical Issues in Educational Technology**.

More information: Wanda.Barker@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EdTech

Technology Purchasing Savings

Schools, universities and agencies in SREB states saved 3 percent to 18 percent on \$17 million in technology purchases during fiscal year 2014 through SREB's participation in MHECtech discount agreements. Organizations in each of the 16 SREB states participated.

Alabama technology purchases, FY 2014: **\$701,700**

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Go Alliance

An interstate cooperative to increase high school graduation rates, access to education beyond high school, and postsecondary degree completion — particularly for those who would be the first in their families to enroll. Go Alliance research, services and professional development focus on college access policy and communications strategies to motivate students to plan for and apply to college.

Alabama participates in Go Alliance.

Go Alliance Representative:

Meg Smith, Alabama Department of Education

“The annual partners meeting and other joint activities of Go Alliance have provided information and programs that we have been able to replicate in Alabama.”

— Meg Smith, **Alabama Department of Education**

More information: AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org | (404) 879-5601 | SREB.org/GoAlliance

The Southern Regional Education Board was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators who recognized the link between education and economic vitality. To this day, the organization maintains its focus on critical issues that hold the promise of improving quality of life by advancing public education. The region's track record shows that setting goals and maintaining the commitment to work toward them make a difference.