

Asbury High School Wins 2020 Pacesetter School Award

School honored for establishing processes to support a culture of continuous improvement

June 30, 2020 — Asbury High School in Albertville, Alabama, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. Asbury High School will be honored on July 6, 2021, at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, due to the cancellation of the 2020 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Pacesetter School Awards recognize schools that are implementing one of SREB's Making Schools Work school improvement frameworks and are achieving success in meeting bold goals related to increases in student graduation rates, readiness for college and careers, and credential attainment.

Asbury High implements [High Schools That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for high schools. The school took part in SREB's Curriculum and Instruction Review process in spring 2018 and established school improvement priorities based on the review's findings. Asbury High is already seeing results that can lead to long-term improvements.

The school changed its schedule to add a "skinny period" to provide interventions and acceleration opportunities. It also expanded instructional coaching to focus on student engagement and rigor in the classroom; increased its commitment to literacy and math training and coaching; embedded best practices into all courses; developed new guidelines of success and rebranded the school; and revamped its Response to Intervention process. All of these changes have enhanced the culture and climate of the school.

The school also made significant increases in proficiency and growth over the last two school years. Students' reading proficiency rose four percentage points from 2017 to 2019; science proficiency improved 10 percentage points over the same time frame. Asbury High's graduation rate rose to nearly 97 percent in 2019.

SREB's [Making Schools Work Conference](#) is held annually and provides educators with opportunities to participate in professional development, network with colleagues from across the country and build school and district leadership capacity.

The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at sreb.org.

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