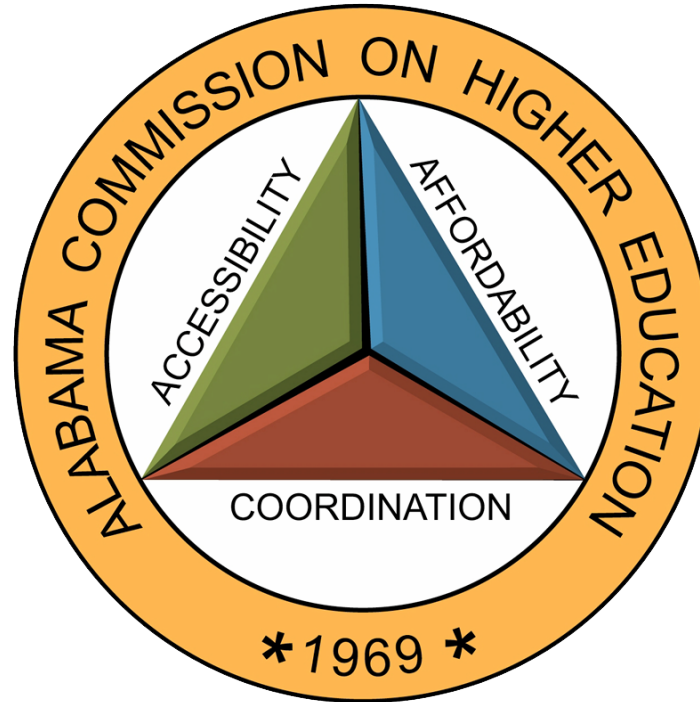


Alabama Commission on Higher Education



Commission Meeting
December 12, 2025

I. Call to Order, Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance



II. Roll Call and Quorum Determination



III. Approval of Agenda



**Commission Meeting Agenda
of December 12, 2025**

Motion, Item III:

That the Commission accept the agenda for the December 12, 2025, meeting.

IV. Consideration of Finance Committee Minutes



**Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes of September 12, 2025**

Motion, Item IV:

That the Commission accept the Finance Committee Meeting minutes for the September 12, 2025, meeting.

V. Consideration of Minutes



**Commission Meeting Minutes
of September 12, 2025**

Motion, Item V:

That the Commission accept the Commission Meeting minutes for the September 12, 2025, meeting.

VI. Chairman's Report



ACHE Commissioner Committees

Academic Affairs

Commissioner Turner, Chair
Commissioner Forbes
Commissioner Ragland
Commissioner Spiller

Financial Affairs

Commissioner Meadows, Chair
Commissioner Hobbs
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Scott

Executive Committee

Commissioner Nelson, Chair
Commissioner Singleton, Vice Chair
Commissioner Turner, Academic Affairs Chair
Commissioner Meadows, Financial Affairs Chair

VII. Executive Director's Report





September

**2025 Higher Education Innovation
Conference - Keynote Speaker**
Florida Polytechnic University
Lakeland, FL

October

**2025 Alabama Higher Education
AI Exchange**
The University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL





Alabama Higher Education AI Exchange

The University of Alabama
October 22, 2025



November

University of North Alabama Marching Band
The Marching Pride of North Alabama

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
New York City, NY





November

**2025 CBExchange
Apprenticeship Conference**

Arizona Grant Resort
Phoenix, AZ

December

2025 SACSCOC Annual Meeting

Music City Center
Nashville, TN





December 16

Salute to Veterans Bowl
The Historic Cramton Bowl
Montgomery, AL



April 21-22, 2026

SACSCOC Road Show with President Pruitt
The University of North Alabama
Florence, AL

RSVP by January 10
<https://forms.gle/MDS5Z849KkHUdiqA9>

**ALABAMA COMMISSION
ON HIGHER EDUCATION**



100 North Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

(334)242-2276
ache.edu

January 2026

Alabama Public Institutions



January 2026



Workforce Trends and Higher Education

BUSINESS INSIDER

He predicted an automation crisis years ago. Now, Andrew Yang says AI may wipe out 40 million jobs over the next decade.

Thibault Spirlet

Mon, December 1, 2025 at 6:22 AM CST · 4 min read

- Andrew Yang warned in 2018 that automation could "destabilize society" and spark riots.



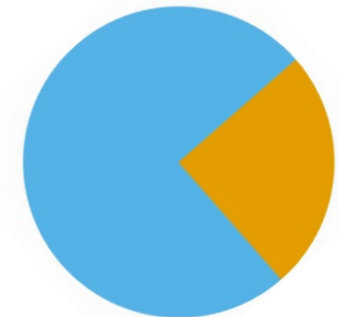
$$40/163.6 = 24.4\% \text{ or } 1/4$$

Is 40 million jobs a big deal?

As of late 2025 there are about **163.6 million employed persons** in the U.S.

[Trading Economics+2YCharts+2](#)

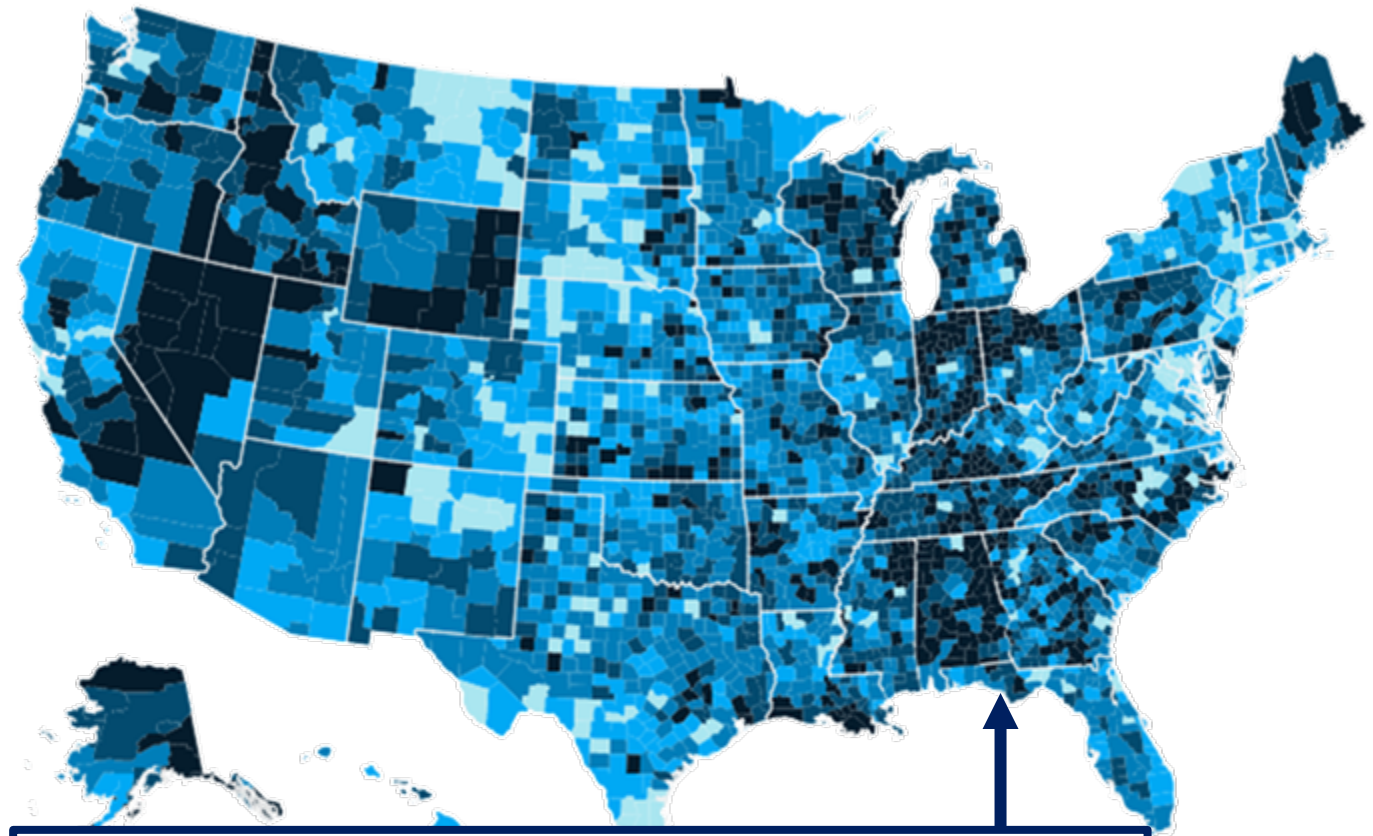
•At the same time, there are about **7.2 million job openings** [USAFacts+1](#)



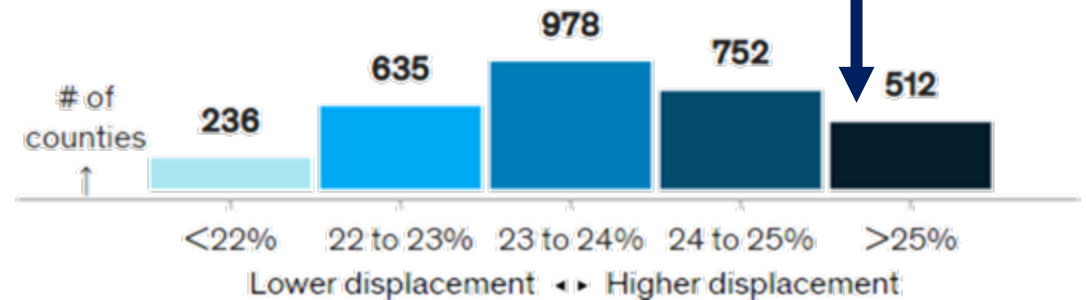
The challenge will be equipping people with the skills that will serve them well, helping them move into new roles, and addressing local mismatches.



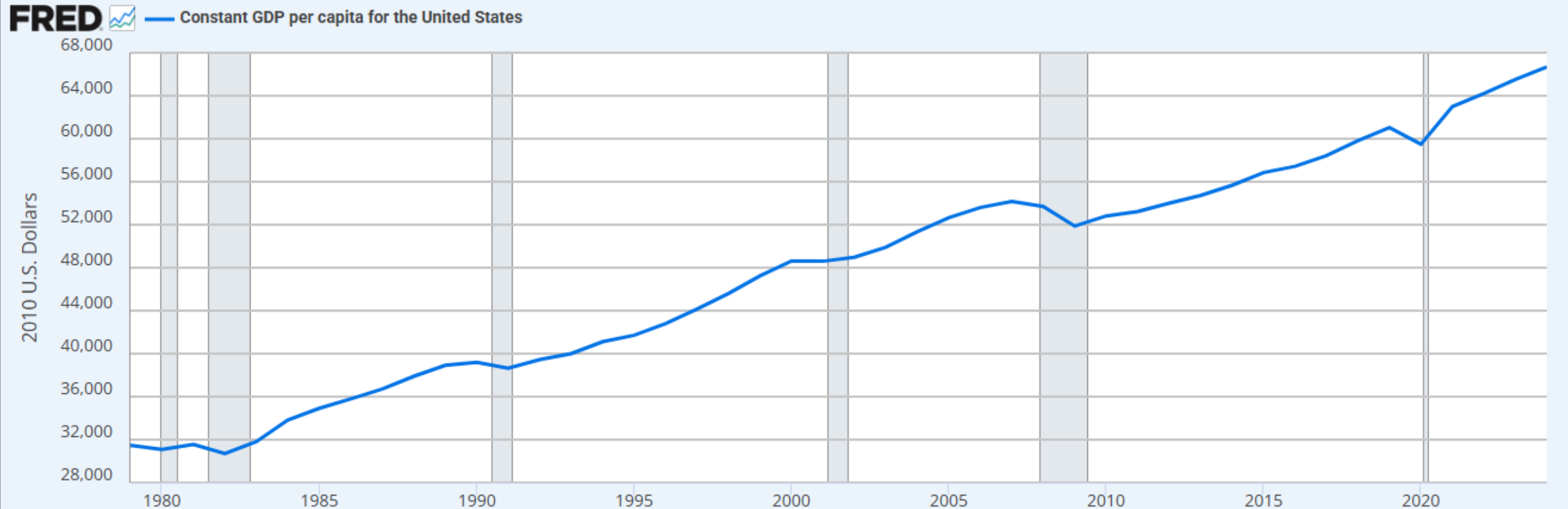
Job losses will occur nationwide. In 90% of U.S. counties, the potential displacement rate is between 22% and 27%, but there are variations, ranging from 18% all the way to 33% in some hard-hit places.



Two-thirds of Alabama counties will have significant job displacement (>25%) because of automation.



GDP increased 109% From 1980 to 2025

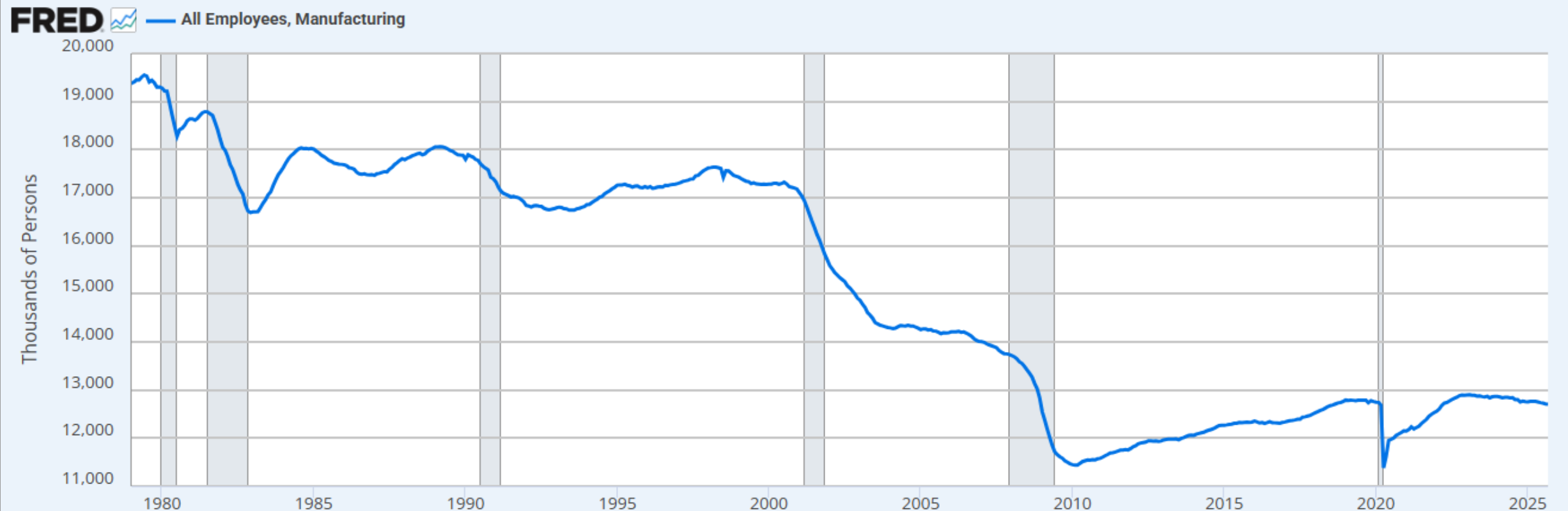


Source: World Bank via FRED®

Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions.

fred.stlouisfed.org

Employment in Manufacturing decreased 65% from 1980 to 2025



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics via FRED®

Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions.

fred.stlouisfed.org

Manufacturing Employment in Alabama, 1990-2024 (All Employees, Thousands of Persons)

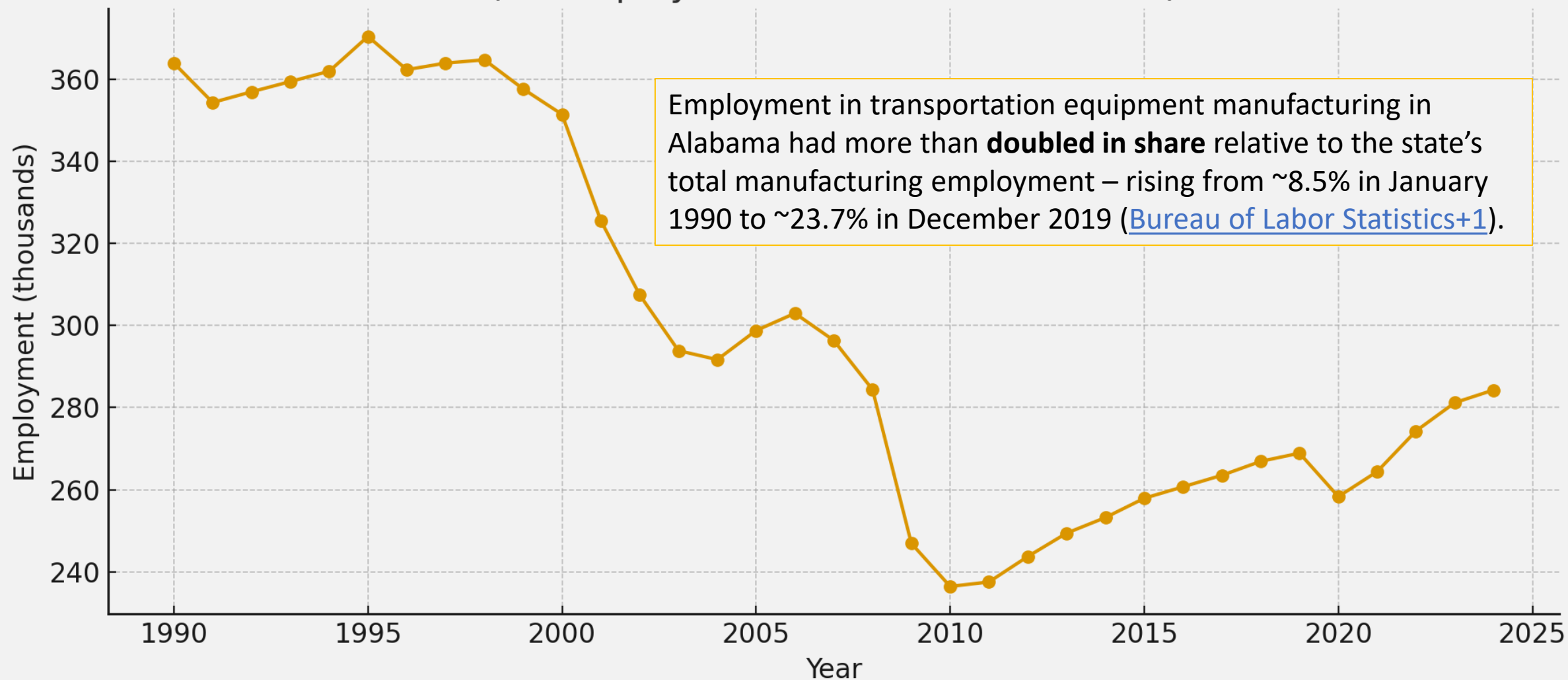



Table Data - All Employees: Manufacturing in Alabama | FRED | St. Louis Fed

Poll: In a dramatic shift, Americans no longer see four-year college degrees as worth the cost

Ben Kamisar

Fri, November 28, 2025 at 4:00 AM CST · 7 min read

 Add Yahoo on Google



675



Americans have grown sour on one of the longtime key ingredients of the American dream.

Almost two-thirds of registered voters say that a four-year college degree isn't worth the cost, according to a new [NBC News poll](#), a dramatic decline over the last decade.

Just 33% agree a four-year college degree is "worth the cost because people have a better chance to get a good job and earn more money over their lifetime," while 63% agree more with the concept that it's "not worth the cost because people often graduate without specific job skills and with a large amount of debt to pay off."

How did the perception change?



Price.

Public 4-Year Colleges (Tuition & Fees, inflation-adjusted 2023 dollars)

- **1970s:** about \$2,000–\$2,300
- **1980:** ~\$2,400
- **1990:** ~\$4,000
- **2000:** ~\$5,200
- **2010:** ~\$8,400
- **2020:** ~\$10,100
- **2024:** ~\$10,400
- **Overall increase since the 1970s:**
~350–400% (real, inflation-adjusted).

Total Cost of Attendance (Room, board, books, etc.)

Public 4-year total cost has risen from ~\$8,000 in the mid-1970s to ~\$24,000 – \$28,000 today (inflation-adjusted).

How did the price get so high? (1 of 5 reasons)

1. State Disinvestment: The Central Driver

Beginning in the 1970s and accelerating after the 1980, 1990, 2001, and 2008 recessions, states shifted college from a public good to a private good.

What happened:

- **State funding per student (FTE) fell 25–30% nationally** from the late 1970s to today (real dollars).
- During recessions, states cut higher ed first because it has an alternative revenue source: **tuition**. Most states never restored pre-recession funding levels after each downturn. Institutions filled the gap by **raising tuition**.

The consequence:

- **Sticker price increased**, but the **state “subsidy” per student shrank even faster**. Today’s students pay a **much larger share of the cost than in 1970’s**.

How did the price get so high? (2 of 5 reasons)

2. Federal Grant Aid Has Not Kept Up with Prices

Federal Pell Grants were designed so that low-income students would **not** have to borrow to attend college.

1970s:

- Pell covered **roughly 70% of the cost of attendance** at a public university.

Today:

- Pell covers **less than 30%**, sometimes **under 20%** in some states.

Why:

- Pell has been indexed to appropriations, not to inflation or to tuition growth.
- Meanwhile, tuition rose faster than CPI, healthcare, and wages.

Result: Even as the sticker price rose gradually, *federal support covered less and less*, raising the **net price** sharply for lower-income families.

How did the price get so high? (3 of 5 reasons)

3. Rising Costs of Doing Business for Universities

a) Labor costs rise faster than inflation

Higher ed is labor-intensive, and the “productivity gains” simply do not exist in teaching, counseling, research, or clinical training.

b) Growth in compliance, IT, and student services since the 1980's:

- Title IX, ADA, Financial aid auditing, Mental-health and disability services
- IT infrastructure, cybersecurity -necessary, but added layers of cost.

c) Healthcare and benefits costs skyrocketed

Universities had to absorb benefit-cost explosions –pension adjustments because of historic underfunding and health insurance rates.

None of these alone explain tuition increases, but in combination **they raised the cost of providing education even as states reduced their share.**

How did the price get so high? (4 of 5 reasons)

4. Facilities and Amenities Arms Race (Moderate but Real Contributor)

Not the main driver, but contributes:

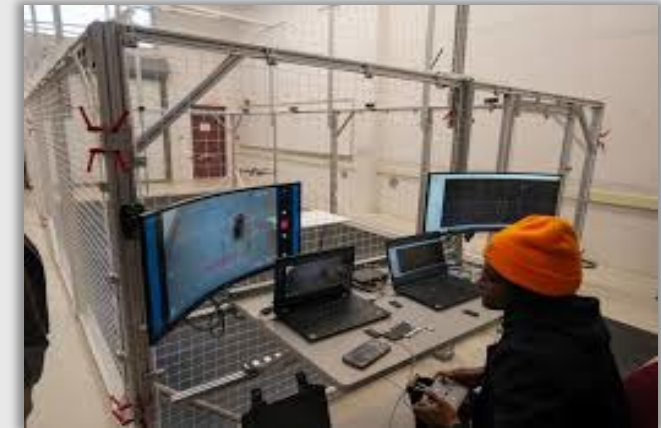
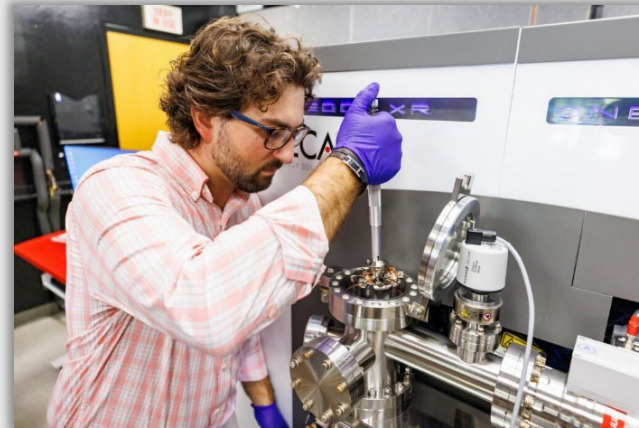
- Student expectations changed: recreational centers, housing improvements, dining, and campus safety all rose in cost.
- Competition for **full-pay** students increased.
- Amenities account for <15% of long-run tuition growth but are very visible.



How did the price get so high? (5 of 5 reasons)

5. Enrollment Growth and Program Expansion

- Colleges expanded engineering, health sciences, technology, and graduate programs—each more expensive to deliver.
- States encouraged expansion (for workforce needs) but did not raise appropriations in proportion to increased costs.

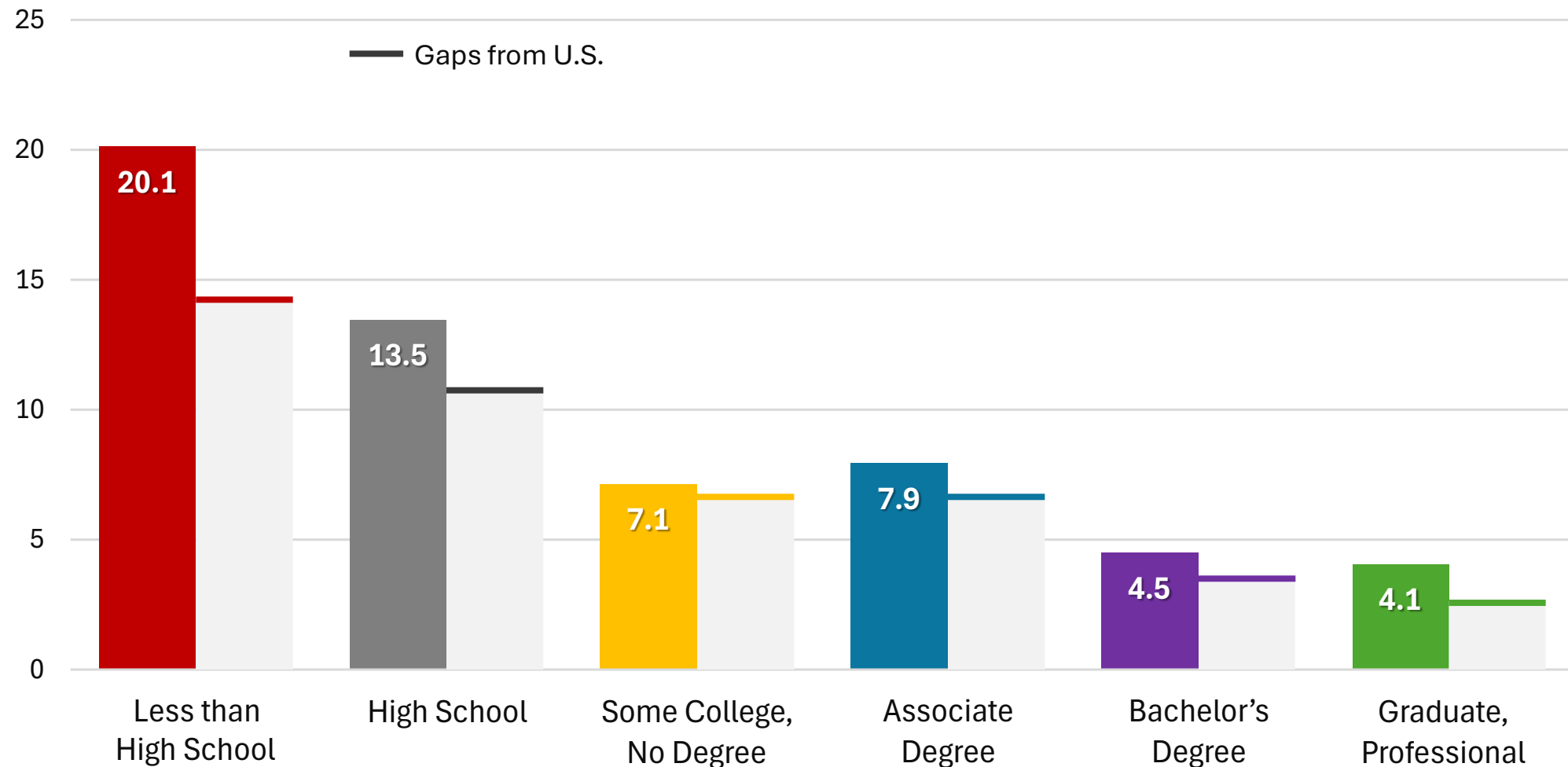




Census Bureau [data](#) shows that households headed by a bachelor's-degree holder earn a median income of \$132,700, more than double the \$58,410 for those led by someone with only a high school diploma.

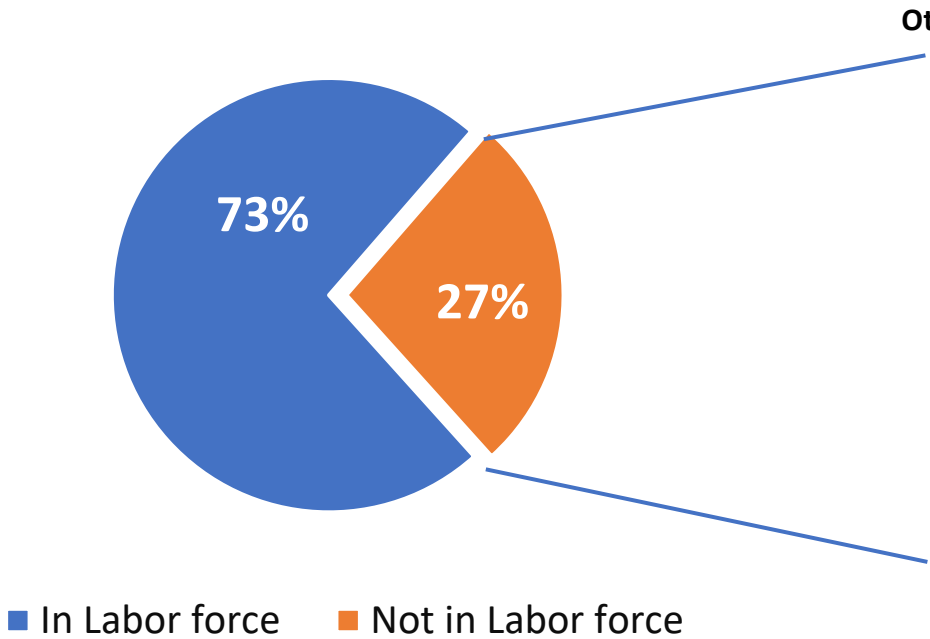
Over the past two decades, degree-holding households saw real incomes rise by 13 percent, while high school-only households saw virtually no rise.

Percentage of Adults Ages 18 to 64 Relying on Public Assistance By Level of Education (2023)

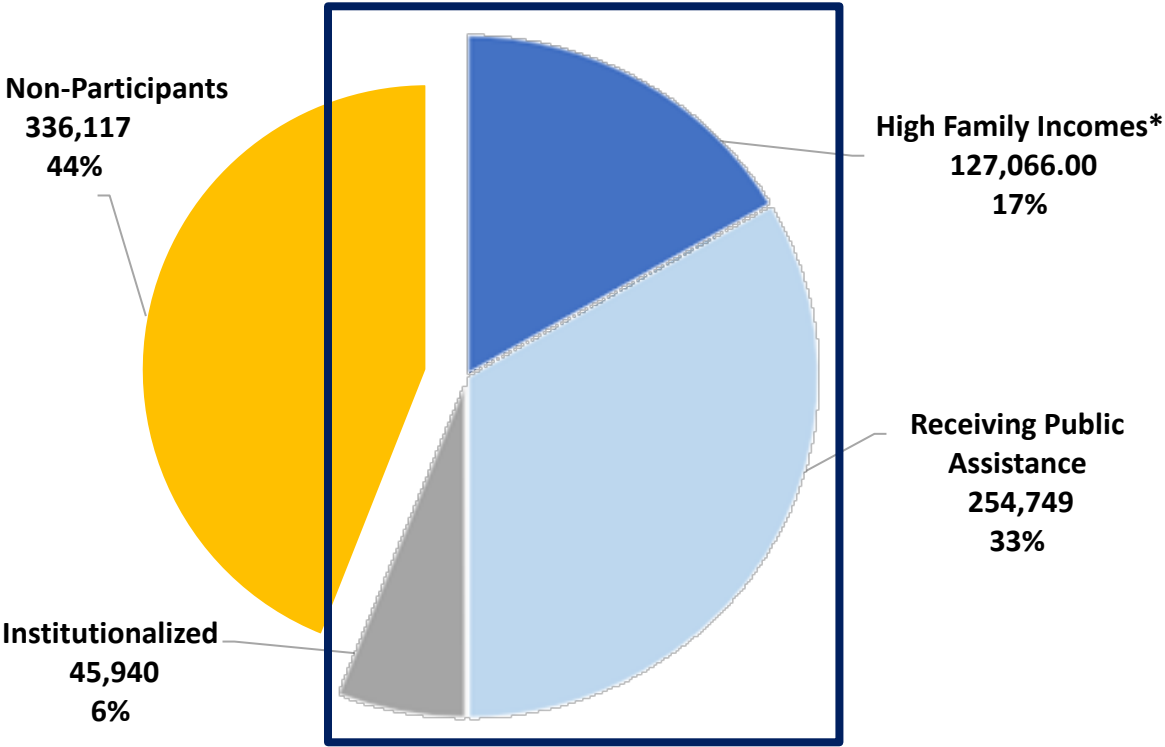


U.S. Census Bureau; 2023 American Community Survey (Public Use Microdata Samples)

Labor Force Status of Ages 25 to 64 in Alabama (2023)

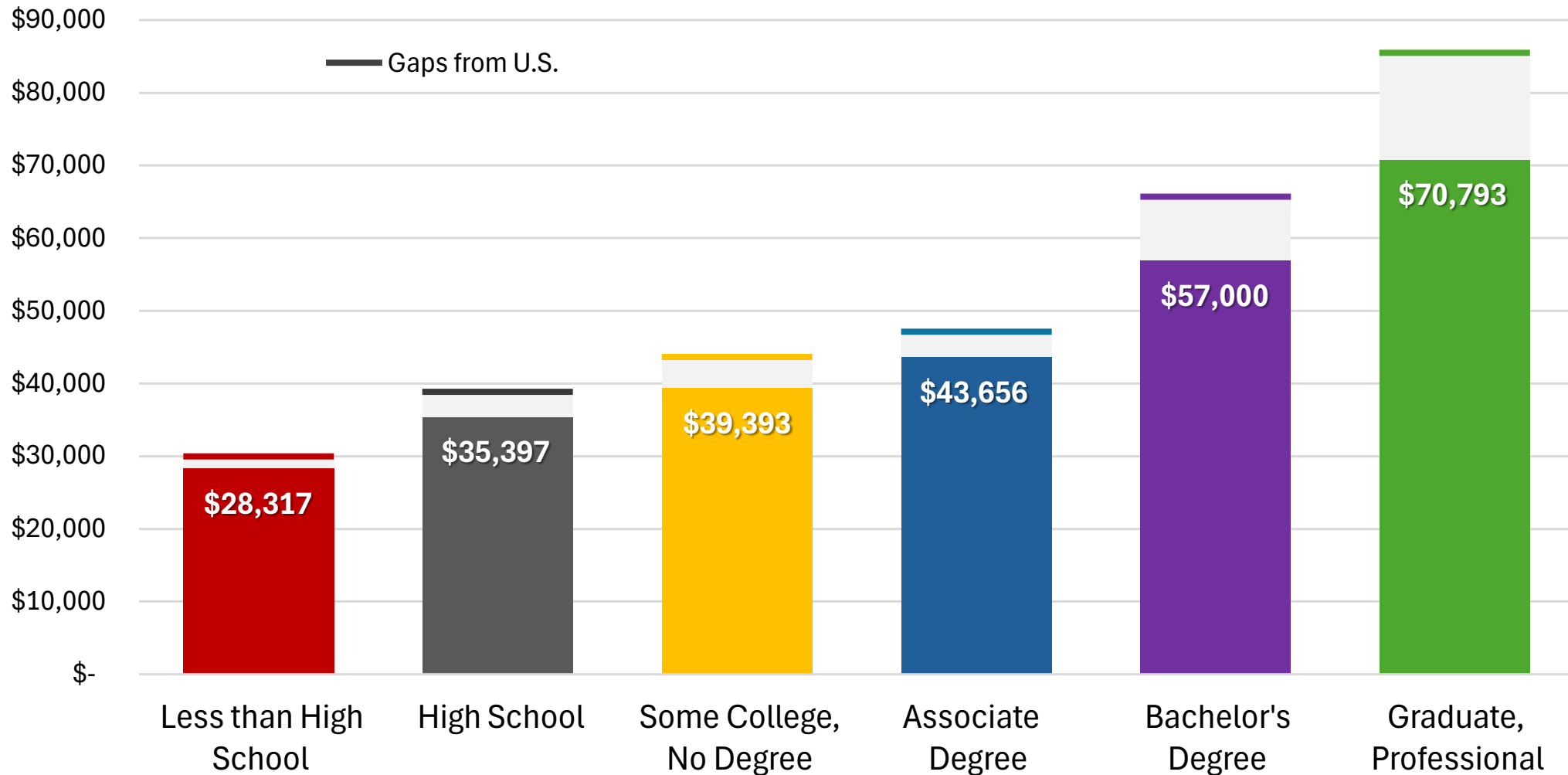


Status of Those Not in Labor Force

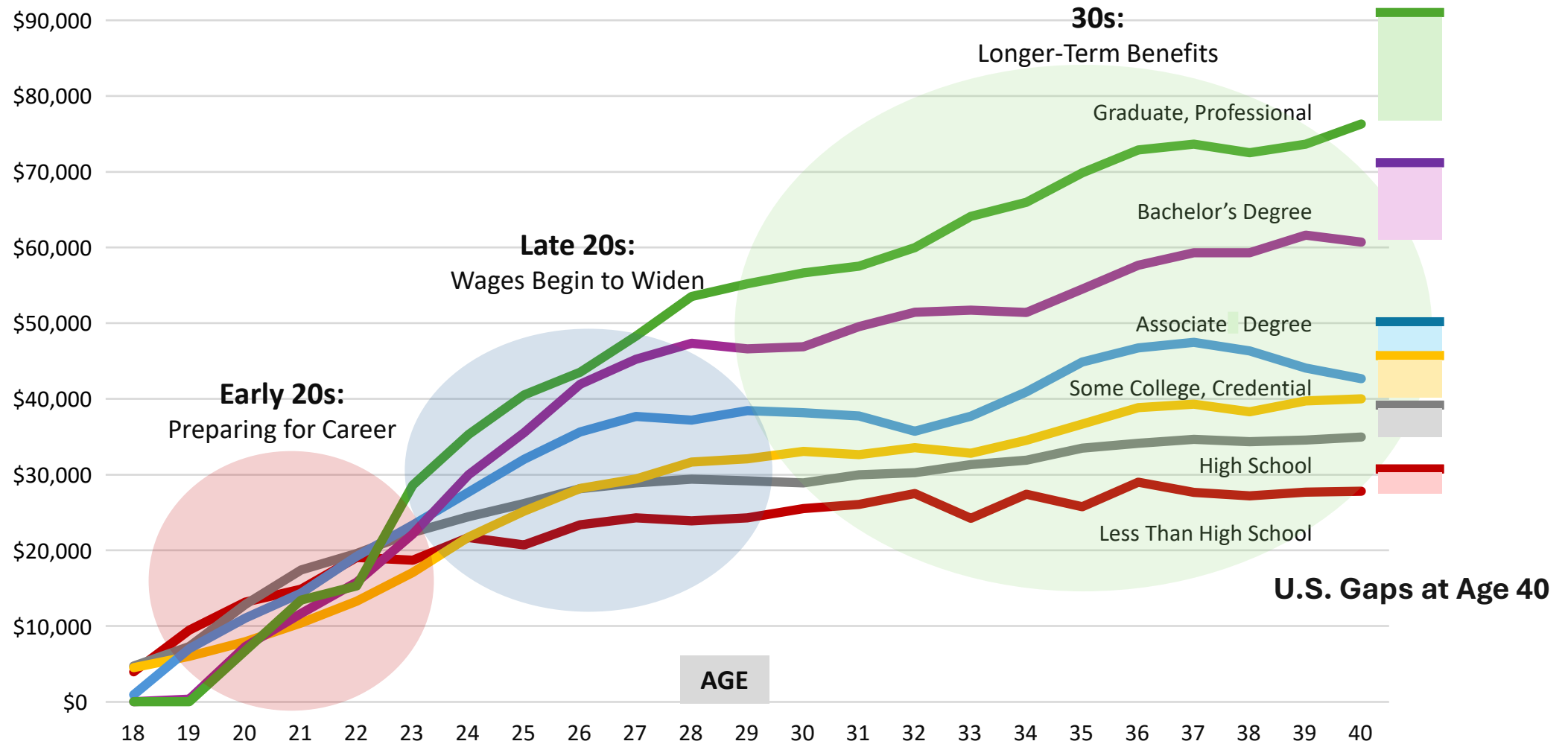


56% are not likely to participate in the labor force

Median Annual Wages of Adults Ages 25 to 64 By Level of Education (2023)



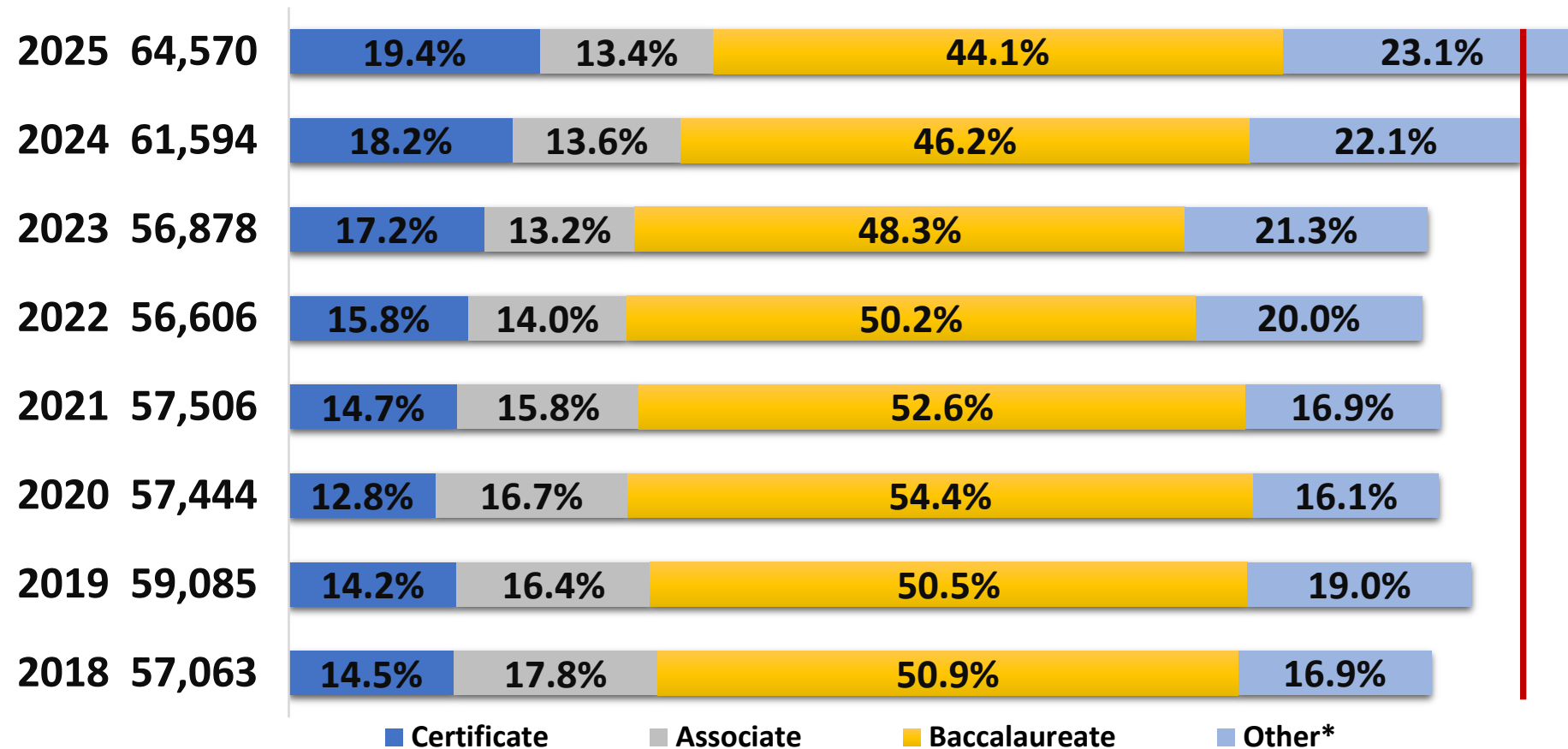
Median Annual Wages by Age and Education Level Among Alabama's Young Workers (2023)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey (Microdata Samples); IPUMS.

Success Plus: 500K New Degree Earners by 2025

- Needed **62,500 new degrees each year** from 2018 to 2025 to meet attainment goal.
- Estimates place the state slightly below goal at **470,746**, with minor gap reflecting post-Covid decline in enrollment and degree production.



**62,500 new degrees
needed each year
to meet goal.**

Data includes
licenses and
apprenticeships.

VIII. Discussion Items

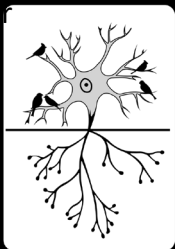


Alabama EPSCoR Graduate Research Scholar

*Guest Presenter:
Maddie Jackson, University of South Alabama*



Alabama EPSCoR GRSP Awardee



**BIRD
BRAIN'D**
Avian Ecology &
Physiology Lab



Maddie Jackson is a graduate student at the University of South Alabama, where she is researching migratory physiology in birds. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Missouri Southern State University in 2024. Maddie moved from Joplin, MO, to Mobile, AL, in 2025 so she could pursue her Master's degree in Biology and is currently in her second year. She is passionate about birds and always eager to talk about her research. Her plans after graduation include continuing her work with migratory birds and finding a career that mixes both bird research and science communication.

My background

- I grew up (mostly) in the Midwest
- Became a mom in 2018
 - Changed my career trajectory!
- Graduated with a Bachelor's in biology in 2024



How I ended up in Alabama



- Deciding “what’s next” after graduation
- Applied for various Master’s programs
- Toured USA and Mobile
 - Loved both!



My Research – Bird Brains & Migration

- Migration: complicated, variable, and nothing short of amazing
- And birds undergo some incredible changes to prep for migration!



My Research – Bird Brains & Migration

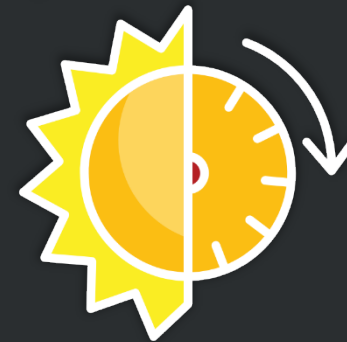
- But...why do birds migrate?
- And timing is everything
- Birds rely on **cues** to decide when to leave
- Increasing daylength triggers both migration and reproduction



Social Cues



Changes in resource availability



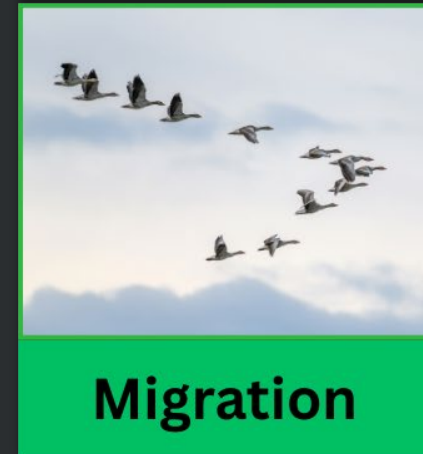
Increasing Daylength

My Research – The Experiment

Using increasing daylength in the lab as a trigger, I wanted to find out if the neural mechanisms of migration and reproduction were, in fact, separate.

My Research – Early Results & the “Why”

- Evidence that the neural mechanisms of migration and reproduction are separate
 - Only bright group had reproductive development
 - Green & bright had migratory characteristics
- Working to isolate gene expression specific to migration in the brain
- Research like this is critical to protect migratory birds



My Research – Early Results & the “Why”

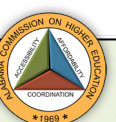
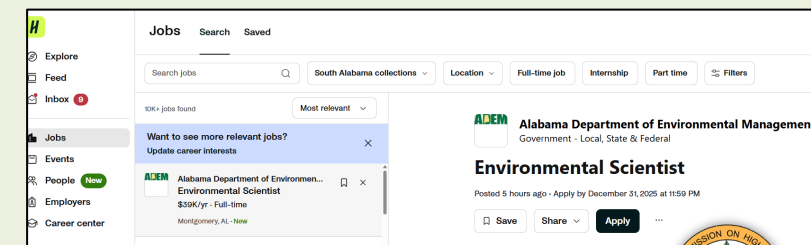
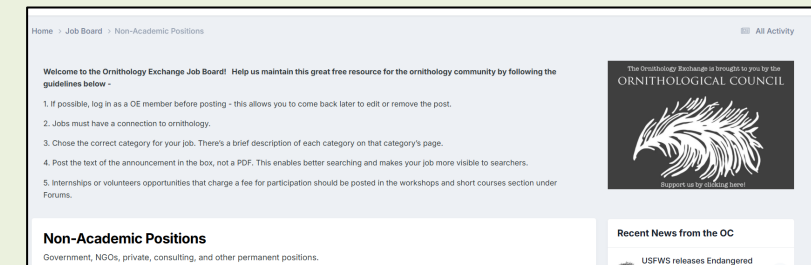
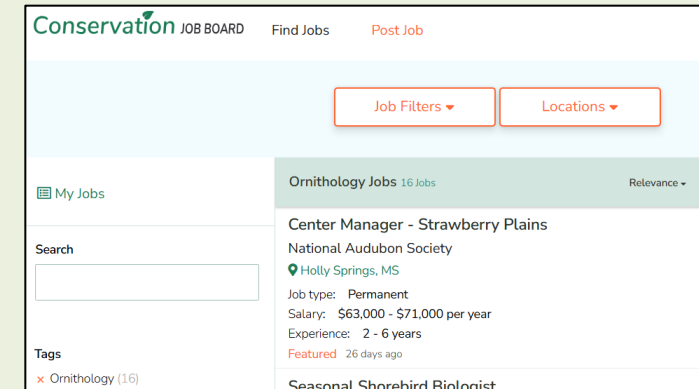
- Evidence that the neural mechanisms of migration and reproduction are separate
 - Only bright group had reproductive development
 - Green & bright had migratory characteristics
- Working to isolate gene expression specific to migration in the brain
- Research like this is critical to protect migratory birds



Future Plans

- I will be looking for jobs in Alabama when I graduate next spring.
- My primary interests are in research, field work, and public outreach.
- Eventually, I would like to return to graduate school and earn my PhD.

My future
(temporary)
9-5 will be
job-searching.



Acknowledgements



Research & Support

- I would like to acknowledge the financial support from the Alabama Graduate Research Scholars Program (GRSP) funded through the Alabama Commission for Higher Education and administered by the Alabama EPSCoR.
- NSF for funding this research (award # 2233190)
- My awesome PI, Dr. Jonathan Pérez
- My other committee members: Dr. Jason Strickland & Dr. David Penning
- Members of the Bird Brain'd Lab
- University of South Alabama, especially the Biology Department
- My fellow grad students
- White-crowned Sparrows who made this research possible

Land Permissions

- Alabama Forever Wild lands
- Alabama Port Authority



ALABAMA
PORT AUTHORITY
PORT OF MOBILE



IX. Decision Items



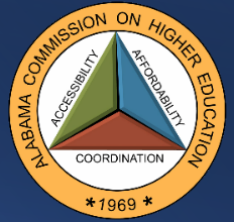
A. Executive Budget Request FY 2026-27

Staff Presenter: Mrs. Veronica Harris





Executive Budget Request Submission



- Under **Title 41, Chapter 19, Section 6(a)(3) of the Code of Alabama**, each state agency must submit its budget request using the format and schedule prescribed by the Department of Finance to the Budget Officer for the upcoming fiscal year.
- The due date for Budget Request packages, as set by law is November 1st of each year. Therefore, the **FY 2026-2027 budget request packet was due Monday, November 3, 2025** (§41-4-84, Code of Alabama 1975).
- The budget request was submitted to EBO to comply with the designated submission deadline.
- Any Commission changes will be submitted as a budget request revision.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

FY 2025-26 Executive Budget Request

- **ACHE requests \$96,305,371 for FY26-27.** The budget includes a minimal increase in operations and maintenance with more for state student financial aid programs and the programs administered under the Support of Other Educational Activities, appropriation 152.
- **ACHE requests a \$2,484,050 increase in ETF,** with approximately 74% for state student financial aid and 26% for other educational initiatives.
- ACHE's unique budget structure primarily earmarks funds for specific educational activities and serves as a pass-through for statewide education initiatives, encompassing **54 programs across six appropriation units.**

Planning Assumptions Used in Developing the FY 2026-27 Executive Budget Request

Due to the FY 25 reversions that were reappropriated in FY 26, **only a minimal amount of \$169,050 was requested for FY 27 for Planning and Coordination (Operations and Maintenance)** to cover continued rising costs such as insurance premiums and retirement.



Assumptions for Other Existing Programs

Increases requested for the following programs:

- **\$500,000** – Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP)
- **\$500,000** – Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP)
- **\$500,000** – Alabama National Guard Scholarship Program (ANGEAP)
- **\$200,000** – Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)
- **\$200,000** – Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL)
- **\$200,000** – Articulation System (STARS)
- **\$100,000** – Pathways to Progress
- **\$60,000** – Adaptive Sports for extra costs regarding the Special Olympics

Explanation for the Following Figures

On the next three slides, figures will indicate decreases shown as negative amounts in almost every program due to the substantial number of FY 25 reversions that were reappropriated into FY 26.

The reappropriations increased the total FY 26 budget, which makes the requested amount appear significantly lower in comparison to the amount requested.

As previously presented, **ACHE is requesting a total of \$96,305,371 for FY26-27 with a \$2,484,050 increase in ETF.**

STATE OF ALABAMA EBO Form No. 2		AGENCY BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARY BUDGET REQUEST		Agency: Alabama Commission on Higher Education Agency No.: 319		Page 1 of 3
CODE NO.	PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2025	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES 2026	REQUESTED EXPENDITURES 2027	INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM PRIOR YEAR	
					AMOUNT	PERCENT
172	PLANNING AND COORDINATION SERVICES					
0144	Postsecondary Education (ACHE O&M)	3,878,439	5,702,966	4,639,198	(1,063,768)	(18.65%)
0322	Non Resident Institutions	30,474	236,239	236,239		
1174	Industry Credential Directory	93,931	131,304	105,000	(26,304)	(20.03%)
1175	Retain Alabama	415,044	1,247,119	650,000	(597,119)	(47.88%)
1209	FAFSA Completion	365,120	856,729	580,000	(276,729)	(32.30%)
1241	Study Alabama	48,500	51,500	50,000	(1,500)	(2.91%)
1323	SARA - Reciprocity	156,628	200,000	250,000	50,000	25.00%
1266	Pathways to Progress		1,100,000	700,000	(400,000)	(36.36%)
	TOTAL	4,988,136	9,525,857	7,210,437	(2,315,420)	(24.31%)
153	STUDENT ASSISTANCE					
0121	Alabama Student Assistance Program	9,393,522	10,268,442	10,500,000	231,558	2.26%
0122	Alabama Educational Grants Program	10,164,946	10,215,404	10,500,000	284,596	2.79%
0124	Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program	6,748,868	13,675,456	9,831,114	(3,844,342)	(28.11%)
0794	Police and Firefighter's Survivors Tuition Program	235,383	1,198,873	466,935	(731,938)	(61.05%)
1137	Math and Science Teacher Education Scholarship	251,669	1,000,000	1,000,000		
1161	Birmingham Promise Scholarship Program	892,500	892,500	892,500		
	1212 Re-Engage Alabama Scholarship Program	158,375	10,661,848	1,935,000	(8,726,848)	(81.85%)
1242	Indians Affairs Scholarship Program	93,536	106,464	100,000	(6,464)	
1276	AL Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarships		8,000,000	8,000,000		
	TOTAL	27,938,799	56,018,987	43,225,549	(12,793,438)	(22.84%)
152	SUPPORT OF OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES					
0107	AGSC/STARS	793,730	809,519	999,589	190,070	23.48%
0109	Southern Regional Education Board	769,366	917,336	831,214	(86,122)	(9.39%)
0116	Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research	1,369,639	1,276,604	1,460,184	183,580	14.38%
0118	Network of Alabama Academic Libraries	308,875	548,399	584,076	35,677	6.51%
1208	STEM Major Teacher Recruitment	4,108,432	6,688,526	4,500,000	(2,188,526)	(32.72%)
	1211 Outcome Based Funding		15,000,000		(15,000,000)	(100.00%)
1193	National PASI Program	106,237	7,144,819	7,144,819		
1176	Best and Brightest Stem		250,000	250,000		
	TOTAL	7,456,279	32,635,203	15,769,882	(16,865,321)	(51.68%)



STATE OF ALABAMA		AGENCY BUDGET REQUEST		Agency: Alabama Commission on Higher Education		
EBO Form No. 2		SUMMARY BUDGET REQUEST		Agency No.: 319	Page 2 of 3	
CODE NO.	PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2025	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES 2026	REQUESTED EXPENDITURES 2027	INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM PRIOR YEAR	
					AMOUNT	PERCENT
151	SUPPORT OF STATE UNIVERSITIES					
0800	Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance	6,491,282	6,491,284	6,491,283	(1)	(0.00%)
TOTAL		6,491,282	6,491,284	6,491,283	(1)	(0.00%)
189	SUPPORT OF STATE PROGRAMS					
0306	Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC &D)	6,973,866	9,102,861	8,962,744	(140,117)	(1.54%)
0307	Soil and Water Conservation Committee Program	2,928,219	3,053,020	3,023,376	(29,644)	(0.97%)
0308	Alabama Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative	530,959	539,685	532,000	(7,685)	(1.42%)
0315	Alabama Black Belt Adventures	476,390	477,940	475,000	(2,940)	(0.62%)
0316	Alabama Black Belt Treasures	350,212	355,497	350,000	(5,497)	(1.55%)
0318	Alabama Civil Air Patrol	123,802	159,198	155,000	(4,198)	(2.64%)
0319	National Computer Forensics Institute	551,900	652,600	650,000	(2,600)	(0.40%)
0320	Adaptive Sports Scholarship	58,200	63,600	120,000	56,400	88.68%
0321	Motorsports Hall of Fame	201,350	201,651	200,000	(1,651)	(0.82%)
1110	Alabama Humanities Foundation	200,841	302,159	300,000	(2,159)	(0.71%)
1140	Alabama Forestry Commission Education Program	198,950	201,451	200,000	(1,451)	(0.72%)
1141	Alabama Recruit and Retain Minority Program	709,629	704,118	700,000	(4,118)	(0.58%)
1267	Judge Hortron Civil Justice	1,700,000				
1162	AKEEP Education and Teacher Recruitment Partnership	251,863	400,238	400,000	(238)	(0.06%)
1182	USS Alabama Battleship	1,332,211	1,580,090	1,550,000	(30,090)	(1.90%)
1265	North Alabama Agriplex	900,000				
1213	Birmingham Zoo-Alabama Veterinary Teaching Hospital	1,200,000				
1231	Historical Black College and Universities Cares Program	646,947	655,553	650,000	(5,553)	(0.85%)
1264	Nature Discovery Center	1,000,000				
1237	NCAA Woman's Basketball	250,000				
1238	Para-Cycling Road Championship	250,000				
1239	SEC Baseball Tournament	500,000				
1240	Selma University	75,000				
1243	Scottsboro Boys Museum	199,414	586		(586)	(100.00%)
1268	Tennessee Riverline Program		175,000		(175,000)	(100.00%)
1269	Kingdom College	80,000				
1327	Alabama Trails Foundation	342,250	344,950	340,000	(4,950)	(1.43%)
TOTAL		22,032,004	18,970,197	18,608,120	(141,542)	(0.75%)
340	DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM					
1142	Deferred Maintenance	4,928,395	5,000,000	5,000,000		
TOTAL		4,928,395	5,000,000	5,000,000		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		73,834,895	128,641,528	96,305,271	(32,336,257)	(25.14%)



STATE OF ALABAMA		AGENCY BUDGET REQUEST		Agency: Alabama Commission on Higher Education		
EBO Form No. 2		SUMMARY BUDGET REQUEST		Agency No.: 319	Page 3 of 3	
CODE NO.	PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2025	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES 2026	REQUESTED EXPENDITURES 2027	INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM PRIOR YEAR	
					AMOUNT	PERCENT
0100	Personnel Costs	3,419,762	4,824,151	4,616,151	(208,000)	(4.31%)
0200	Employee Benefits	990,958	1,452,791	1,390,623	(62,168)	(4.28%)
0300	Travel-In-State	30,344	102,630	80,962	(21,668)	(21.11%)
0400	Travel-Out-Of-State	35,064	136,260	107,260	(29,000)	(21.28%)
0500	Repairs and Maintenance	7,747	63,300	4,300	(59,000)	(93.21%)
0600	Rentals and Leases	486,557	1,110,806	827,277	(283,529)	(25.52%)
0700	Utilities and Communication	51,338	435,895	254,849	(181,046)	(41.53%)
0800	Professional Services	831,087	8,548,989	7,922,536	(626,453)	(7.33%)
0900	Supplies, Materials and Operating Exp	460,862	845,898	573,678	(272,220)	(32.18%)
1000	Transportation Equipment Operations	10,958	34,400	18,000	(16,400)	(47.67%)
1100	Grants and Benefits	67,291,617	110,560,187	80,303,600	(30,256,587)	(27.37%)
1200	Capital Outlay				
1300	Transportation Equipment Purchases	48,827	80,000		(80,000)	(100.00%)
1400	Other Equipment Purchases	169,776	446,221	206,035	(240,186)	(53.83%)
1500	Debt Service				
1600	Miscellaneous				
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		73,834,895	128,641,528	96,305,271	(32,336,257)	(25.14%)
TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES		30.35	30.80	32.80	2	6.49%
FUND NO. SOURCE OF FUNDS						
0200	ETF Appropriation	103,186,323	113,125,470	82,674,213	(30,451,257)	(26.92%)
1742	Deferred Maintenance	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000		
0200	National Pasi Program	(12,393,763)			
0200	ETF Reversion- Reappropriated	(34,820,309)			
0403	Local - NRI	236,239	236,239	236,239		
1687	Local - SARA	200,000	200,000	250,000	50,000	25.00%
1853	ReEngage Alabama		1,935,000		(1,935,000)	(100.00%)
0403	National Pasi Program	12,500,000	7,144,819	7,144,819		
0403	Transfer Math and Science	746,750	1,000,000	1,000,000		
1742	Deferred Maintenance Reverted-Reappropriated	(76,127)				
0403	Balance Brought Forward - NRI/SARA/Math	(744,218)			
TOTAL FUNDS		73,834,895	128,641,528	96,305,271	(32,336,257)	(25.14%)



Motion, Decision Item A:

That the Commission approve the FY 2026-2027 ACHE Executive Budget Request.

B. Consolidated Budget Recommendation (CBR) for FY 2026-27

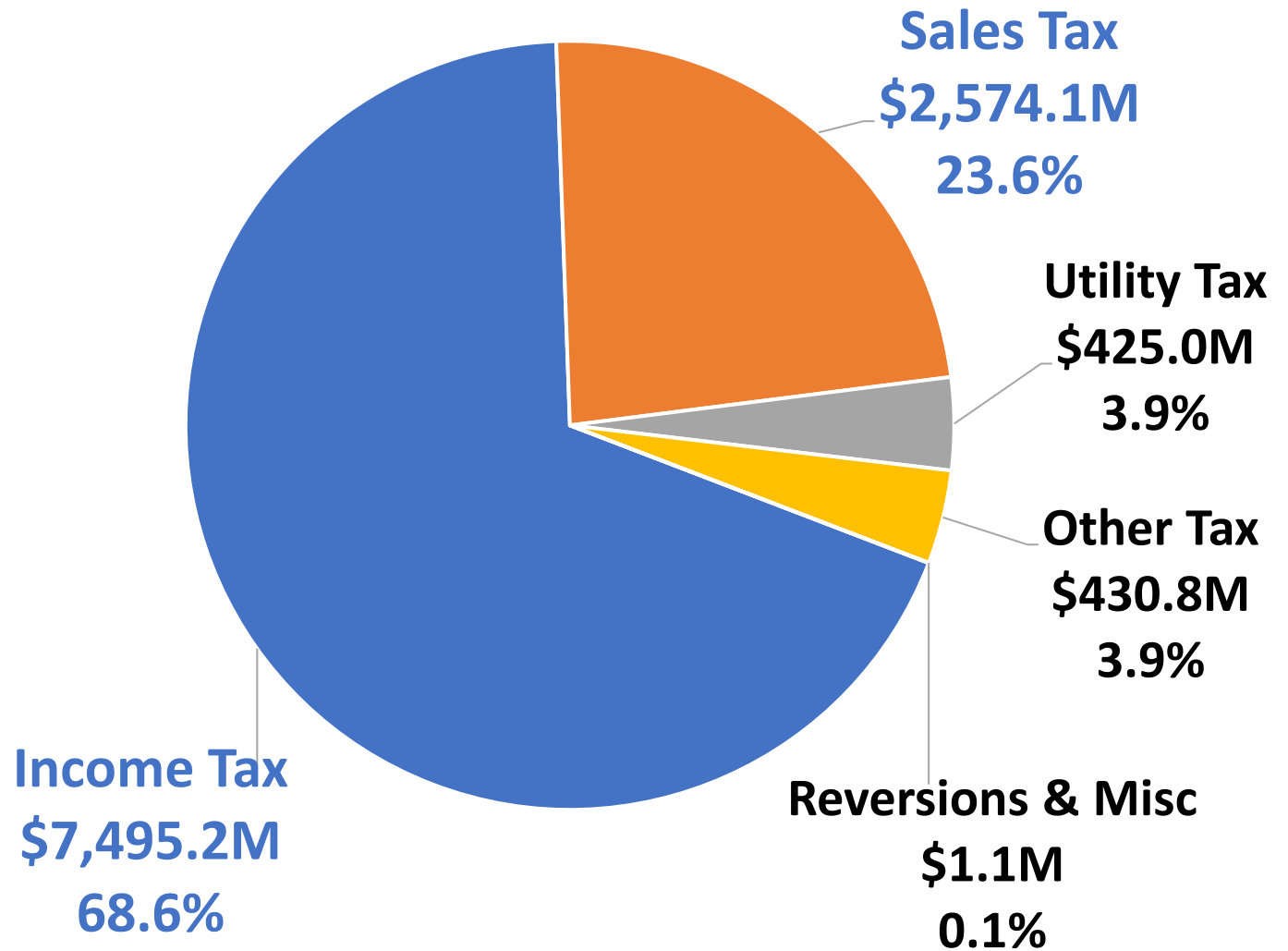
Staff Presenter: Dr. Jim Hood

Section 16-5-9(b) of the Code of Alabama states that “...The Commission ... shall present to each institution and the Governor and Legislature, a single unified budget report containing budget recommendations for the separate appropriations to each of the institutions.”



CBR for FY 2026-2027: Revenue for ETF Estimate

- 92% of the revenue for the ETF is from income (68.6%) and sales (23.6%) taxes
- **Income tax grew 33% in five years** (\$5,643.9M to \$7,495.2M)
- **Sales tax grew 11% in five years** (\$2,320.8M to \$2,574.1M)



CBR for FY2026-2027: Considerations

- **Act #2023-390** amends Rolling Reserve Act
- Suggested increase based on least amount between Appropriation Cap (CAP) or Secondary Spending Limit (SSL)
 - SSL: 6.00% in 2026; **5.75% in 2027 and after**
 - CAP: Avg of 15 most recent fiscal years, excluding high and low years

- **Recommended Increases:**

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Higher Education	16.02	10.68	6.76	6.00	5.75
Public Institutions	17.53	11.19	6.84	6.29	6.02

- **ACHE recommended ETF at 5.75%, which is \$148,098,103**

CBR for FY 2026-2027 Budget Hearings

- Conducted institutional budget hearings on **November 6th**.
- Institutions provided additional context on budget requests and highlight areas of need.
- **Financial Affairs Committee** gained a better understanding of the financial challenges facing colleges and universities.
- Some of the areas of need focused on the following:
 - Personnel and salary issues, including salary compression;
 - Increased mandatory costs related to retirement and insurance;
 - Need for additional funds to address rising inflationary costs (i.e., utilities and construction); and
 - Growing need for capital assets to address deferred maintenance, building construction, and building renovation.

CBR Distribution by Fund Priority

Personnel and Salaries	Weighted Credit Hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$35M; 25.8% of total• 1.55% over FY 2026 appropriation• maintain competitive salaries• address salary compression	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$30.5M; 22.4% of total• 1.35% over FY 2026 appropriation by AY 2025 weighted credit hours• reflect enrollment increases and high-cost academic programs
Mandatory Funds	Inflationary Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$42.5M; 31.3% of total• data from institutional needs assessments• mandatory retirement and health insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$27.9M; 20.5% of total• 1.25% over FY 2026 appropriation• trails 3.7% Higher Education Price Index (HEPI)

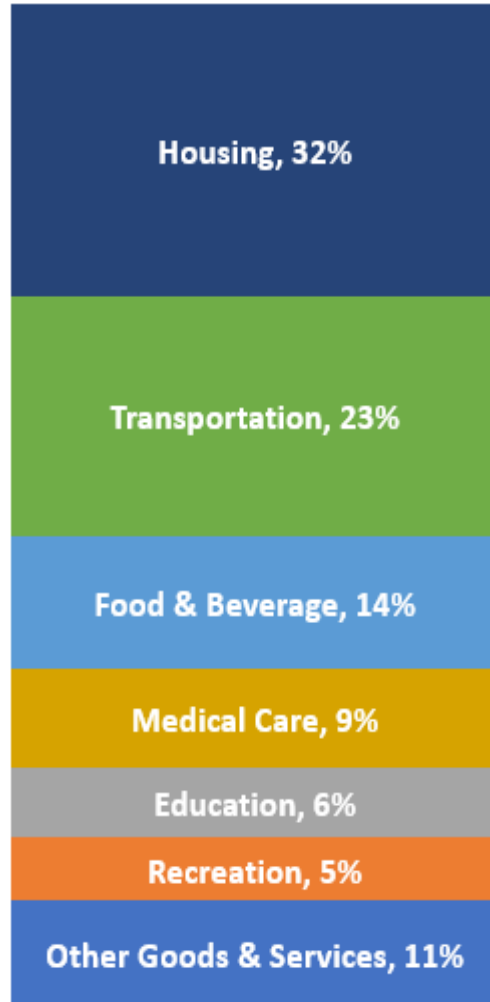
CBR Distribution Trend by Fund Priority

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Personnel and Salaries	55.2	41.1	0	31.8	25.8
Weighted Credit Hours	15.8	17.9	20.6	15.9	22.4
Mandatory Funds	5.4	3.3	28.2	32.4	31.3
Inflationary Costs	23.6	37.7	51.2	19.9	20.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

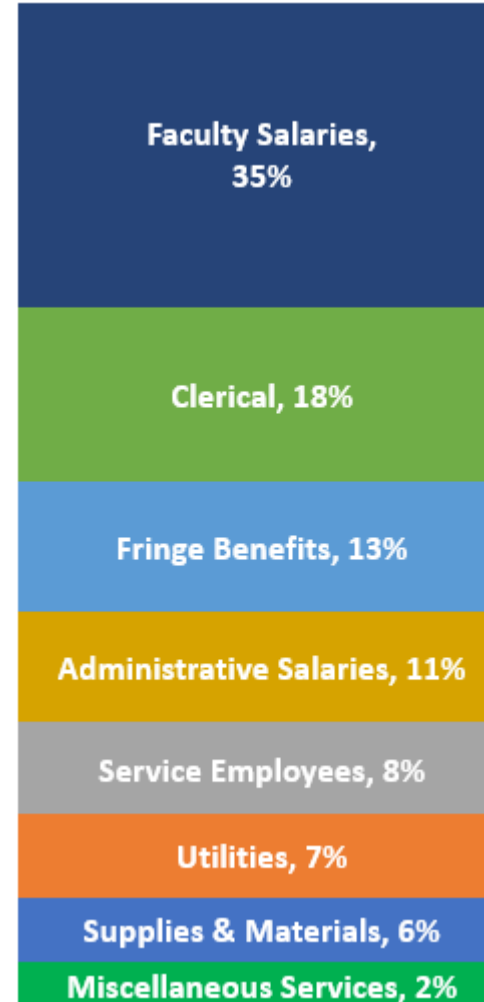
Note: Trends reflect feedback from institutional budget hearings and legislation from Act #2023-390.

CBR for FY 2026-2027: Components of CPI and HEPI

Consumer Price Index (CPI)



Higher Education Price Index (HEPI)



**Nearly half
(48%) of HEPI
is influenced
by salaries
and benefits.**

Source: Commonfund and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

CBR for FY 2026-2027: Increasing Mandatory Funds

	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS)				
Tier I Employees (Hired on or Before 01/01/13)	12.59%	13.57%	14.57%	14.66%
Tier II Employees (Hired After 01/01/13)	11.57%	12.60%	13.61%	13.70%
PUBLIC EDUCATION EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN (PEEHIP)				
Current Full-Time Employees (Monthly Contribution per Employee)	\$800	\$800	\$904	\$1,209

PEEHIP

- Shortfall projections: \$350M - \$410M (statewide for over 104K employees)
- Current solution is to pass costs on to employers (approved September).
- Institutions participating in PEEHIP:

Alabama Community College System

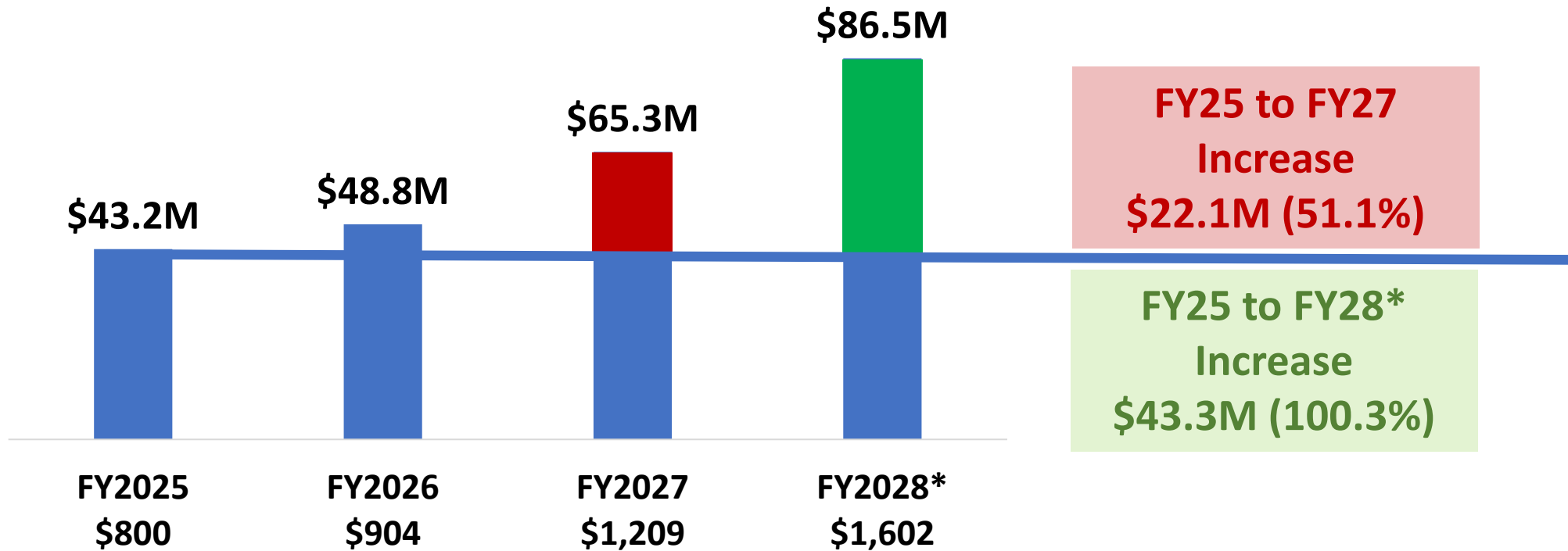
Alabama A&M University

Athens State University

Jacksonville State University

What is the Impact of PEEHIP Rate Increases?

- Assume the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) has roughly 4,500 full-time employees. The following figures reflect estimated annual PEEHIP contributions:



* Estimated by Public Education Employee Health Insurance Board

CBR Increases for FY2026-2027 by Sector

Universities (71.3%)

\$105.56 Million

5.96% increase over FY2025

Community Colleges (20.4%)

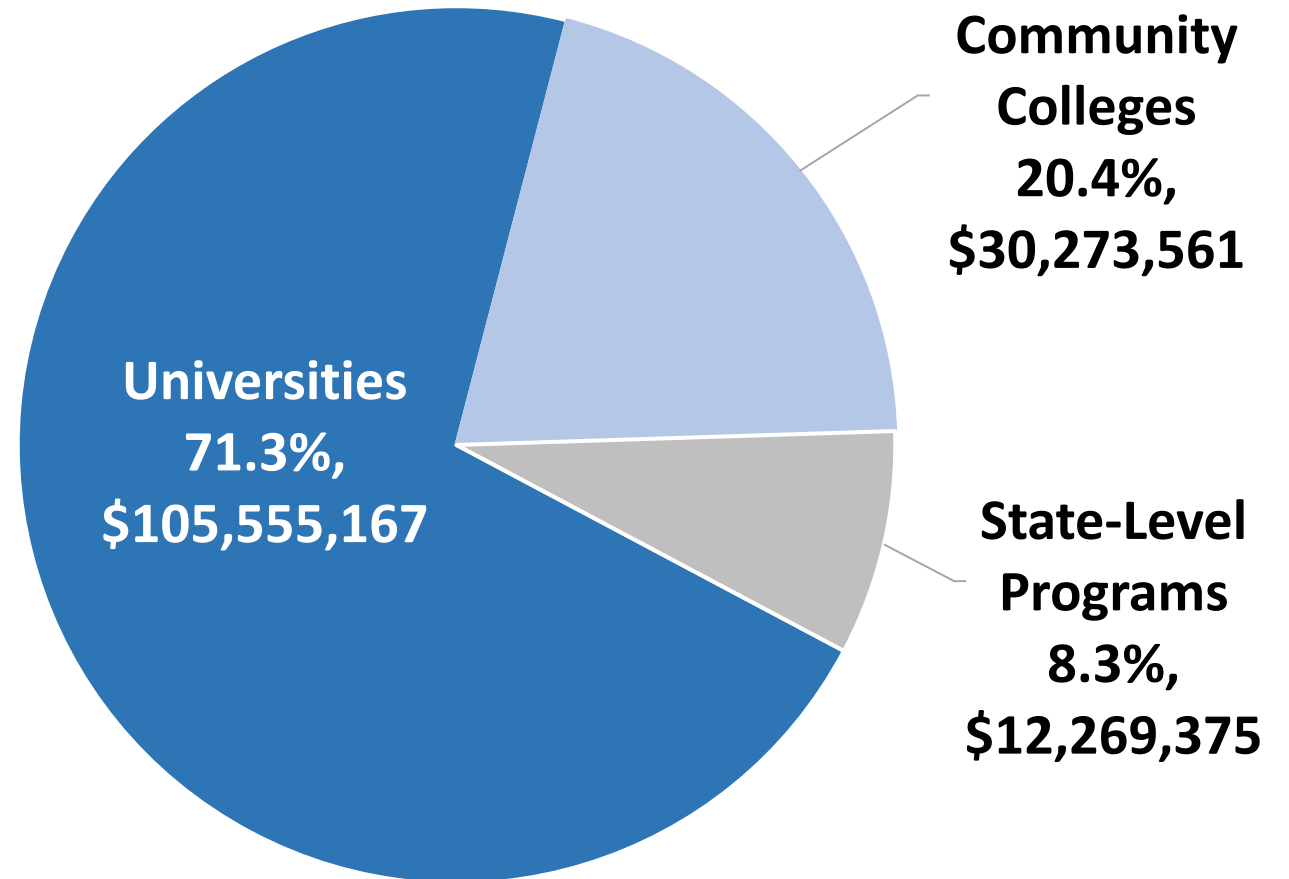
\$30.27 Million

6.24% increase over FY2025

State-Level Programs (8.3%)

\$12.27 Million

3.85% increase over FY2025





FY 2026-27 Consolidated Budget Recommendation by Institution

Institution	FY 2025-2026 Appropriation*	FY 2026-2027 Institutional EBO Request	% Increase EBO Request	FY 2026-2027 Consolidated Budget Recommendation	FY 2026-2027 Amount CBR Increase	% Increase CBR
Alabama A&M University	\$ 61,115,089	\$ 81,414,715	33.22%	\$ 65,231,774	\$ 4,116,685	6.74%
Alabama State University	\$ 66,556,368	\$ 76,524,823	14.98%	\$ 69,975,935	\$ 3,419,567	5.14%
Athens State University	\$ 23,502,462	\$ 27,600,500	17.44%	\$ 25,132,825	\$ 1,630,363	6.94%
Auburn University	\$ 379,246,504	\$ 416,864,642	9.92%	\$ 398,736,374	\$ 19,489,870	5.14%
Auburn University at Montgomery	\$ 34,989,116	\$ 38,476,536	9.97%	\$ 36,795,809	\$ 1,806,693	5.16%
Jacksonville State University	\$ 61,933,407	\$ 68,746,082	11.00%	\$ 67,428,825	\$ 5,495,418	8.87%
Troy University	\$ 87,931,064	\$ 94,075,000	6.99%	\$ 92,957,256	\$ 5,026,192	5.72%
University of Alabama	\$ 266,214,571	\$ 291,843,868	9.63%	\$ 282,463,337	\$ 16,248,766	6.10%
University of Alabama at Birmingham	\$ 416,907,358	\$ 457,372,019	9.71%	\$ 443,838,582	\$ 26,931,224	6.46%
University of Alabama in Huntsville	\$ 77,280,307	\$ 128,278,338	65.99%	\$ 81,371,896	\$ 4,091,589	5.29%
University of Montevallo	\$ 33,018,738	\$ 39,622,486	20.00%	\$ 34,725,623	\$ 1,706,885	5.17%
University of North Alabama	\$ 57,665,778	\$ 65,825,000	14.15%	\$ 60,778,675	\$ 3,112,897	5.40%
University of South Alabama	\$ 171,209,511	\$ 188,560,463	10.13%	\$ 181,413,176	\$ 10,203,665	5.96%
University of West Alabama	\$ 34,218,443	\$ 38,104,000	11.36%	\$ 36,493,796	\$ 2,275,353	6.65%
Total Universities	\$ 1,771,788,716	\$ 2,013,308,472	13.63%	\$ 1,877,343,883	\$ 105,555,167	5.96%
Total Community Colleges**	\$ 485,311,163	\$ 573,932,006	18.26%	\$ 515,584,724	\$ 30,273,561	6.24%
Total All Public Institutions	\$ 2,257,099,879	\$ 2,587,240,478	14.63%	\$ 2,392,928,607	\$ 135,828,728	6.02%
All State-Level Programs	\$ 318,519,301	\$ 397,209,536	24.71%	\$ 330,788,676	\$ 12,269,375	3.85%
Total	\$ 2,575,619,180	\$ 2,984,450,014	15.87%	\$ 2,723,717,283	\$ 148,098,103	5.75%

Note: Some institutional EBO requests include capital projects (i.e., larger percent increases).

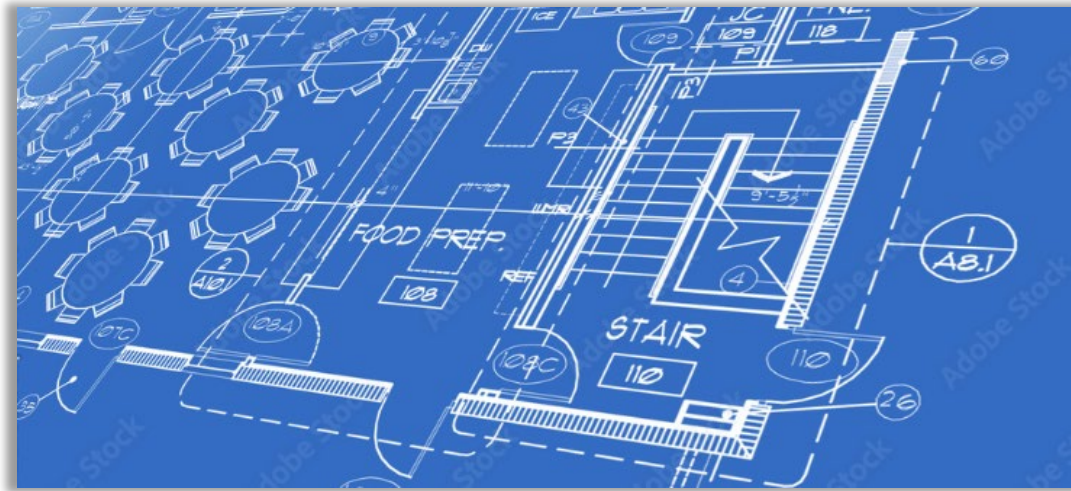


Motion, Decision Item B:

That the Commission approve the Committee's recommendation for the Consolidated Budget Recommendation (CBR) for FY 2026-2027.

C. Report on Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests for FY 2026-2027 – FY 2030-2031

Staff Presenter: Mr. Julian Rogers



Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests for FY 26-27–FY 30-31

The **Code of Alabama §16-5-15** requires all public colleges and universities to annually submit a five-year facilities master plan to the Commission. Each institution must prioritize its capital requests and provide a needs assessment for requested projects.

The five years reported have three time-segments for the capital projects:

- **Immediate** - Projects within 1st academic year of master planning cycle (FY26-27)
- **Intermediate** - Projects within 2nd academic year of the planning cycle (FY27-28)
- **Long-Term** - Projects within the final three academic years of the planning cycle (FY28-29 – FY30-31)

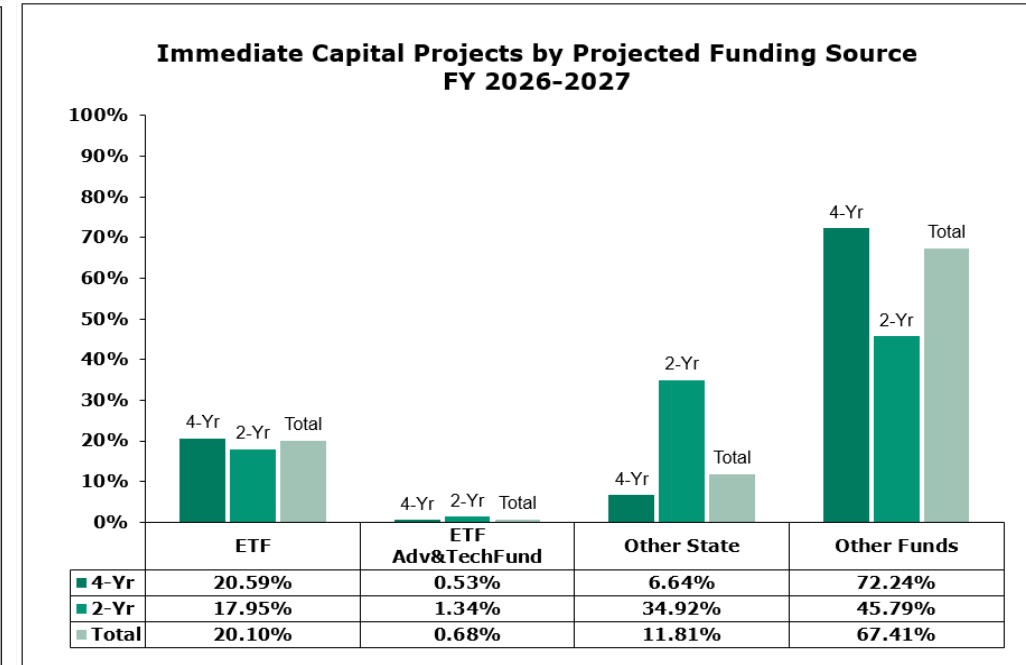
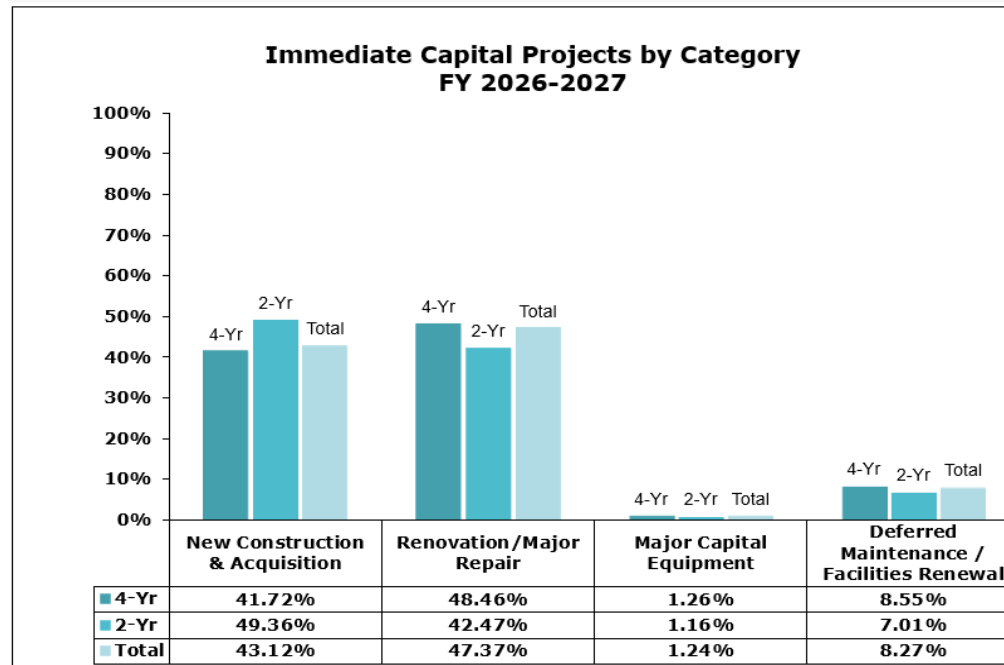
All projects are divided into four separate project categories:

New Construction/Acquisition
Major Capital Equipment

Deferred Maintenance/Facilities Renewal
Renovation and Remodeling

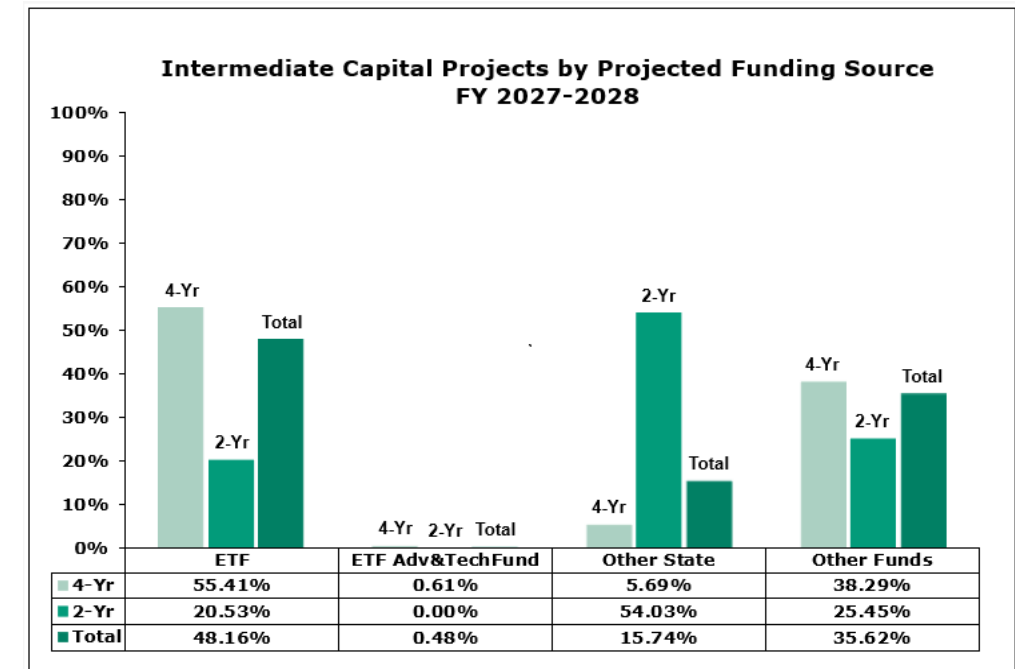
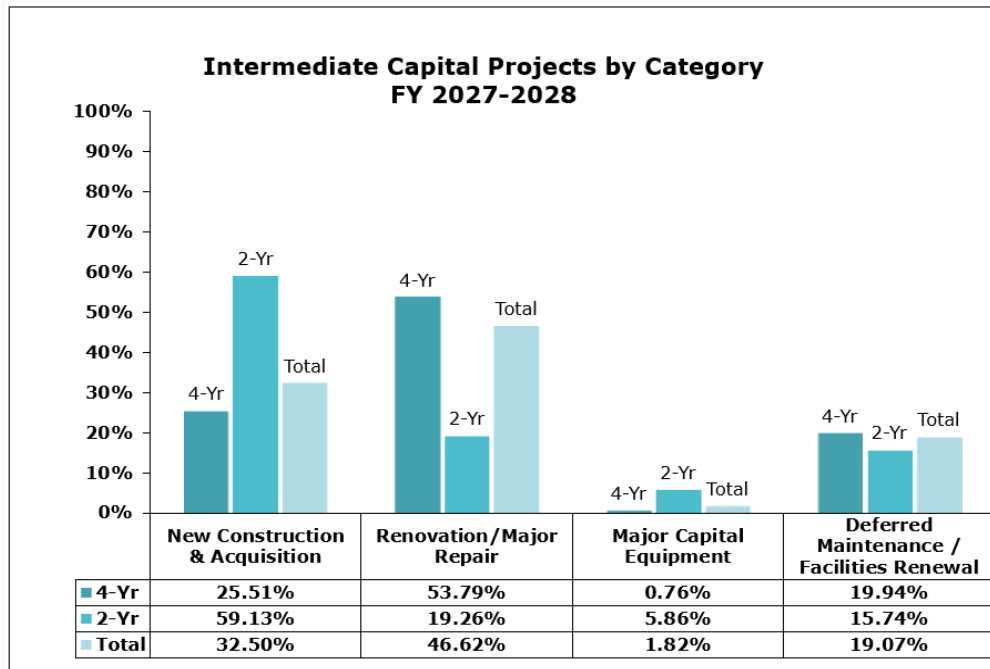
Immediate Capital Projects Requests for FY 26-27

The colleges and universities are estimating capital project needs in FY 2026-27 to exceed \$4.10B. Of this funding, 43% is for new construction, 47% is for renovation and major repair of existing structures, and 8% is needed for deferred maintenance and facilities renewal. Institutions propose that 20% of this total (almost \$824M) will need to be supported by the ETF.



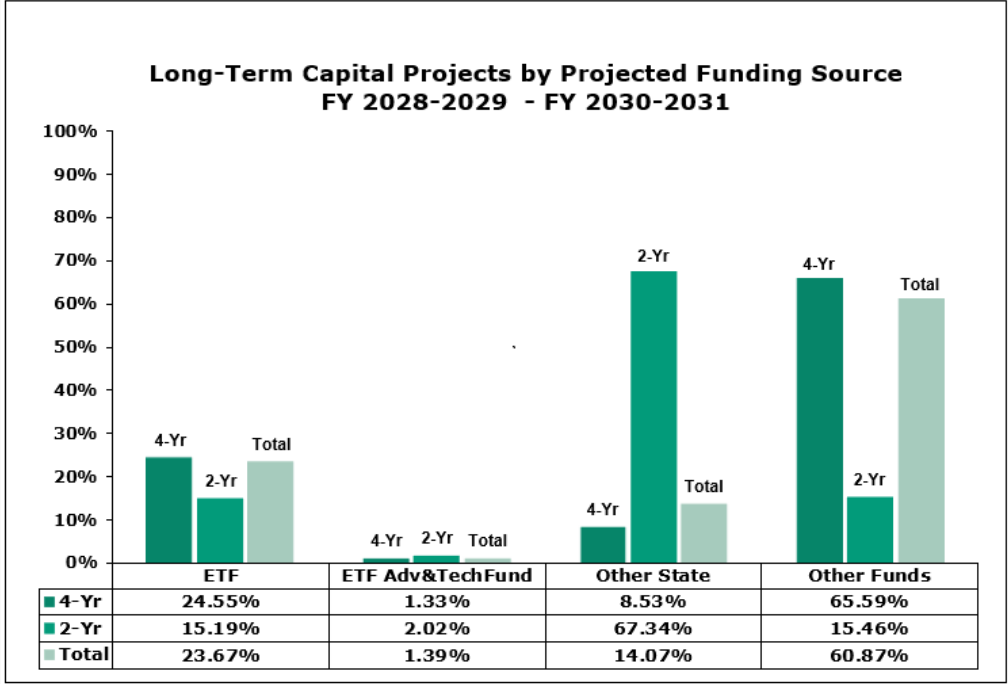
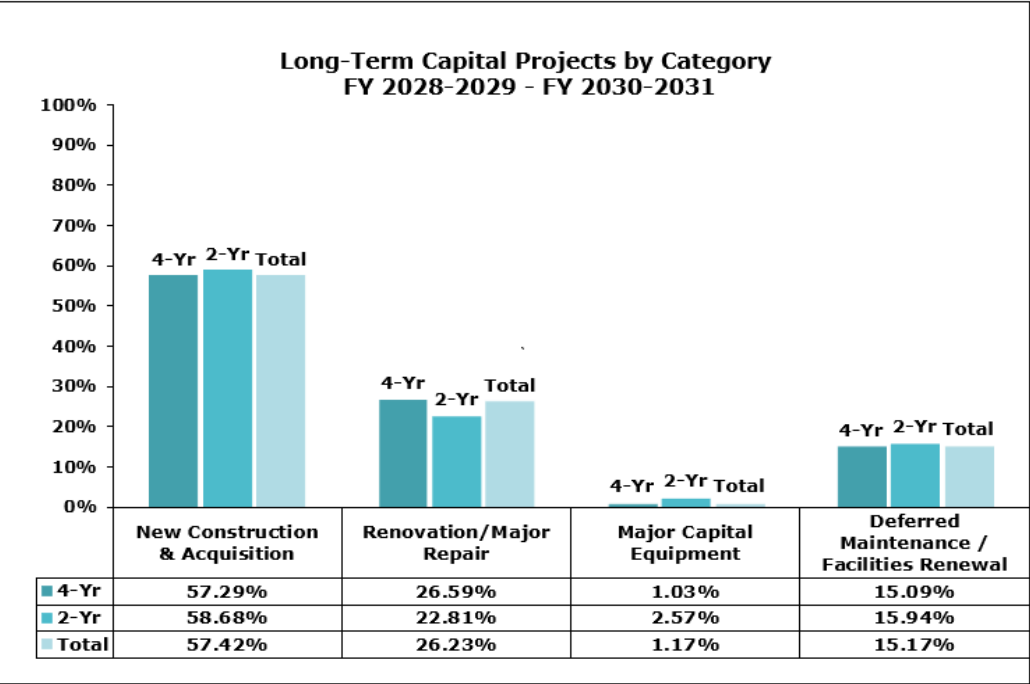
Intermediate Capital Projects Requests for FY 27-28

The colleges and universities are estimating capital project needs in FY 2027-28 to exceed \$1.1B. Of this funding, 33% is for new construction, 47% is for renovation and major repair of existing structures, and 19% is for deferred maintenance and facilities renewal. Institutions propose that 48% of this total (almost \$541M) will need to be supported by the ETF.



Long-Term Capital Projects Requests for FY 28-29–FY 30-31

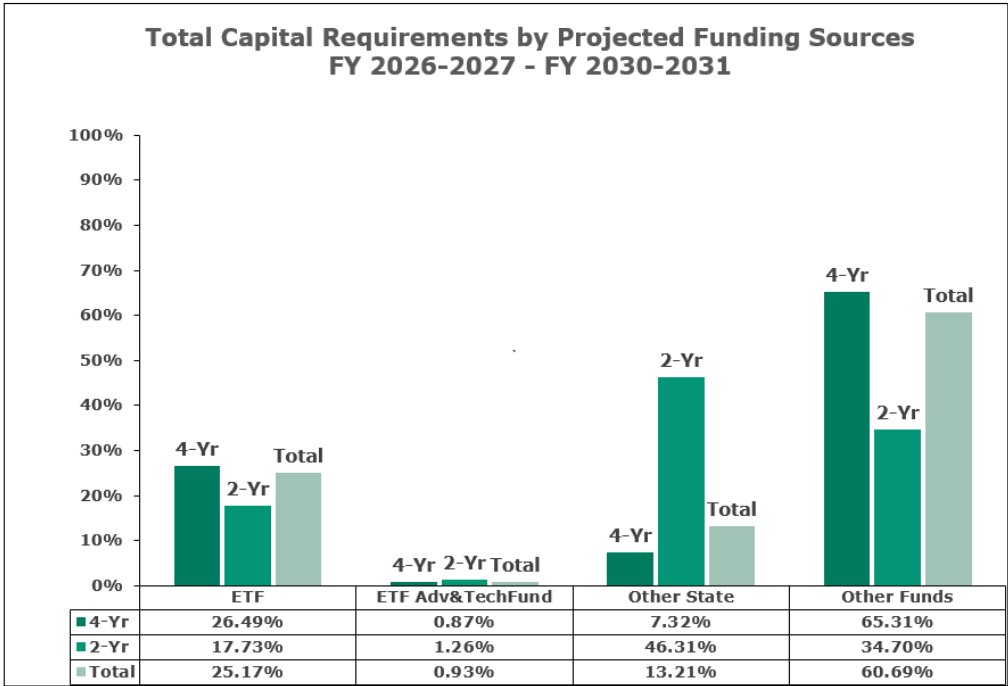
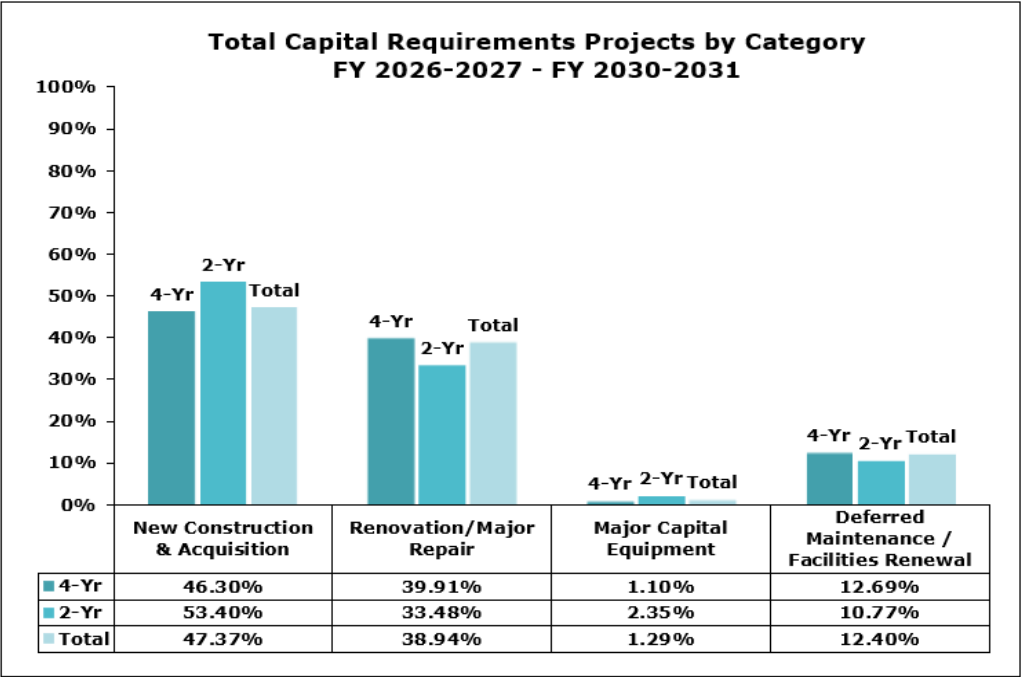
Institutions estimate over \$3.4B will be needed for capital projects in the final three academic years of this report. 23.67% (\$804M) of the funding for these projects is anticipated to come from the ETF. Of the Long-Term projects, 41% fall into renovation/major repair and deferred maintenance/ facilities renewal of existing facilities.



Total Five-Year Capital Projects Requests FY 26-27–FY 30-31

For the five-year period of this report:

- Institutions project \$8.6B will be needed for proposed projects, which includes \$4.4B for deferred maintenance or remodeling of current structures.
- Institutions propose 39% (\$3.34B) of this total will require the support of the ETF or other State-related funds.



Physical Plant by Year of Construction from 1810 to 2025

Alabama Public College and Universities

Decade	Total University				Total Two-Year				Total Dauphin Island Sealab/MESC				Total All		
	Total GSF	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent		Total GSF	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent		GSF	Total of Total	Percent		Total GSF	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Unknown	257,415	0.33%			36,040	0.26%							293,455	0.32%	
1810-1819	918	0.00%	0.33%		0	0.00%	0.26%						918	0.00%	0.32%
1820-1829	14,644	0.02%	0.35%		-	0.00%	0.26%						14,644	0.02%	0.33%
1830-1839	22,713	0.03%	0.38%		720	0.01%	0.26%						23,433	0.03%	0.36%
1840-1849	97,559	0.12%	0.50%		-	0.00%	0.26%						97,559	0.11%	0.47%
1850-1859	110,376	0.14%	0.64%		30,514	0.22%	0.48%						140,890	0.15%	0.62%
1860-1869	123,793	0.16%	0.80%		-	0.00%	0.48%						123,793	0.13%	0.75%
1870-1879	2,240	0.00%	0.80%		0	0.00%	0.48%						2,240	0.00%	0.75%
1880-1889	182,689	0.23%	1.04%		-	0.00%	0.48%						182,689	0.20%	0.95%
1890-1899	251,942	0.32%	1.36%		0	0.00%	0.48%						251,942	0.27%	1.22%
1900-1909	316,639	0.40%	1.76%		6,030	0.04%	0.53%						322,669	0.35%	1.57%
1910-1919	450,302	0.58%	2.34%		7,442	0.05%	0.58%						457,744	0.50%	2.07%
1920-1929	2,838,569	3.63%	5.97%		67,675	0.49%	1.06%						2,906,244	3.15%	5.22%
1930-1939	2,429,688	3.10%	9.07%		66,358	0.48%	1.54%						2,496,046	2.70%	7.92%
1940-1949	1,501,785	1.92%	10.99%		136,757	0.98%	2.52%		8,344	5.38%	5.38%		1,646,886	1.78%	9.70%
1950-1959	1,922,632	2.46%	13.44%		310,254	2.23%	4.75%		82,948	53.50%	58.88%		2,315,834	2.51%	12.21%
1960-1969	9,267,774	11.84%	25.28%		3,434,724	24.64%	29.39%			0.00%	58.88%		12,702,498	13.75%	25.96%
1970-1979	9,641,985	12.32%	37.60%		2,487,031	17.84%	47.23%			0.00%	58.88%		12,129,016	13.13%	39.09%
1980-1989	7,015,998	8.96%	46.56%		1,298,716	9.32%	56.54%		5,616	3.62%	62.51%		8,320,330	9.01%	48.09%
1990-1999	8,545,305	10.92%	57.48%		2,025,859	14.53%	71.07%		17,102	11.03%	73.54%		10,588,266	11.46%	59.56%
2000-2009	14,867,682	18.99%	76.47%		2,392,693	17.16%	88.24%		28,600	18.45%	91.98%		17,288,975	18.72%	78.27%
2010-2019	13,921,512	17.78%	94.25%		1,150,310	8.25%	96.49%		12,428	8.02%	100.00%		15,084,250	16.33%	94.60%
2020-2025	4,500,174	5.75%	100.00%		489,255	3.51%	100.00%						4,989,429	5.40%	100.00%
Total	78,284,334	100.00%			13,940,378	100.00%			155,038	100.00%			92,379,750	100.00%	

= 35.9%

Over **35.9%** of the square footage being used by the public colleges and universities in Alabama was constructed between 1960 and 1989. An additional **12.2%** of the utilized space was constructed prior to 1960.

Bond Issues and Debt Service

- Historically, the State of Alabama has not provided regular funding for capital projects for K-12 or postsecondary education.
- Act **2024-428** appropriated an additional **\$279M** to the **2024 budget** to be used for capital improvements at higher education institutions.
- Act **2025-268** appropriated **\$131M** as a supplement to the **2025 budget** to be used for capital improvement at higher education institutions.
- Public institutions in Alabama are allowed to issue their own bonds.
- Two- and four-year public institutions currently have approximately **\$4.3B** in outstanding bonds.
 - Public institutions paid approximately **\$585.6M** in debt service in the last fiscal year to pay these bonds off (**\$27.4M**-2YR / **\$558.3M**-4YR).
 - Public institutions commonly use tuition and student fees as a source of funds for debt service.

Motion, Decision Item C:

That the Commission approve the Report on Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests for FY 2026-2027 – FY 2030-2031.

D. Preliminary Approval of Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter 300-4-16: Move On When Ready

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan



Preliminary Administrative Code for the New Chapter 300-4-16: *Move On When Ready*

Establishment

- Act 2025-412 passed during the 2025 Legislative Session to be effective July 1, 2026

Purpose

- Allows 11th–12th graders to complete high school coursework at postsecondary level
- Defines credit transfer, funding, and oversight structure

Administration

- ACHE designates staff to operate funding of program
- Managed by ACHE, ACCS, ALSDE, and governing boards

Eligibility

- 11th-12th grade high school students who spent entire prior school year in attendance at a public high school in Alabama
- Has a minimum high school GPA of 3.25

Interagency Committee

Don Killingsworth	President of JSU; Chair of Alabama Council of College and University Presidents
Chantae Calhoun	ACCS, Executive Director of Academic Affairs
Natalie Thornton	ACCS, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education
Melissa Shields	ALSDE, Assistant State Superintendent, Office of Student Learning
Dodd Hawthorne	ALSDE, Assistant State Superintendent, Career and Technical Education
Jim Purcell	ACHE, Executive Director
Christie Shelton	JSU, Provost and Executive Vice President
April McGuff	USA, Start South Dual Enrollment Director (Counselor)
Michael Green	Shelton State Community College, Dean of Instruction
Monica Mack	ALSDE, Education Specialist, Instructional Services
Mark McGhee	ALSDE, Education Administrator, CTE/Workforce Development
Cristin Dillard	ALSDE, Education Admin for College and Career Success, Instructional Services
Sean Stevens	ALSDE, Program Coordinator of Instructional Services
Shenitra Dees	ALSDE, Education Specialist II, Instructional Services
Jessie Lynn Nichols	ACHE, Communications and Governmental Relations Coordinator
Stephanie Dolan	ACHE, Associate Director of Planning and Policy

Preliminary Administrative Code for the New Chapter 300-4-16: *Move On When Ready*

Enrollment

- ALSDE distributes forms and guidelines to schools by April 1
- Students and parents receive mandatory counseling from ALSDE about the program
- Postsecondary courses must align with approved high school curriculum
- Students may **not** participate in any high school activities while enrolled in program
 - Exception to attend official HS graduation with approval of local board of education

Eligibility Maintenance

- Meet minimum requirements for earning HS diploma
- Meet minimum requirements for full-time status at participating institution
- A student who becomes ineligible, withdraws from the program, or is withdrawn from the participating institution **may re-enroll** in their previously attended high school in accordance with **ALSDE guidelines**. An appeal option is also available.

Preliminary Administrative Code for the New Chapter 300-4-16: *Move On When Ready*

Funding

- Covers tuition, materials, and fees minus \$200 records fee retained by local school board for administrative costs
- Disbursement of funds will be split between Fall and Spring academic periods
- Parent/guardian pays any remaining balance
- Transfer between eligible institutions is allowed

Disbursement

- ACHE distributes funds directly to participating institutions
- Funds restricted to secular, nonsectarian programs
- Unused or excess funds returned to *Move On When Ready* fund
- Institutions submit Certified Participation Lists to ACHE by November 1 and April 1

Preliminary Administrative Code for the New Chapter 300-4-16: *Move On When Ready*

Audits and Compliance

- Subject to review by ACHE, Examiners, or State Auditor
- Ineligible certifications could result in repayment + four-term suspension
- False reporting could result in misdemeanor offense

Review Procedures and Reports

- ALSDE (July 1): Student participation, completions, and credentials
- ACHE (Sept 1): Student participation, fund distribution, and outcomes
- ACHE may suspend or sanction noncompliant participating institutions

Records

- Maintain program and fiscal records at least 5 years, separate from other accounts
- Provide full audit access to ACHE

Approval Process for the Administrative Procedures of the New Chapter 300-4-16: *Move On When Ready* Program



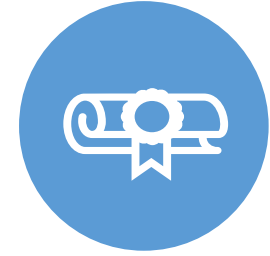
Pending Commission approval, **Preliminary Administrative Procedures (APA-1)** will be filed with **Legislative Services Agency (LSA)**.



APA-1 documents will be published in the **Alabama Administrative Monthly** for a **45-day public comment period**.



Procedures will be presented to the Commission for **final** approval at **March 2026 Commission meeting**.



Certified Administrative Procedures (APA-3) will be filed with LSA, taking **effect 45 days after** notice is published.

Motion, Decision Item D:

That the Commission approve the Preliminary Approval of Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter 300-4-16: Move On When Ready.

E. Academic Programs

*Staff Presenters: Dr. Robin McGill
and Ms. Kristan White*



Alabama Public Four-Year Institutions



E-1. Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102)

- The proposed program will extend the current AI concentration within the BS in Computer Science (CIP 11.0101) to a standalone degree and will leverage existing courses, faculty, and resources to minimize new expenditures.
- AAMU is developing the program in line with emerging best practice guidance from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology Computing Accreditation Commission (ABET-CAC).



Motion, Decision Item E-1:

That the Commission approve Alabama A&M University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence.

E-2. Master of Science in Biological and Agricultural Technology Management (CIP 01.0106)

- Since 2021, the total amount of grants secured by Department faculty is \$4.2 million, and the Department needs graduate research assistants to fulfill sponsored research commitments. All students will be supported by assistantships related to the use of technologies and sensors in agricultural, forestry, and manufacturing industries, which will give them valuable industry experience.
- The program will build on existing curriculum, faculty, and resources within the Department of Biosystems Engineering, and additional expenditures will be offset by sponsored research funding.



Motion, Decision Item E-2:

That the Commission approve Auburn University's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Biological and Agricultural Technology Management.

E-3a. Doctor of Education in Teacher Education (CIP 13.1399)

- The proposed EdD is designed to prepare graduates to lead professional development and coaching aligned with the Alabama Literacy Act and Alabama Numeracy Act. Concentrations in elementary literacy, elementary numeracy, and secondary education address the state's growing demand for instructional coaches across K–12 settings.
- USA's College of Education and Professional Studies seeks to bolster Alabama's capacity for high-quality teacher coaching and continuing education, while supporting broader educational improvement across the state.



Motion, Decision Item E-3a:

That the Commission approve University of South Alabama's proposal to offer a Doctor of Education in Teacher Education.

E-3b. Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Applied Statistics (CIP 30.7001)

- The proposed program will use coursework, faculty and resources developed for USA's existing bachelor's degree offerings in mathematics, statistics, and computer science and as a result will require minimal resources to implement.
- The program will prepare graduates for positions included on the 2024-2025 Alabama Demand Occupations List, such software developers and management analysts.



Motion, Decision Item E-3b:

That the Commission approve University of South Alabama's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Applied Statistics.



Alabama Community College System



Bishop State



Calhoun Community College



E-4. Associate of Applied Science in Video Game Production (CIP 50.0411)

- The proposed program is designed to give arts students an opportunity to engage in more technical skills and complete specialized training in production and design skills for a growing and evolving competitive industry in game design.
- The program will be delivered at the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Imagination Center in downtown Decatur, in close proximity to Calhoun's Fine Arts facilities at the Alabama Center for the Arts, and it will add to the growing arts community in Decatur.



Motion, Decision Item E-4:

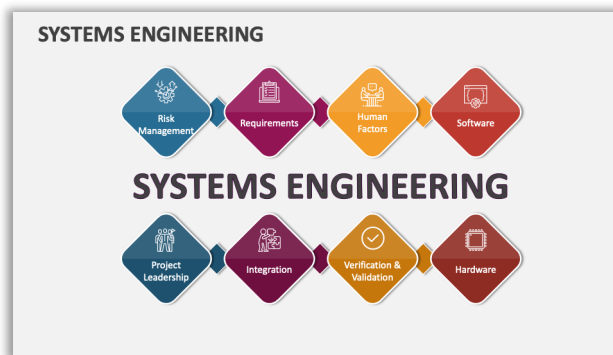
That the Commission approve Calhoun Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Video Game Production.

Drake State Community and Technical College



E-5a. Associate of Applied Science in Systems Engineering Technology (CIP 11.0802)

- Employer demand for trained and skilled technicians in the Model Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) technology field is increasing, as evidenced by the letters of support included with this proposal from local employers Frequency Solutions, Inc., and the Institute for Digital Enterprise Advancement.
- The program will build on the curricular foundation established by Drake State's Division of Business, Computer Science, and Engineering Technologies, and therefore, it will require minimal new resources to implement.



Motion, Decision Item E-5a:

That the Commission approve Drake State Community and Technical College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Systems Engineering Technology.

Drake State Community and Technical College



E-5b. Associate of Applied Science in Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003)

- The AAS in Cybersecurity will prepare graduates for positions included on the 2024-25 Alabama In-Demand Occupations List, including information security analysts and computer systems analysts.
- The program will emphasize practical, real-world skills through labs, simulations, and certifications (e.g., CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Network+), making graduates job ready upon completion.



Motion, Decision Item E-5b:

That the Commission approve Drake State Community and Technical College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Cybersecurity.

Ingram State Technical College



E-6. Certificate in Horticulture (CIP 01.0601)

- The CER in Horticulture will prepare graduates for high-demand occupations on the 2024–25 Alabama Demand Occupations list, including First-Line Supervisors of Landscaping, Lawn Service, and Groundskeeping Workers, as well as Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers.
- The proposed program will build on Ingram’s strong existing STC offerings in Horticulture.
- Growing public and corporate focus on green spaces has increased demand for horticultural services. Well-maintained parks, gardens, and urban landscapes provide significant community and environmental benefits.



Motion, Decision Item E-6:

That the Commission approve Ingram State Technical College's proposal to offer a Certificate in Horticulture.

Jefferson State Community College

E-7. Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (CIP 51.0910)

- The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for entry-level employment as diagnostic medical sonographers and cardiovascular and radiologic technicians, which are included on the 2024-25 Alabama In-Demand Occupations List.
- This proposal includes letters of support from local and regional institutions and healthcare facilities attesting to the need for the program and providing assurance that adequate clinical sites will be available.



Motion, Decision Item E-7:

That the Commission approve Jefferson State Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Wallace State Community College- Hanceville



E-8a. Associate of Applied Science in Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant (CIP 51.0816)

- This will be the first speech-language pathologist assistant (SLPA) program in the state in accordance with HB441, which was signed into law by Governor Kay Ivey and enacted on May 14, 2025.
- The program proposal includes letters of support attesting to the need for the program, including from Alabama Pediatric Therapy Services, Cullman City Schools, Cullman County Schools, and Blount County Schools.



Motion, Decision Item E-8a:

That the Commission approve Wallace State Community College-Hanceville's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant.

Wallace State Community College- Hanceville



E-8b. Substantive Modification to Academic Program Inventory

- The proposed changes to WSH's program CIP codes and titles will make it easier to measure the success of students enrolled in the programs and identify gaps in the various occupational pipelines.
- The proposed changes that split one program into multiple programs have been reviewed by officials at the Alabama Community College System (ACCS), who have confirmed that the curriculums are distinct enough to merit separate programs and that the separated programs correspond to existing options and/or short-term certificate offerings.
- The proposed changes will not require any new coursework to be developed or any new expenditures to be made.
- The proposed changes will not affect professional licensure eligibility or specialized accreditation for any of the proposed programs.



Wallace State Community College- Hanceville



E-8b. Substantive Modification to Academic Program Inventory

- Splitting the existing AAS in General Technology (CIP 47.0000) into six separate AAS programs:
 - AAS in Horticulture Technology (CIP 01.0601)
 - AAS in Robotic Welding Technology (CIP 15.0405)
 - AAS in HVAC/R Technology (CIP 47.0201)
 - AAS in Advanced Automotive Technology (CIP 47.0604)
 - AAS in Diesel Technology (CIP 47.0613)
 - AAS in Welding Technology (CIP 48.0508)
- Splitting the existing CER in Welding (CIP 48.0508) into two separate programs aligning with the proposed AAS offerings:
 - CER in Welding Technology (retain CIP 48.0508)
 - CER in Robotic Welding Technology (CIP 15.0405)

Wallace State Community College- Hanceville



E-8b. Substantive Modification to Academic Program Inventory

- Splitting the existing AAS in Computer Science (CIP 11.0101) into four separate AAS programs:
 - AAS in Programming (CIP 11.0201)
 - AAS in Systems Engineering Technology (CIP 11.0802)
 - AAS in Cybersecurity & Networking Technology (CIP 11.1003)
 - AAS in Data Analytics (CIP 30.7101)
- Splitting the existing AAS/CER in Culinary Arts (CIP 12.0503) into three separate AAS/CER programs:
 - AAS/CER in Culinary Arts (retain CIP 12.0503)
 - AAS/CER in Culinary/Nutrition Management (CIP 12.0509)
 - AAS/CER in Hotel & Restaurant Management (CIP 52.0909)

Wallace State Community College- Hanceville



E-8b. Substantive Modification to Academic Program Inventory

- Splitting the existing AAS in Engineering Technology (CIP 15.0000) into three separate AAS programs:
 - AAS in Engineering Technology (retain CIP 15.0000)
 - AAS in Digital Fabrication (CIP 15.1307)
 - AAS in Construction Management (CIP 52.2001)
- Splitting the existing AAS in Criminal Justice (CIP 43.0107) into two separate AAS programs:
 - AAS in Law Enforcement (retain CIP 43.0107)
 - AAS in Forensic Investigation (CIP 43.0406)

Wallace State Community College- Hanceville



E-8b. Substantive Modification to Academic Program Inventory

- Splitting the existing AAS in Flight Technology (Commercial) (CIP 49.0102) into two separate AAS programs:
 - AAS in Commercial Flight Instructor (CIP 49.0108)
 - AAS in Commercial Flight Technology (CIP 49.0199)
- Splitting the existing AAS in Office Management and Supervision (CIP 52.0204) into three separate AAS programs:
 - AAS in Financial Management (CIP 52.0305)
 - AAS in Entrepreneurship (CIP 52.0701)
 - AAS in Banking and Finance (CIP 52.0803)

Motion, Decision Item E-8b:

That the Commission approve Wallace State Community College-Hanceville's substantive modification to the academic program inventory.

E-9. Major Instructional Site Closure: Phenix City

- In March 2025, the Troy University Board of Trustees voted to close the Phenix City Campus and sell the Riverfront Building property. Closure of the site will yield approximately \$1.1 million in savings annually, with the sale of the property expected to bring in approximately \$11.6 million in revenue.
- The University's decision to close the campus has been thoroughly reviewed and approved by SACSCOC. All appropriate steps have been taken to communicate the decision to employees and community members.



Motion, Decision Item E-9:

That the Commission approve Troy University's major instructional site closure for Phenix City.

E-10. New Off-Campus Site with Academic Programs: Executive Park, Montgomery

- Trenholm State is planning to build out classroom and lab spaces to support 8 existing degree programs in Culinary/Hospitality and Health Sciences, which will free up space for other instructional activities at the nearby Patterson Campus.
- Construction and other project costs are estimated at ~\$52 million, which is funded through ACCS capital funds, ETF monies, and local funds.
- If approved by SACSCOC, Trenholm plans to begin offering instruction at the site in January 2027.



	Number Available	Estimated Number of Student Stations
Standard Classrooms	11	347
Science Laboratories	2	70
Computer of Word Processing Laboratories	2 (support labs)	50
Vocational/Technical Labs	9	180
Administrative Offices	3	
Faculty Offices	36	

Motion, Decision Item E-10:

That the Commission approve Trenholm State Community College's New Off-Campus Site with Academic Programs: 4520 Executive Park Dr., Montgomery.

F. Information Items



1. Implementation of For-Credit Non-Degree Certificate Programs
2. Changes to the Academic Program Inventory
3. Curricular Modifications for Existing Degree Programs
4. Updates to Academic Units
5. Implementation of Distance Education Programs
6. New Exempt Off-Campus Sites:
 - a. Bishop State Community College, Southern Way Properties Office Complex
 - b. Lawson State Community College, UAB Medical Center

F. Information Items



7. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

a. Programs that **Met** Post-Implementation Conditions:

Two-Year Institutions

- Shelton State Community College, Associate of Applied Science and Certificate in Computer Science Technology (CIP 11.0101)
- Southern Union State Community College, Associate of Applied Science and Certificate in Medical Assistant Technology (CIP 51.0801)

F. Information Items



7. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

a. Programs that **Met** Post-Implementation Conditions, *Continued*:

Four-Year Institutions

- Auburn University at Montgomery, Master of Science in Computer Science (CIP 11.0701)
- Auburn University at Montgomery, Master of Science in Nursing in Nursing (CIP 51.3801)
- Auburn University at Montgomery, Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nursing (CIP 51.3818)

F. Information Items



7. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

a. Programs that **Met** Post-Implementation Conditions, *Continued*:

Four-Year Institutions

- The University of Alabama, Doctor of Philosophy in Nutrition Sciences (CIP 30.1901)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Master of Science in Data Science (CIP 11.0401)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Master of Science in Engineering Management in Engineering Management (CIP 14.9999)

F. Information Items



7. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

a. Programs that **Met** Post-Implementation Conditions, *Continued*:

Four-Year Institutions

- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Master of Science in Healthcare Simulation (CIP 30.0601)
- University of Alabama in Huntsville, Doctor of Philosophy in Aerospace Systems Engineering (CIP 14.0201)

F. Information Items



7. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

a. Programs that **Did Not Meet** Post-Implementation Conditions:

Two-Year Institutions

- None

Two-Year Institutions

- Troy University, Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering Technology (CIP 15.0399) – Program to be Closed – Teach-Out Submitted
- Troy University, Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 52.0701) – Program to be Closed – Teach-Out Submitted

Motion, Decision Item F:

That the Commission accept the Information Items as presented.

IX. Adjournment

