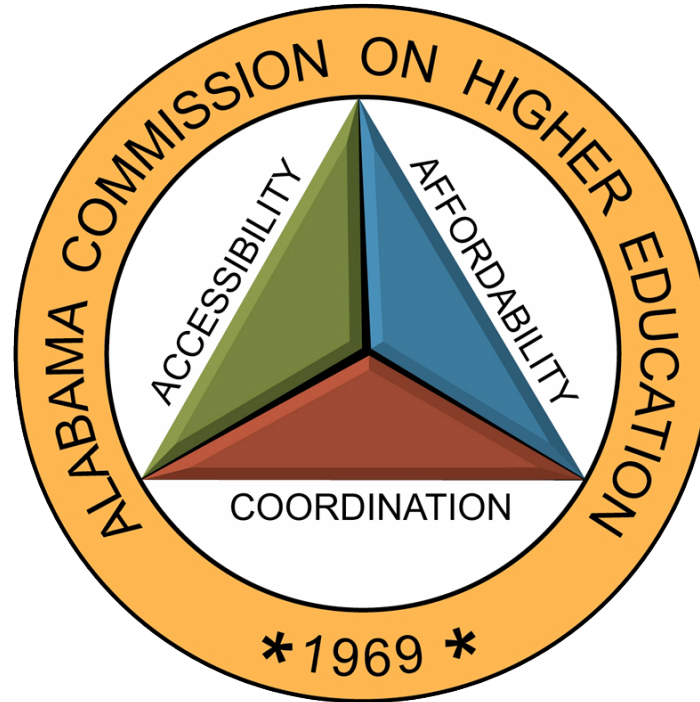


Alabama Commission on Higher Education



Commission Meeting
December 13, 2024



I. CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL and QUORUM DETERMINATION



Introduction of New ACHE Commissioner



Payne R. Meadows

Certified Public Accountant
Meadows and Company

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA



**Commission Meeting Agenda
of December 13, 2024**

Motion, Item III:

That the Commission accept the agenda for the December 13, 2024 meeting.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES



**Commission Meeting Minutes
of September 13, 2024**

Motion, Item IV:

That the Commission accept the Commission Meeting minutes for the September 13, 2024 meeting.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



ACHE Commissioner Committees

Academic Affairs

Commissioner Turner, Chair
Commissioner Forbes
Commissioner Spiller
Commissioner Welch

Financial Affairs

Commissioner Singleton, Chair
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Meadows
Commissioner Scott

Executive Committee

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

Graduate School

[Applicants ▼](#) [Academics](#) [Students](#) [About Us](#) [Faculty & Staff](#)

Centennial Graduate Scholars

To commemorate our centennial anniversary, The University of Alabama Graduate School recognizes the following 100 master's and doctoral alumni who continue to bring distinction to UA and their academic programs through their many professional accomplishments.



Centennial Graduate Scholars are arranged by last name. Select the alphabet range and click on a name to read more about their impressive accomplishments. For ease of navigation, a Back to Top link is located after each alphabet.

Graduate School

Applicants ▼ Academics Students About Us Faculty & Staff

Centennial Graduate Scholars

**Jim Purcell – Executive Director, Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE)
EdD in Higher Education Administration, 1997**



Dr. Purcell has served as the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education since April 2017. His leadership experience spans similar roles in Rhode Island (Commissioner), Louisiana (Commissioner) and Arkansas (Executive Director), making him the longest-serving active state higher education executive officer in the nation. Purcell has served in the Cabinets of four Governors (two Democratic, one Republican and one Independent). He has also served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Research for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Purcell has served as President of institutional research organizations in Georgia and Louisiana and later served as President of the Southern Association of Institutional Research. He was also the youngest recipient of the SAIR Distinguished Member Award. Currently, Purcell serves as Chair of the Alabama International Education and Economic Partnership. Other UA recognitions include the 2014 Dr. Harold L. Bishop Award for Leaders and the 1985 Outstanding Hall Director.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Agency Outreach

AI Exchange at Auburn University

- 350 in-person attendees
- 250 virtual attendees
- 50 speakers from 25 institutions and companies



Agency Outreach



SREB Commission on Artificial Intelligence in Education

PIONEERING AI INTEGRATION IN SCHOOLS: THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA'S APPROACH



BREAKING BARRIERS: OVERCOMING RESISTANCE TO AI IN EDUCATION INITIATIVES



Agency Outreach

HIGHER EDUCATION TODAY

[Q SEARCH BLOG](#)[POPULAR TOPICS ▾](#)[Home](#) > [All Posts](#)

FAFSA for All: A Game-Changer for College Access in Alabama

By Jim Purcell

September 20, 2024



Early in my career as an education data analyst, I was chatting with the new counselor at a rural Georgia high school. She described a particularly challenging student named “Joey,” a troubled but bright young sophomore. When she sought advice from a veteran teacher, the response was disheartening: “Honey, don’t you worry about that child. We’ve had problems with that family for generations.”

The implication was that Joey—and many other students and families who live among us—would inevitably live out a life script that the local community had preordained for them. This notion has troubled me ever since, and I have found myself wondering what we can do as campus and community leaders to open up alternative paths for those whose lives seem more filled with obstacles and pitfalls than opportunities and options. What can we do to bring out the potential existing within these students?

Agency Outreach





Inside
Higher
Ed

Helios[®]
Education Foundation

Florida PUMAs

The Future of Florida's Economy Runs Through Higher Education

Content sponsored and provided by Helios Education Foundation.

In Orlando, Elevation Scholars has spent over 10 years investing in the college dreams of high-achieving students from Central Florida's highest-need families.





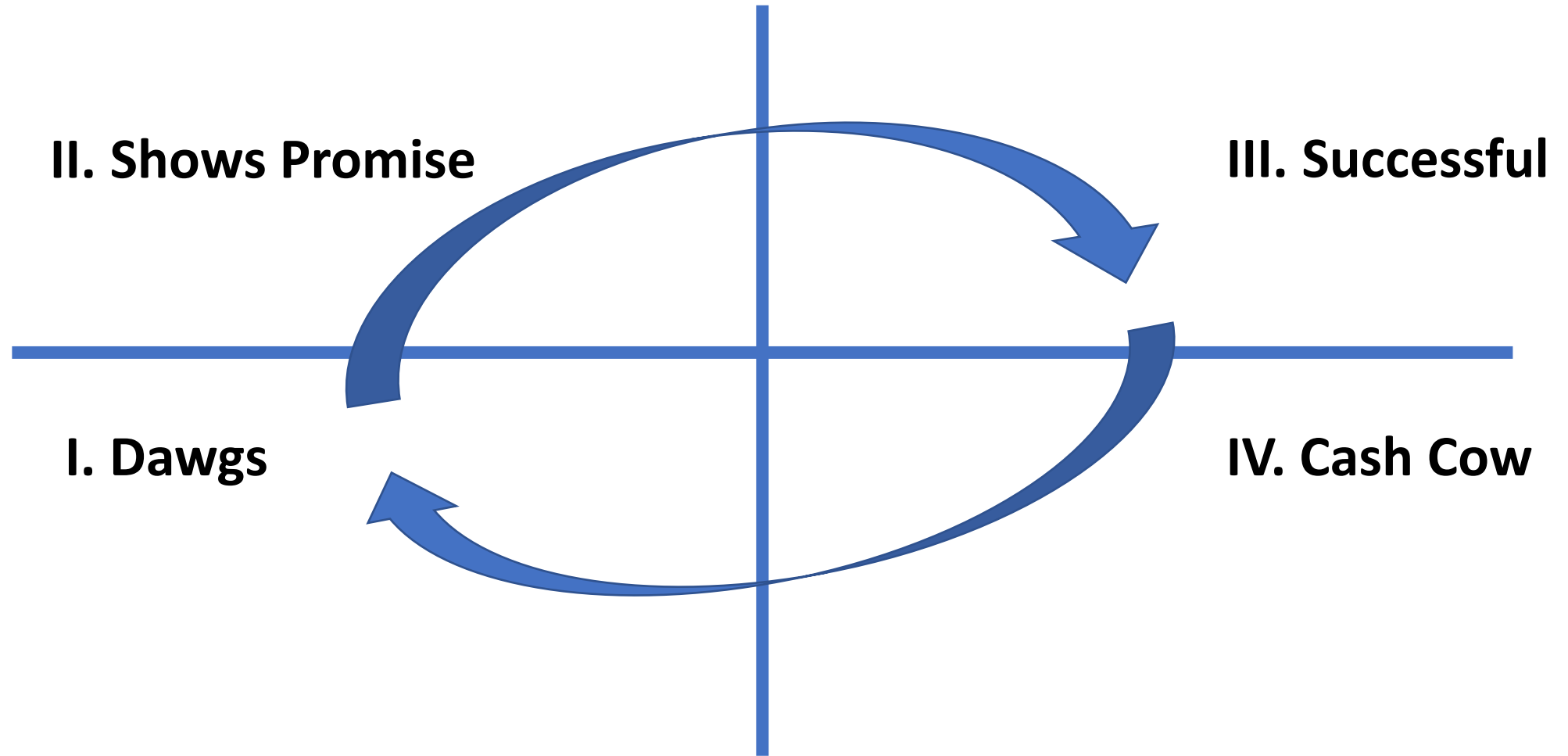
EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE
NEEDS INDEX





Life Cycle of an Economy

Modified Boston Consulting Group Matrix



Life Cycle of an Economy

Modified Boston Consulting Group Matrix

II. Shows Promise

- Has some ingredients of a great economy but not yet there
- Shows great potential for success
- Yet to be financially self-sustaining
- Needs nuanced revisions to become fully successful

III. Successful

- Financially self-sustaining
- Has potential for even greater success
- Recognized for quality and value
- Popular with the public
- Needs modest adjustments to optimize growth

I. Dawgs

- Startups that expend extensive resources with little return on investment
- Poor performers, often older initiatives that have lost effectiveness
- Niche companies that are not self-sustaining
- Needs systemic revision to be self-sustaining
- Drag on public services

IV. Cash Cow

- Older projects
- No investment is required to sustain positive revenue stream
- Sustained by legacy reputation
- Will need modernization

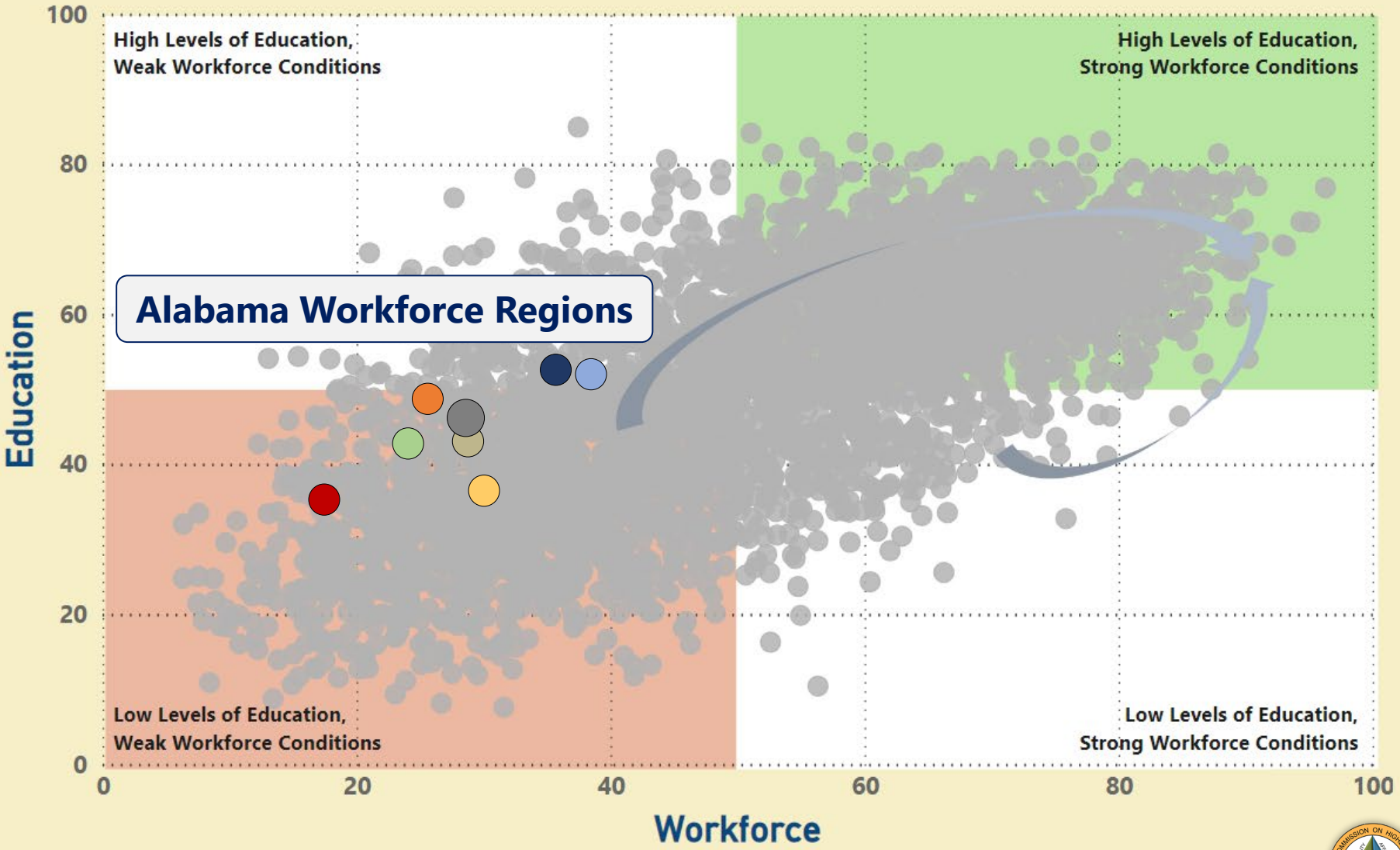
Education and Workforce Conditions in the United States (2022)

Public Use Microdata Areas

State Public Use Areas

- Select all
- AL Workforce Regions
- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas

Hold Ctrl to Select Multiple States



Alabama PUMAs plus Alabama Workforce Regions

State Public Use Areas

- ☐ Select all
- ☒ AL Workforce Regions
- ☒ Alabama
- ☐ Alaska
- ☐ Arizona
- ☐ Arkansas

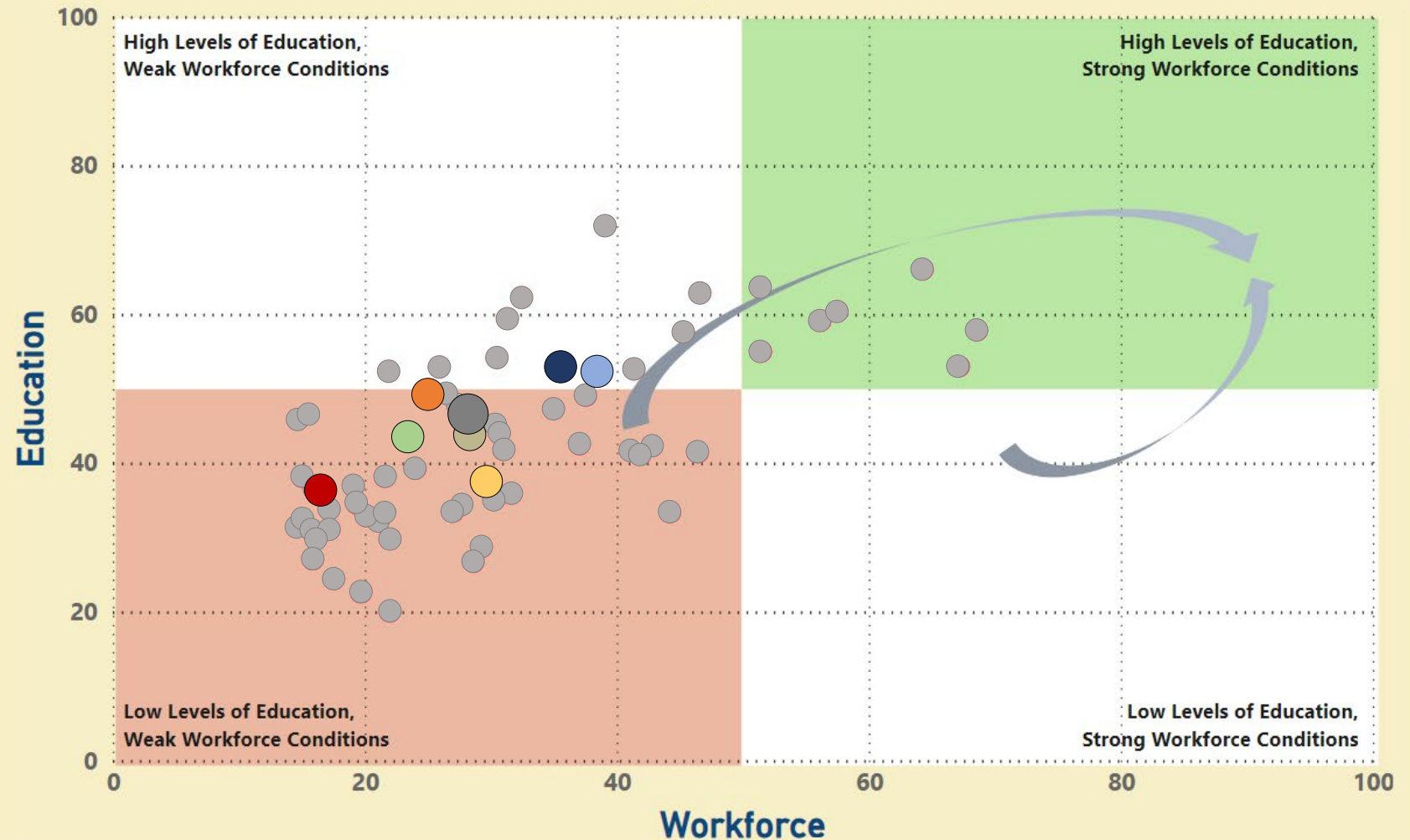
Hold Ctrl to Select Multiple States



EWNI EDUCATION & WORKFORCE NEEDS INDEX

Education and Workforce Conditions in the United States (2022)

Public Use Microdata Areas



Alabama – East and Southeast Workforce Regions

State Public Use Areas

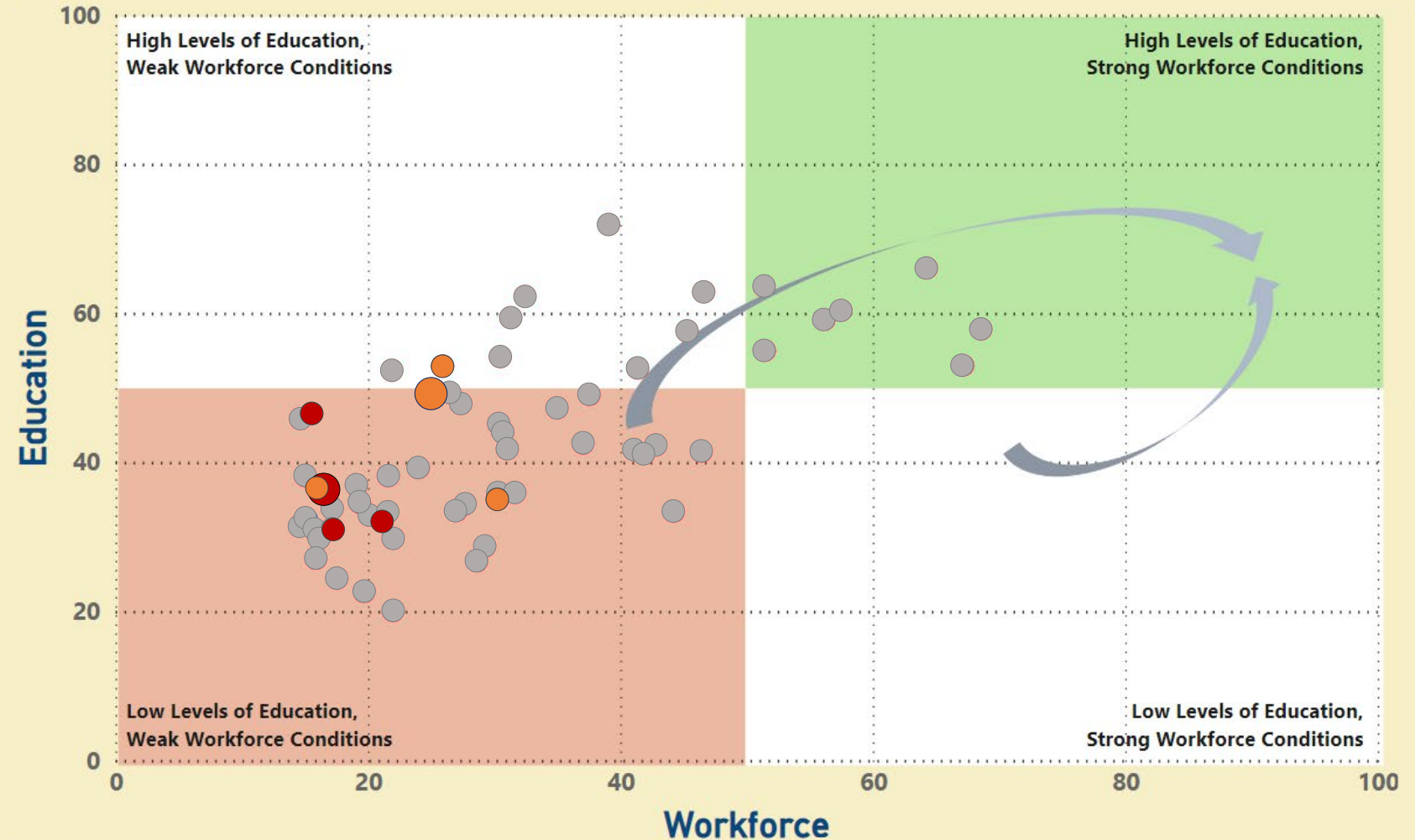
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- ☐ Arizona
- ☐ Arkansas

Hold Ctrl to Select Multiple States

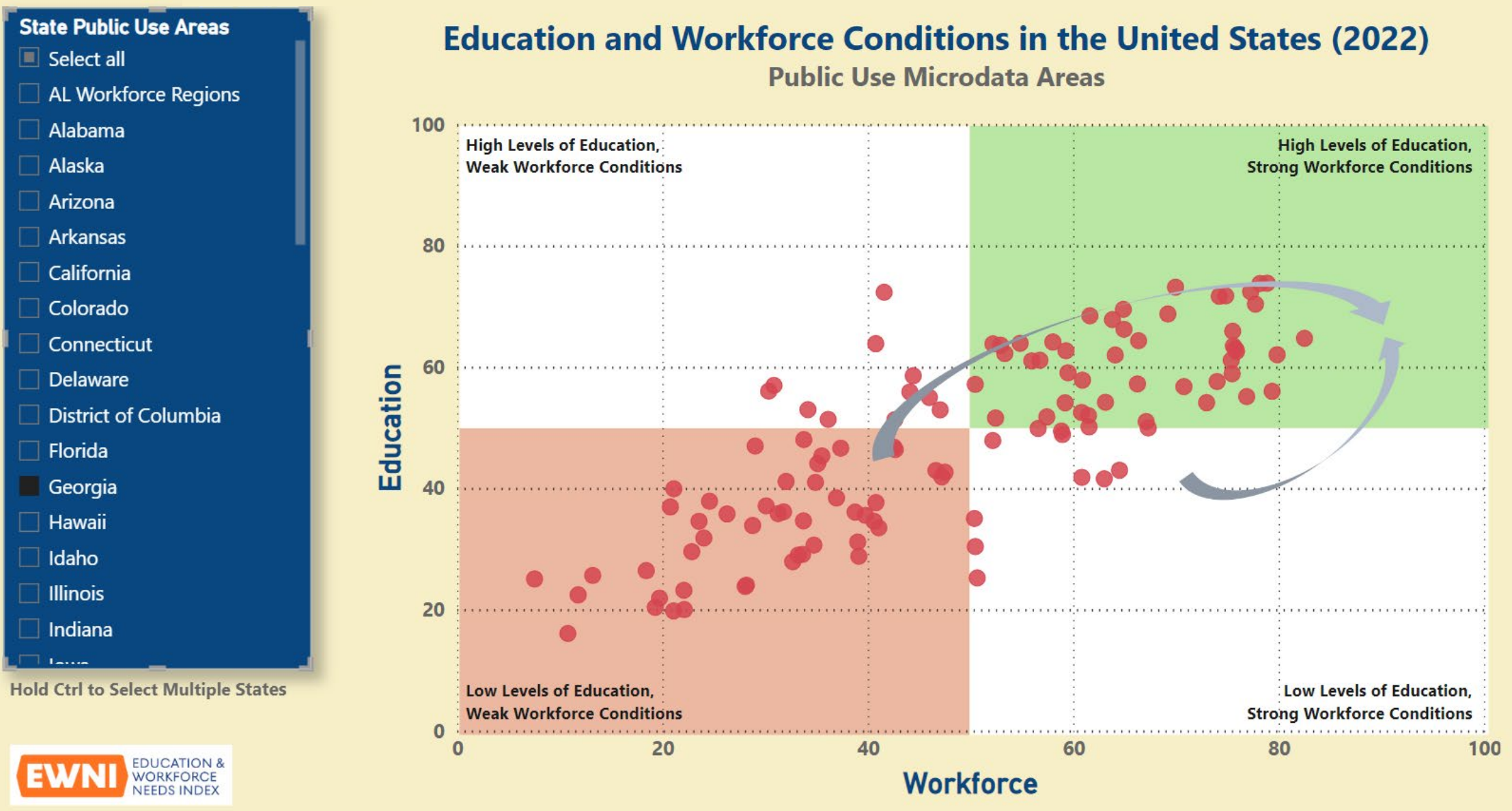


Education and Workforce Conditions in the United States (2022)

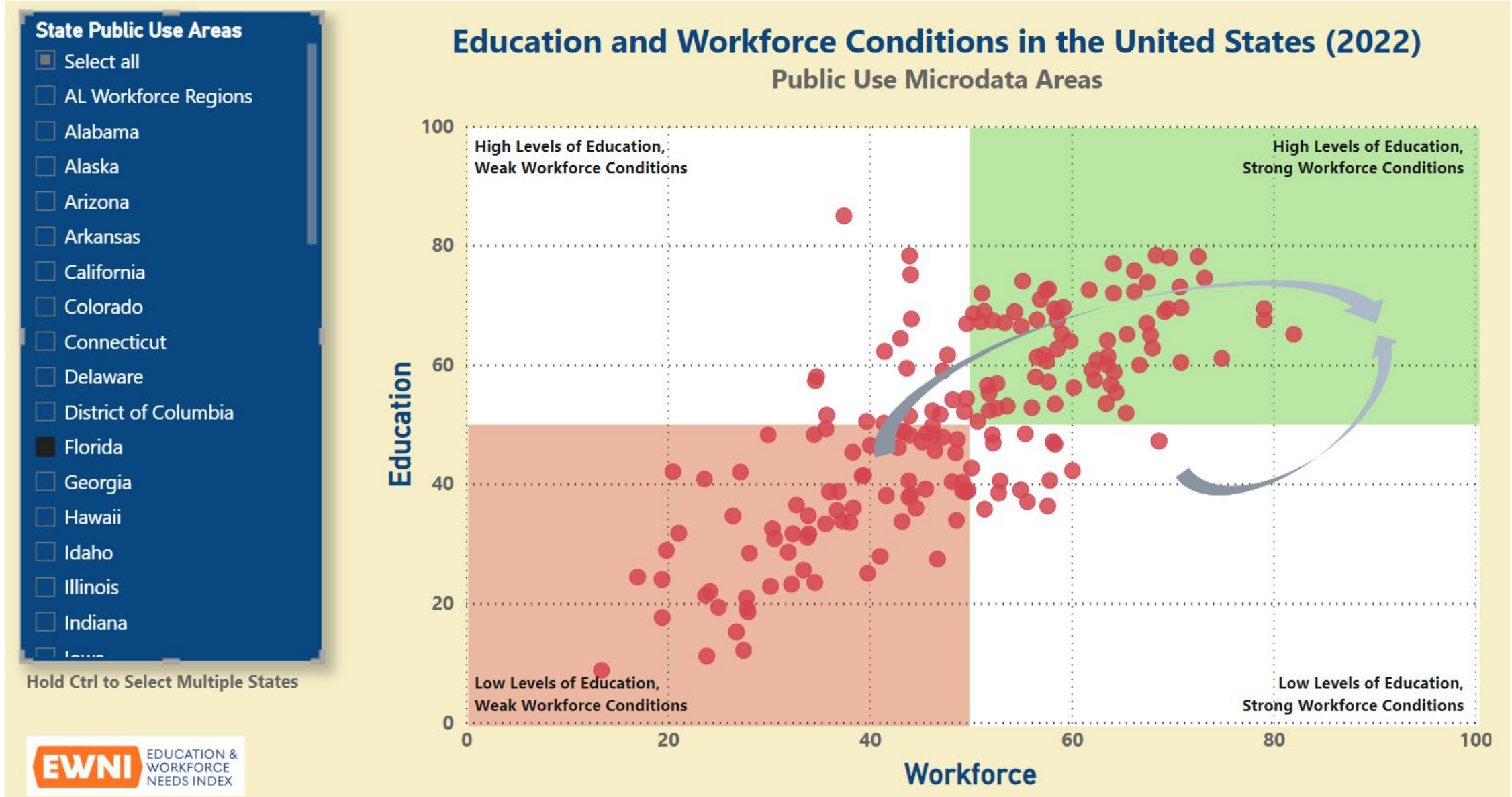
Public Use Microdata Areas



Georgia



Florida



District of Columbia

State Public Use Areas

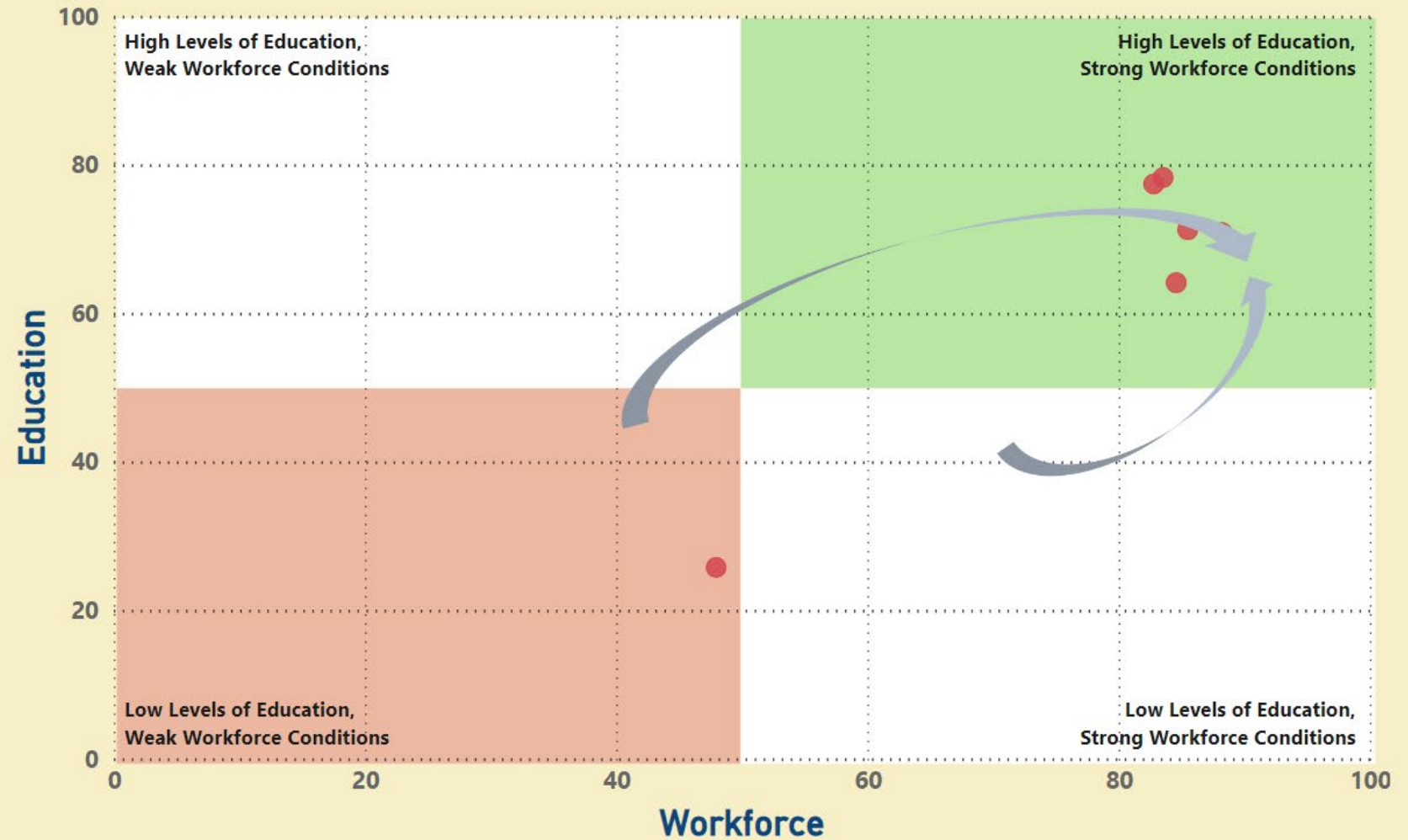
- ☒ Select all
- ☐ AL Workforce Regions
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- ☐ Arizona
- ☐ Arkansas
- ☐ California
- ☐ Colorado
- ☐ Connecticut
- ☐ Delaware
- ☒ District of Columbia
- ☐ Florida
- ☐ Georgia
- ☐ Hawaii
- ☐ Idaho
- ☐ Illinois
- ☐ Indiana
- ☐ Iowa

Hold Ctrl to Select Multiple States



Education and Workforce Conditions in the United States (2022)

Public Use Microdata Areas



Different Economies Historically, Different Challenges Moving Forward

State Public Use Areas

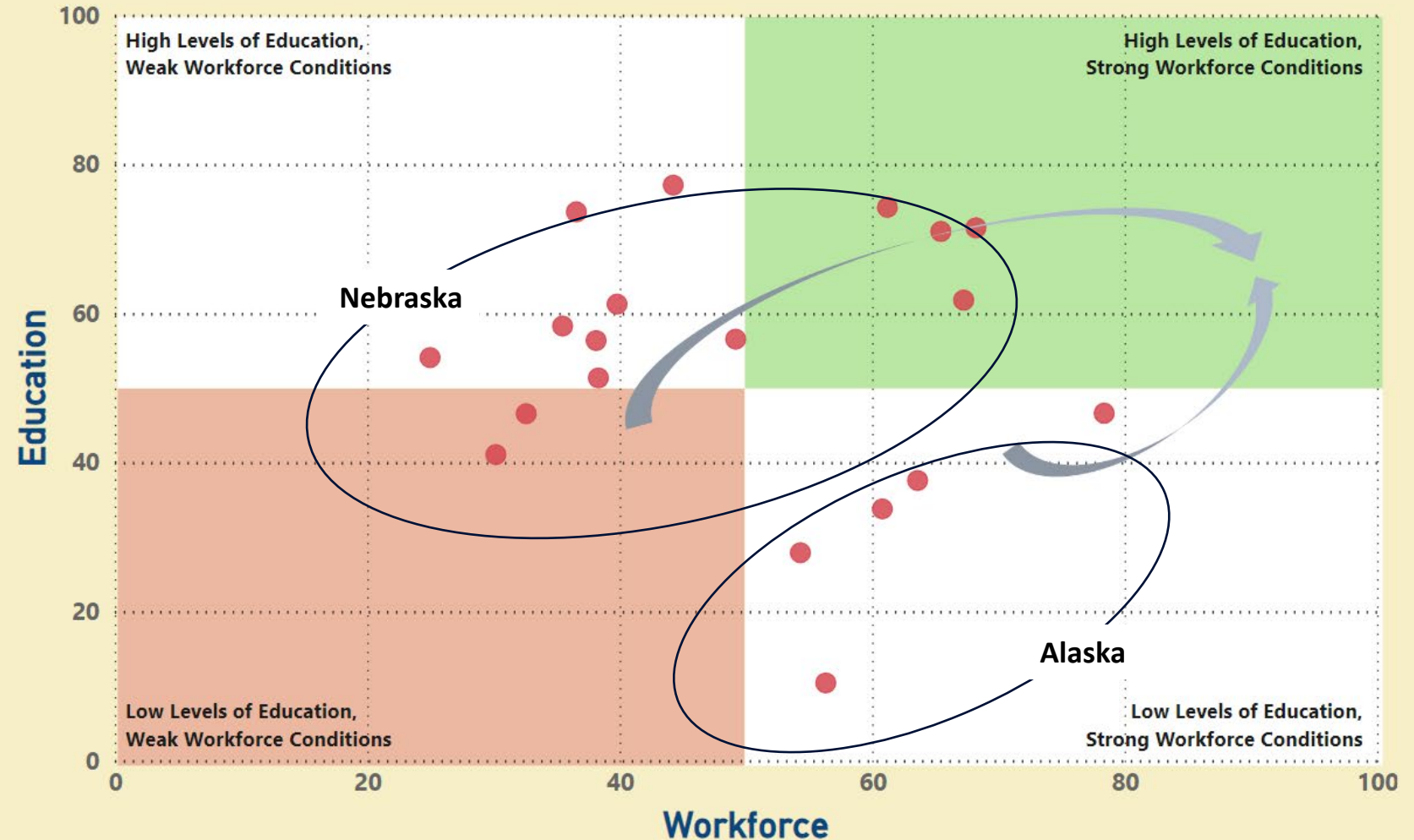
- ☐ AL Workforce Regions
- ☐ Alabama
- ☒ Alaska
- ☐ Arizona
- ☐ Arkansas
- ☐ California
- ☐ Colorado
- ☐ Connecticut
- ☐ Delaware
- ☐ District of Columbia
- ☐ Florida
- ☐ Georgia
- ☐ Hawaii
- ☐ Idaho
- ☐ Illinois
- ☐ Indiana
- ☐ Iowa

Hold Ctrl to Select Multiple States



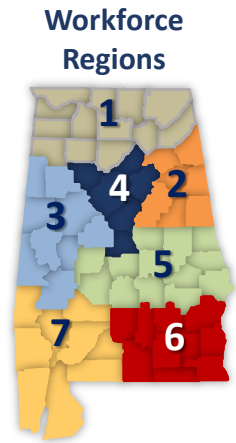
Education and Workforce Conditions in the United States (2022)

Public Use Microdata Areas



Education and Workforce Needs Index

Alabama



U.S. Quartiles

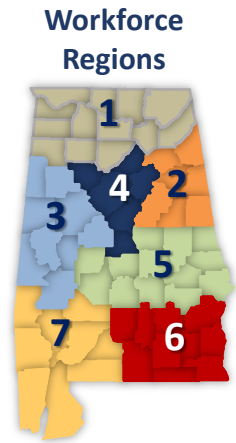
Need or Challenge



Overall Education and Workforce Need		Lowest	U.S. Median	Highest
Education Need				
High School Completion Only				
Associate Degree Completion				
Completion of a Bachelor's Degree or Higher				
College Attainment of Young vs Older Adults				
Enrollment of Young Adults without a College Degree				
Workforce Need				
Labor Force Participation				
Unemployment				
Employment in Volatile Industries				
Median Annual Wage Earnings for Full-Time Workers				
Median Family Income				
Working-Age Adults with SSI or Welfare Income				

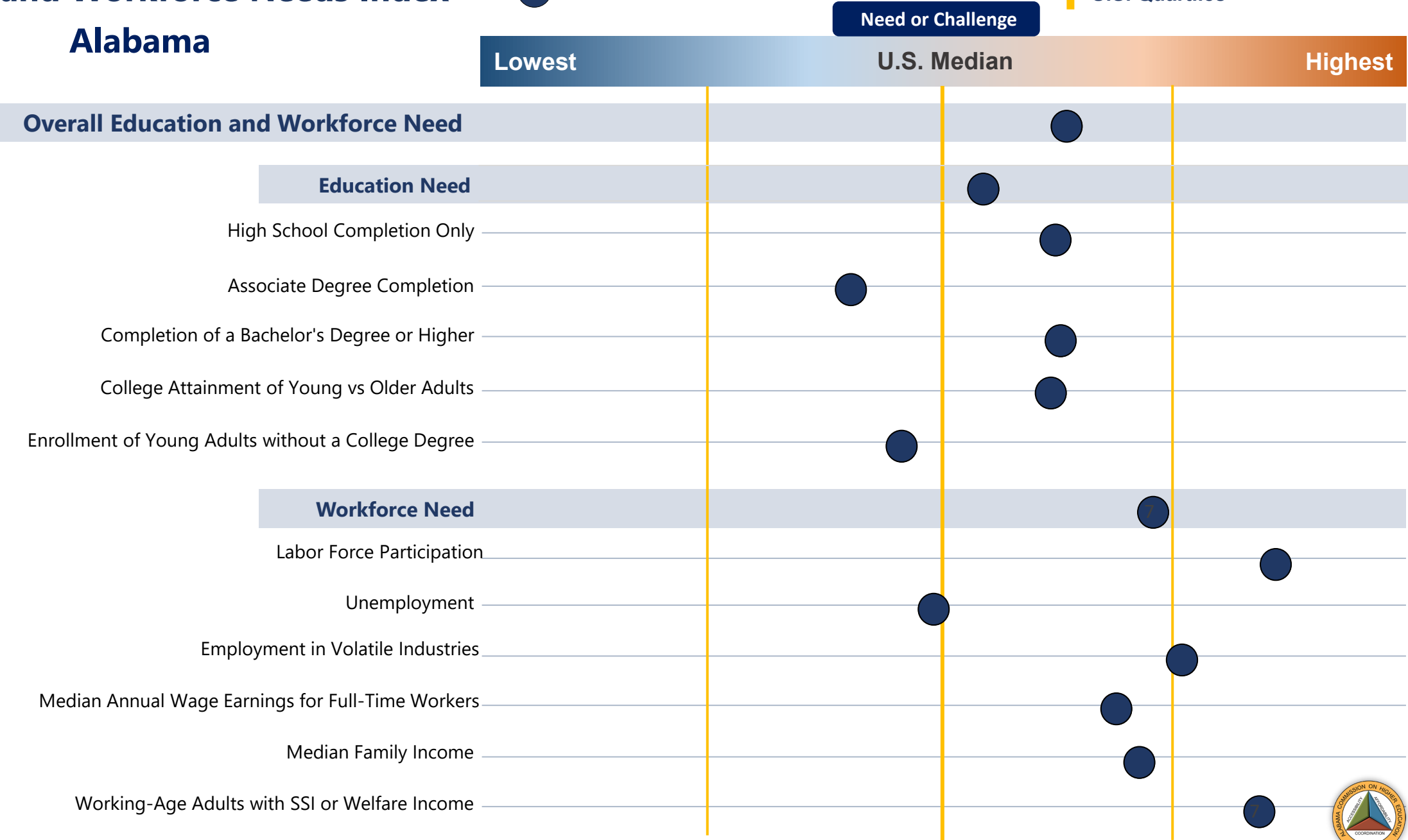
Education and Workforce Needs Index

Alabama



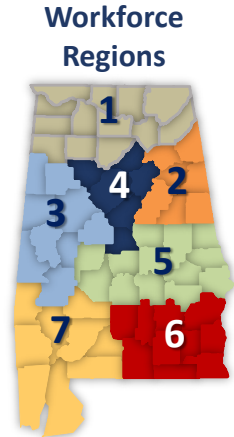
Alabama

U.S. Quartiles

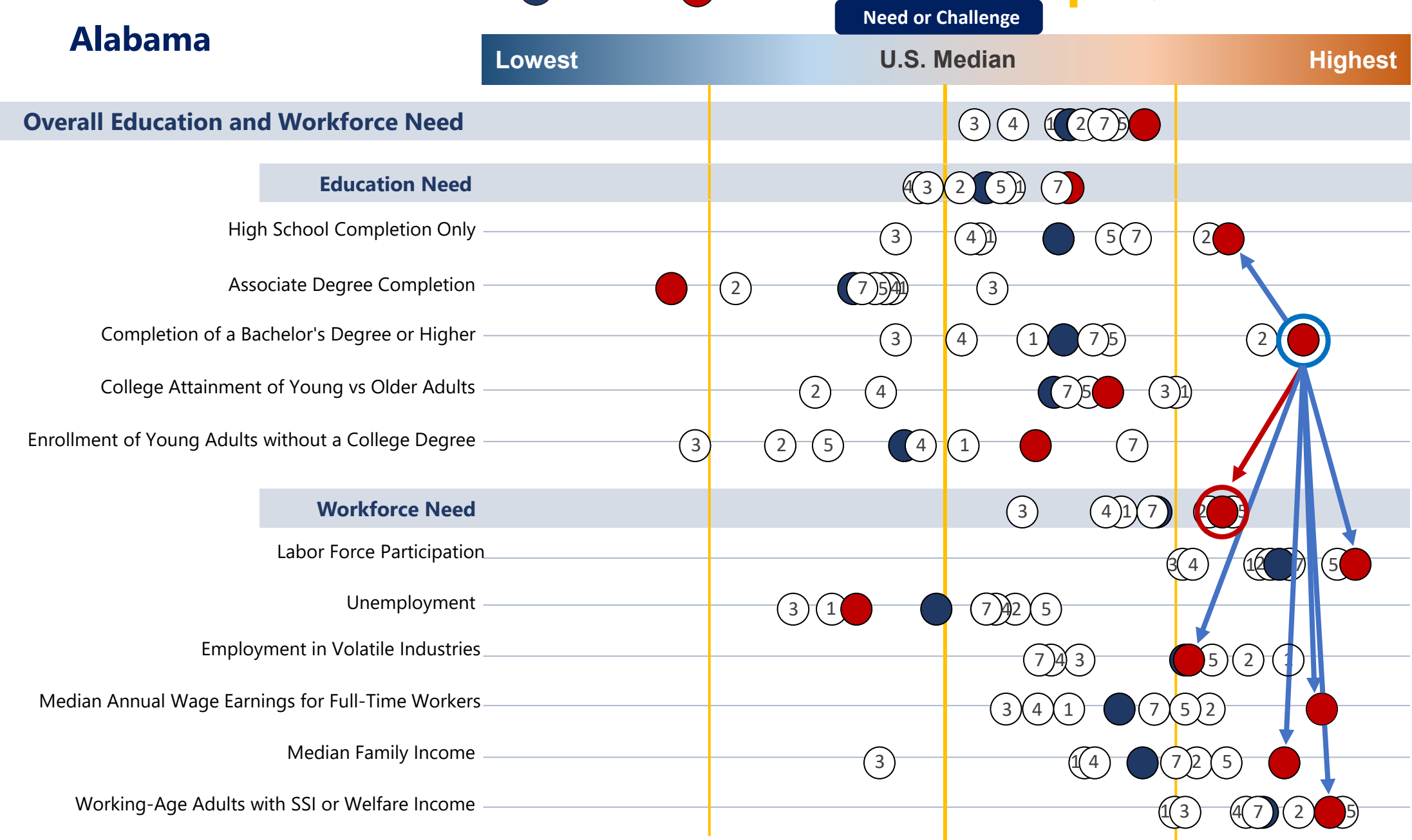


Education and Workforce Needs Index

Alabama

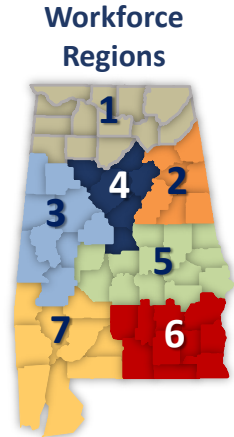


Alabama Southeast U.S. Quartiles



Education and Workforce Needs Index

Alabama



Alabama

East

U.S. Quartiles

Need or Challenge

Lowest

U.S. Median

Highest

Overall Education and Workforce Need

Education Need

High School Completion Only

Associate Degree Completion

Completion of a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

College Attainment of Young vs Older Adults

Enrollment of Young Adults without a College Degree

Workforce Need

Labor Force Participation

Unemployment

Employment in Volatile Industries

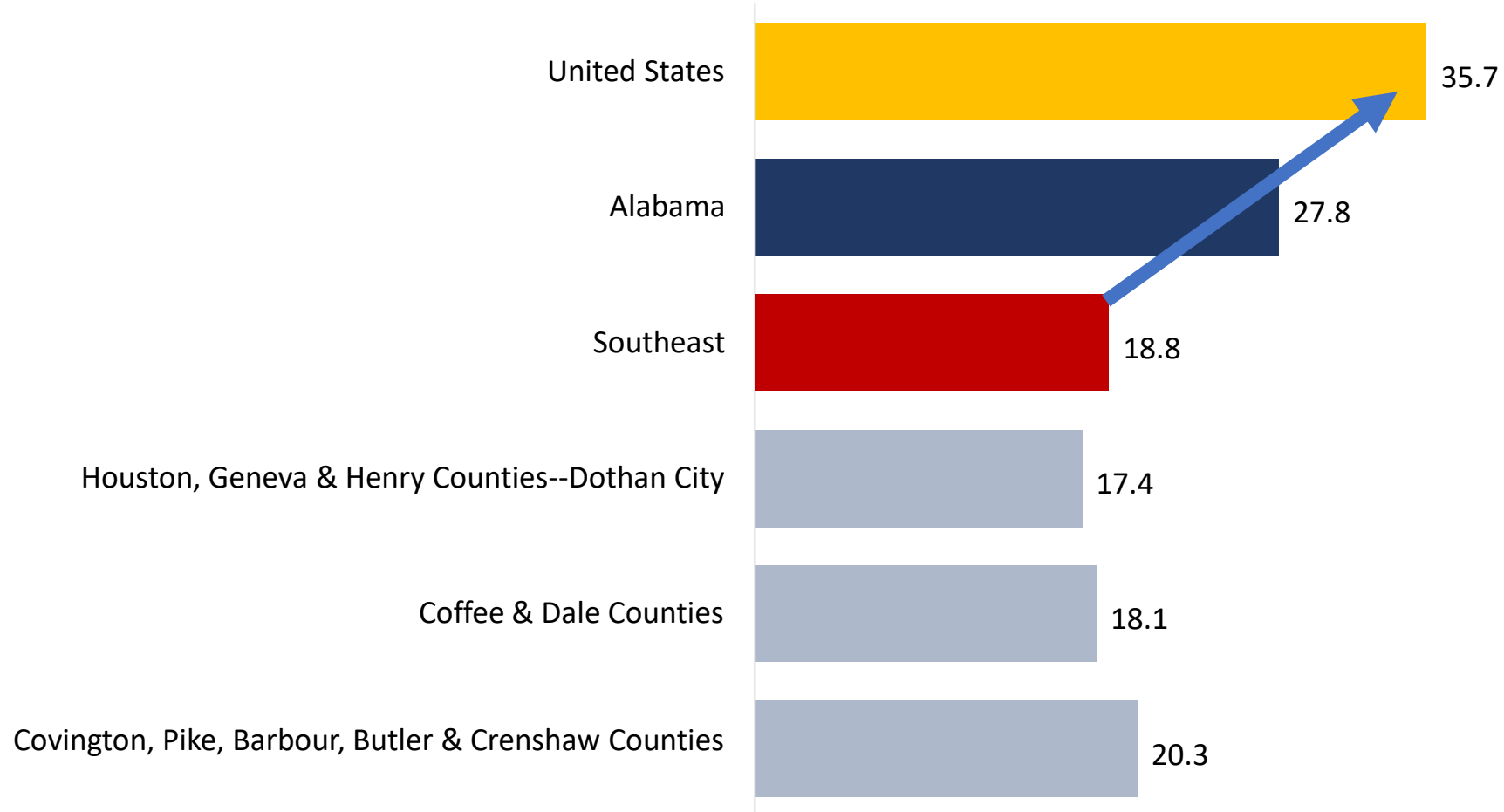
Median Annual Wage Earnings for Full-Time Workers

Median Family Income

Working-Age Adults with SSI or Welfare Income

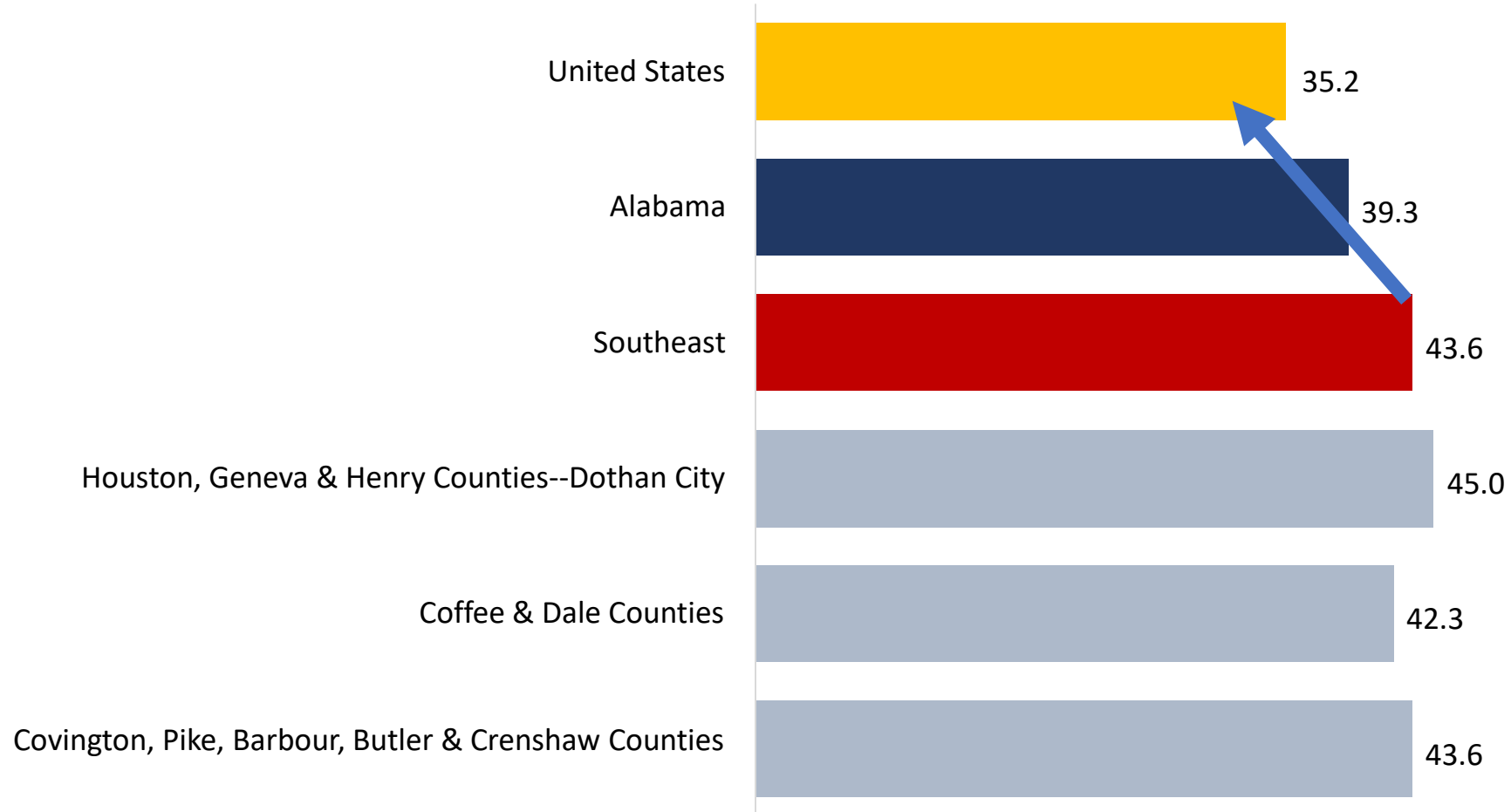


Percentage of Adults Ages 25 to 64 with an Bachelor's Degree and Higher (2022)



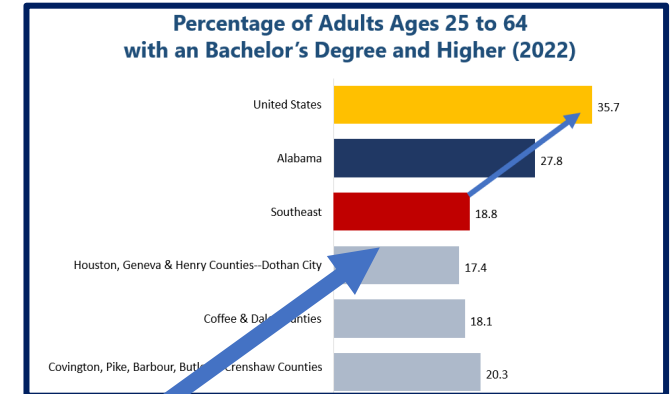
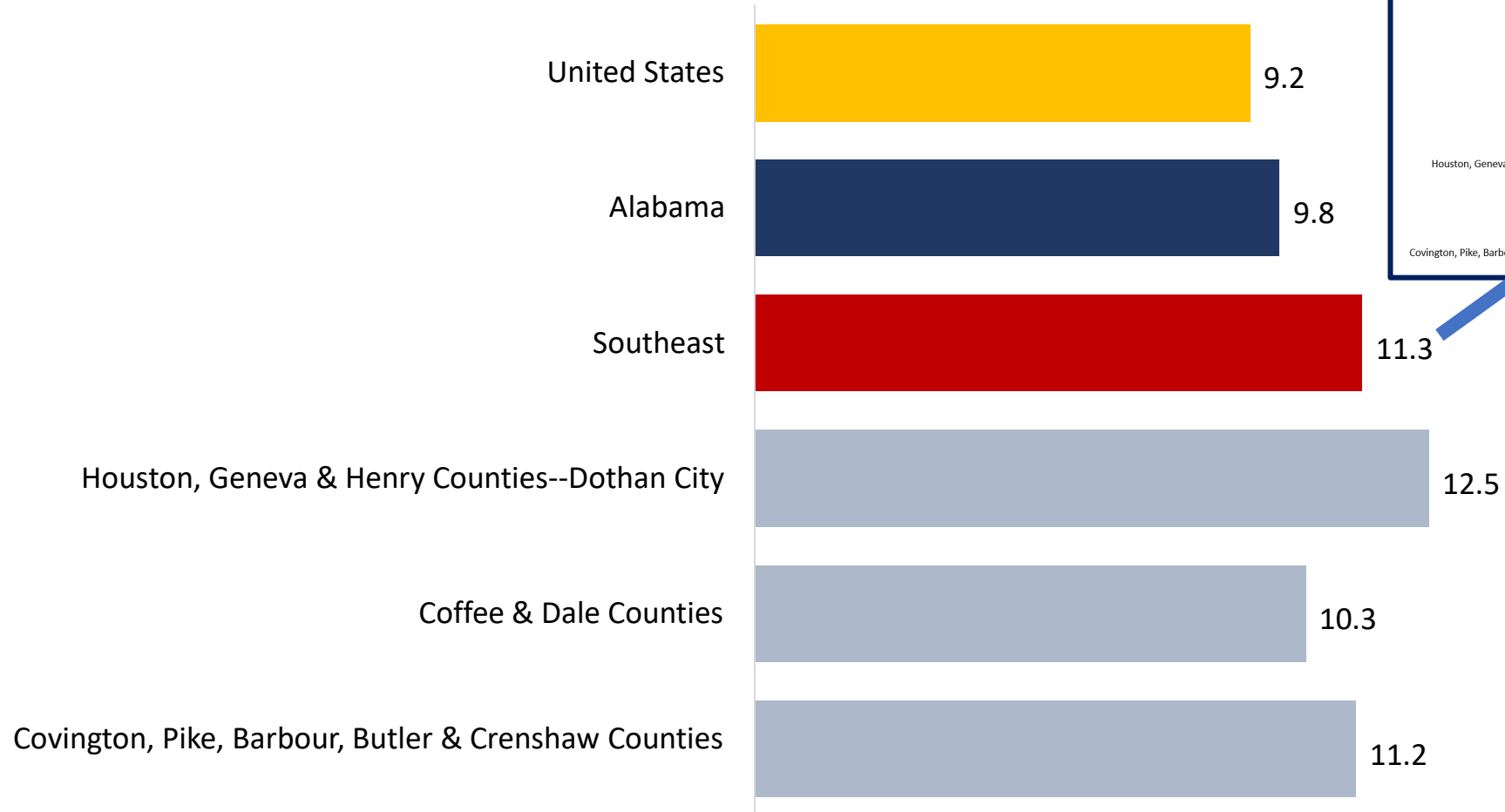
Source: Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, Erin Meyer, Jose Pacas and Matthew Sobek. IPUMS USA: Version 12.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V12.0>

Percentage of Adults Ages 18 to 64 with a High School Diploma Only (2022)



Source: Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, Erin Meyer, Jose Pacas and Matthew Sobek. IPUMS USA: Version 12.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V12.0>

Percentage of Adults Ages 25 to 64 with an Associates Degree (2022)



Source: Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, Erin Meyer, Jose Pacas and Matthew Sobek. IPUMS USA: Version 12.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V12.0>

Activities to Support Economic Transformation

- Increase postsecondary attendance and completion.
- Expand course offerings at the bachelor's level that align with local needs.
- Provide financial aid to support students seeking a degree pathway from Associate to Bachelor's.
- Collaborate with current and new industries to support employees with a bachelor's degree.

Advocacy Efforts

FY 2025-2026 Budget Requests

- Modest increases to existing Cost Centers
- Request for Ongoing programs be funded through the ETF



ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION



100 North Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

(334)242-2276
ache.edu

January 2025

Executive Director of ACHE



Dr. James E. Purcell

Jim Purcell has served as Executive Director since 2017. His tenure in Alabama, combined with Arkansas, Louisiana, and Rhode Island, makes him the longest serving active State Higher Education Executive Officer in the country. He has served in cabinet positions of four governors (AR, LA, and RI). Dr. Purcell is committed to providing accessible, affordable, high-quality educational opportunities to the citizens of the state. He is a graduate of Marbury High School (Autauga County), Auburn University (B.S.), University of Montevallo (M.Ed.) and the University of Alabama (Ed.D.).

Agency Statutory Responsibilities

- Develop and implement a strategic plan for postsecondary education.
- Prepare budget recommendations for the public community colleges and universities for the governor and the legislature;
- Conduct research that informs state policy on postsecondary education; workforce training and identify their impact on the state economy;
- Approve new academic programs and make recommendations about existing programs of study at public community colleges and universities;
- Administer state-sponsored financial aid programs for students attending public and private colleges and universities in Alabama;
- Approve new units of instruction and off-campus instruction sites for the public community colleges and universities;
- Review the facilities master plans of the public colleges and universities and identify their new construction, deferred maintenance needs; and
- Serve as the state portal entity for Alabama's participation in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA).

Strategic Plan Priorities

ACHE's Strategic Plan can be found by scanning the QR code or by going to https://www.ache.edu/wp-content/Publications/State_plan.pdf.

- Improve Student Access
- Enhance Student Success
- Advance STEM Programs
- Develop Alabama's Economy & Workforce
- Increase Organizational Effectiveness & Efficiency



Commission Members



Amy Shipley Price
Sylacauga
Chair
3rd District



Stan Nelson
Oxford
Vice-Chair
At Large



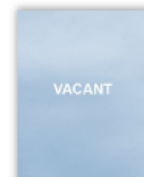
Ann Forbes
Mobile
1st District



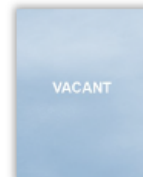
Payne R. Meadows
Lowndesboro
2nd District



Paul W. Kennedy
Jasper
4th District



5th District



6th District



Shane Spiller
Tuscaloosa
7th District



Rod Scott
Fairfield
At Large



Jody M. Singleton
Headland
At Large



Larry Turner
Chatom
At Large



Terry Welch
Decatur
At Large

ACHE Board Appointments

- Alabama General Studies Committee
- Alabama Local Government Training Institute (ALGTI)
- Alabama STEM Council
- Alabama Terminal for Linking and Analyzing Statistics (ATLAS) on Career Pathways
- Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) Advisory Council
- Alabama Workforce Council Committee on Credential Quality and Transparency
- Forever Wild Land Trust
- Joint Interim Study Commission on Responsible Technology Purchases
- Numeracy Act: Elementary Math Education Task Force and Postsecondary Math Task Force
- Principal Mentoring and Leadership Committee

Administrative & Fiscal Responsibilities

- Network of Alabama Academic Libraries
- Alabama Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Soil and Water Conservation Committee
- Alabama Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative
- Civil Air Patrol
- National Computer Forensics Institute
- Black Belt Treasures
- Black Belt Adventures
- Adaptive and Ability Sports Education
- Industry Credential Directory
- USS Alabama Battleship
- Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
- Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance
- Alabama Trails Foundation
- AGSC/STARS
- Alabama Humanities Foundation
- Alabama Motorsports Hall of Fame
- Alabama Forestry Commission Education Program
- Alabama Recruit and Retain Minority Teachers Pilot Program
- Alabama International Education and Economic Partnership
- Retain Alabama
- HBCU Cares

State Financial Aid Programs

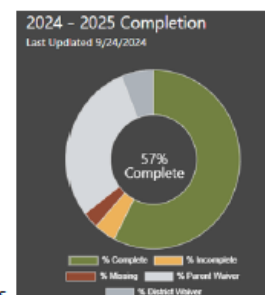
ACHE is responsible for the administration of the following state-level student financial aid programs:

- Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP)
- Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program (ANGEAP)
- Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP)
- Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP)
- Birmingham Promise Scholarship Program
- Indian Affairs Scholarship Program
- Minority Doctoral Scholars Program through SREB
- Police Officer's & Firefighter's Survivors Educational Assistance Program
- (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program

ACHE Initiatives

FAFSA Completion in Alabama

In 2022, ACHE developed the **FAFSA Completion Portal** and implemented direct communications with high school seniors to increase the state's FAFSA completion rate. Despite the challenges that US Department of Education's rollout of the new FAFSA process for 2024-25, Alabama ranked 17th among states in completion rates of high school seniors. While the average decline of FAFSA completion among states was 8.8%, Alabama's completion rates declined only by 2%. The \$500,000 state investment yielded an additional \$13,000,000 in need-based aid.



<https://fafsa.ache.edu/Data/Summary>

Student Horizon Database



The Students' Right to Know Act passed during the 2023 legislative session as Act 2023-556 charged ACHE with developing the **Student Horizon Database**. Horizon is an online interactive tool designed to provide parents and students with financial and academic information to help make informed decisions about education and future career paths. The tool allows parents and students to make direct comparisons between all of Alabama's higher education institutions as well as opportunities within the U.S. armed forces.

<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/>

All in Alabama

- **Retain Alabama**—to encourage four-year college students to remain in Alabama after graduation.
- **Recall Alabama**—to identify former graduates who moved out of state and encourage them to return to Alabama and its workforce.
- **(Re)Engage Alabama**—to provide scholarships to adults seeking to complete a degree in a high-wage, high-demand program.



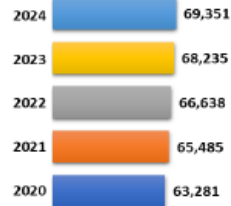
<https://allinal.org/>

Fall Enrollment and Degrees Awarded

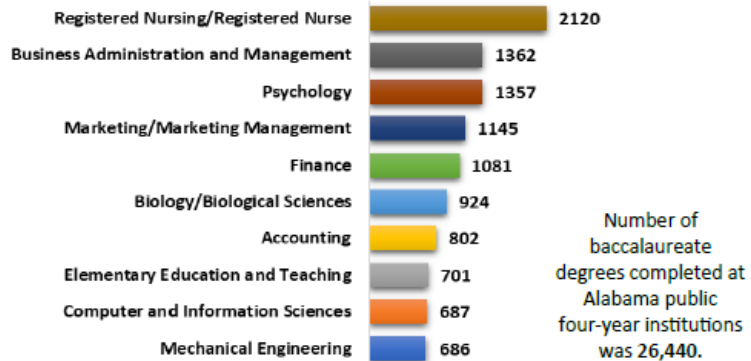
Student Enrollment for Fall 2019-Fall 2023



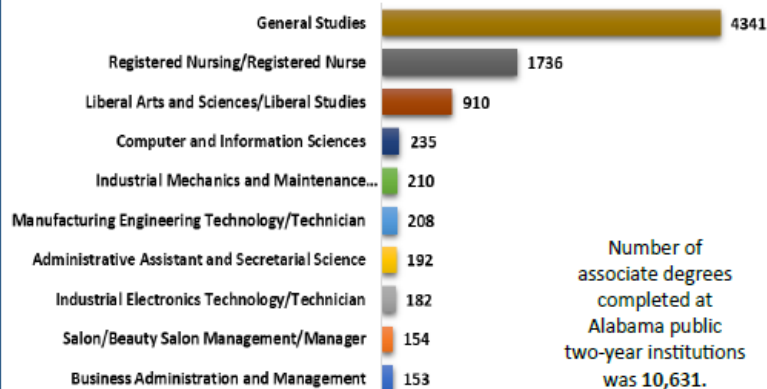
Degrees Awarded for Academic Years 2019-2024



Top 10 Majors for Baccalaureate Degrees in 2023



Top 10 Majors for Associate Degrees in 2023



2025-2026 Budget Request

ACHE requests \$77,859,213 for FY25-26. The budget includes no increase in the agency's operations and maintenance funding but does recommend increases for state student financial aid programs and the adult scholarship program that has been funded through supplemental budgets the last two years. ACHE's unique budget structure primarily earmarks funds for specific educational activities and serves as a pass-through for statewide education initiatives, encompassing 55 programs, including six new proposed programs, across six appropriation units.

Ongoing Programs to be Funded through the ETF

- (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program - \$2,000,000 to assist adults with some college credit who are interested in completing their first degree. This program has been funded through the supplemental budget the last two years, and this request is for the program to be funded as an ongoing expense.

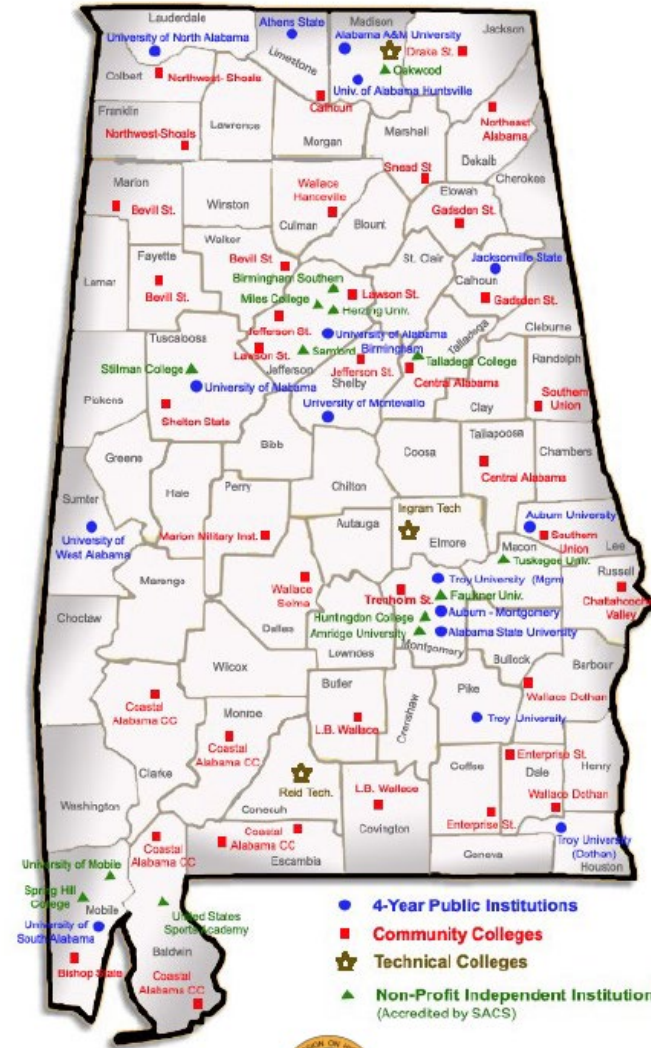
ACHE Requests Modest Increases to Existing Cost Centers

- STEM Major Teacher Recruitment - \$1,000,000 to support UTeach sites (Alabama A&M, Athens State, Auburn, AUM, USA, and UWA) to reach full enrollment capacity. Funding will also support the UAB in expanding its UTeach site to recruit community college students.
- Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP) - \$500,000 to assist more need-based students with financial aid for rising costs of tuitions and fees.
- Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP) - \$500,000 to assist students with financial aid for the rising financial costs of tuitions, fees, and books.
- Alabama National Guard Education Assistance Program (ANGEAP) - \$500,000 to aid the ongoing increase of Guard members enrolling in postsecondary education with the rising costs of tuitions, fees, and books.
- Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) - \$200,000 to purchase resources in support of the teaching and research missions of the state's academic libraries and specific academic resources focusing on disciplines that contribute to the state's workforce and economic development. NAAL is currently funded 37% below their funding in 2008.

ACHE Requests Modest Increases for New Programs

- Historically Black College and Universities - \$650,000 to support HBCU Consortium, in addition to HBCU CARES, to enhance institutional sustainability of the HBCUs and advance their research and planning.
- Alabama Special Education Rural Teacher Scholarship (ASERT) - \$250,000 to establish a new scholarship to address Alabama's special education teacher shortage in rural schools across the state.
- Hunger Free Campus - \$200,000 to expand access to healthy food for college students struggling with hunger and other basic need insecurities.
- Cybersecurity Insurance - \$150,000 to secure cybersecurity insurance to better protect student enrollment records for 38 public institutions, covering prevention, data recovery, attack response, notifications, legal costs, and other liabilities associated with a cybersecurity breach.
- National Student Clearinghouse Accountability Matrix - \$100,000 to secure the services of the National Student Clearinghouse to track Alabama high school graduates attending out-of-state colleges and universities.
- Alabama Literacy and Numeracy Acts Initiative - \$100,000 to support Alabama's Colleges of Education in adapting their operations and academic programs to meet the demands of the two Acts.

Alabama Institutions



January 2025

Request for (Re)Engage to be Funded through ETF



- **(Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program- \$2,000,000**
to assist adults with some college credit who are interested in completing their first degree. This program has been funded through the supplemental budget for the last two years, and this request is for the programs to be funded as an ongoing expense.
- **75 New Majors Added to (Re)Engage for 2025 from the current ACCCP High Demand Occupation List**
 - Spring 2024 had 38 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIPs)
 - Spring 2025 now has 113, making way for 6 new institutions to participate (e.g., more STEM, education, and business programs)

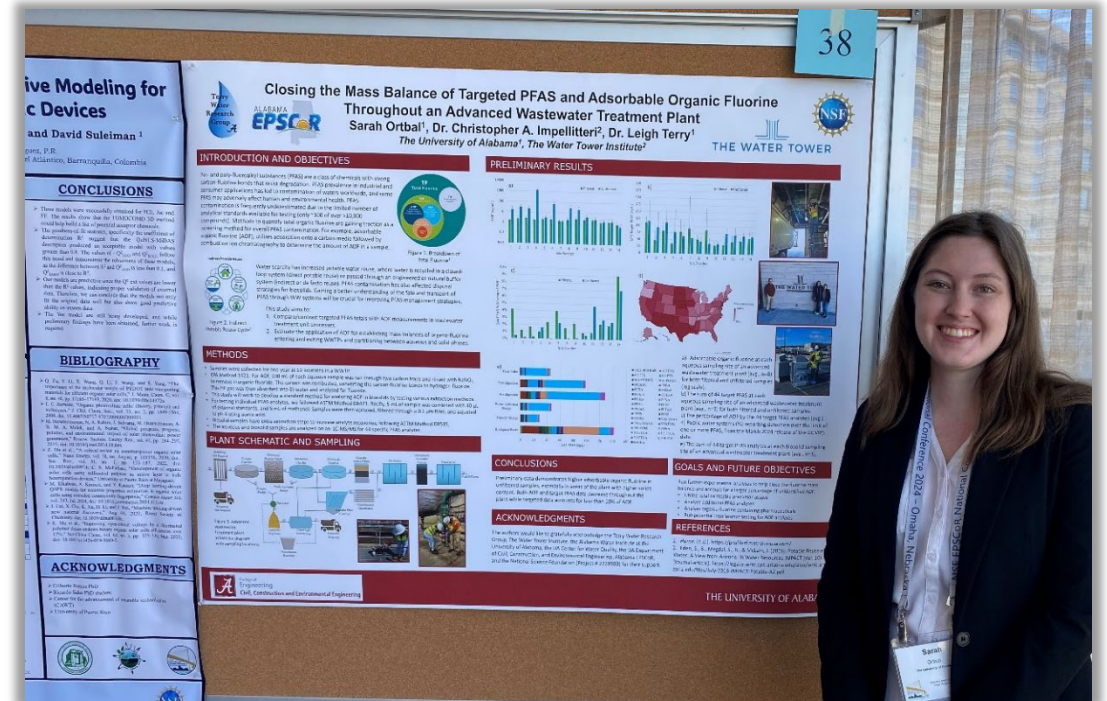
VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS



Alabama EPSCoR Graduate Research Scholar

Guest Presenter: Sarah Ortbal, University of Alabama

Sarah is currently a doctoral student in civil engineering at the University of Alabama and is an Alabama EPSCoR Graduate Research Scholar Program awardee. As a native of St. Louis, Missouri, she moved to Alabama to attend college and has since become a state resident. Sarah also earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Alabama, and her Ph.D. research focuses on water quality and accurately characterizing contaminants.



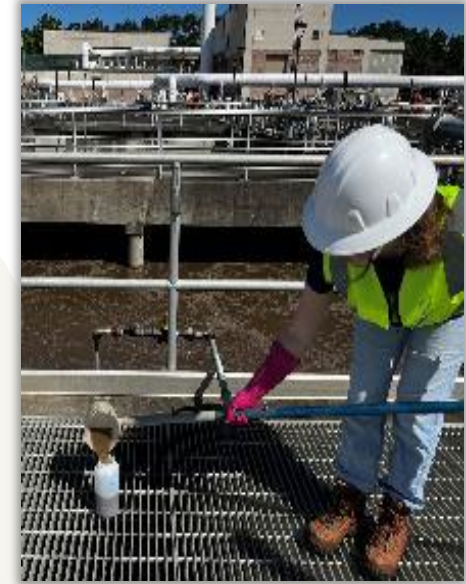
Path at UA

- Spring 2020
 - Was preparing to start lab work but disrupted by COVID
- Spring 2021
 - Started participation in Dr. Terry's lab group
 - Conducted undergraduate research projects on fluorescent dissolved organic matter in drinking water treatment
- Continued UG research
- Completed a non-thesis master's and completed a research project on accuracy of expired media for bacterial indicators





Future Plans



Found a home in Alabama and want to continue working in the field of water and wastewater research

Ensuring Safe Water by Accurately Quantifying Contaminants

Sarah Ortbal

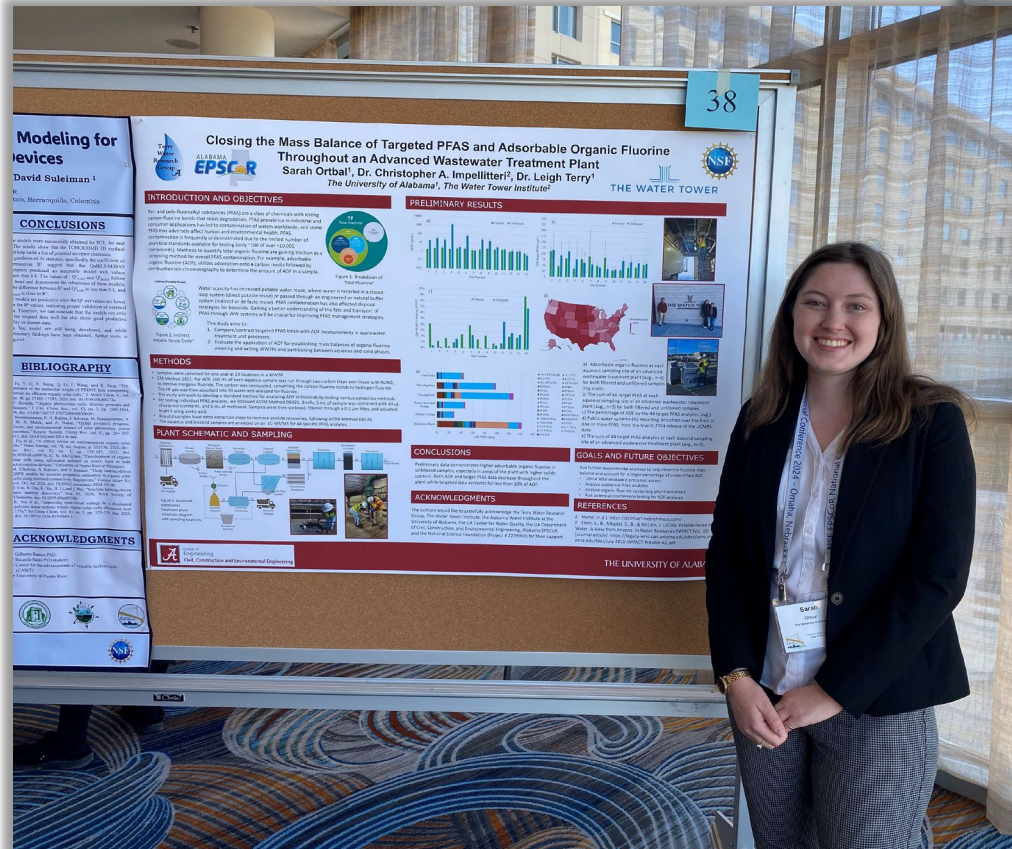


NSF Award #2228903

Terry
Water
Research
Group
A



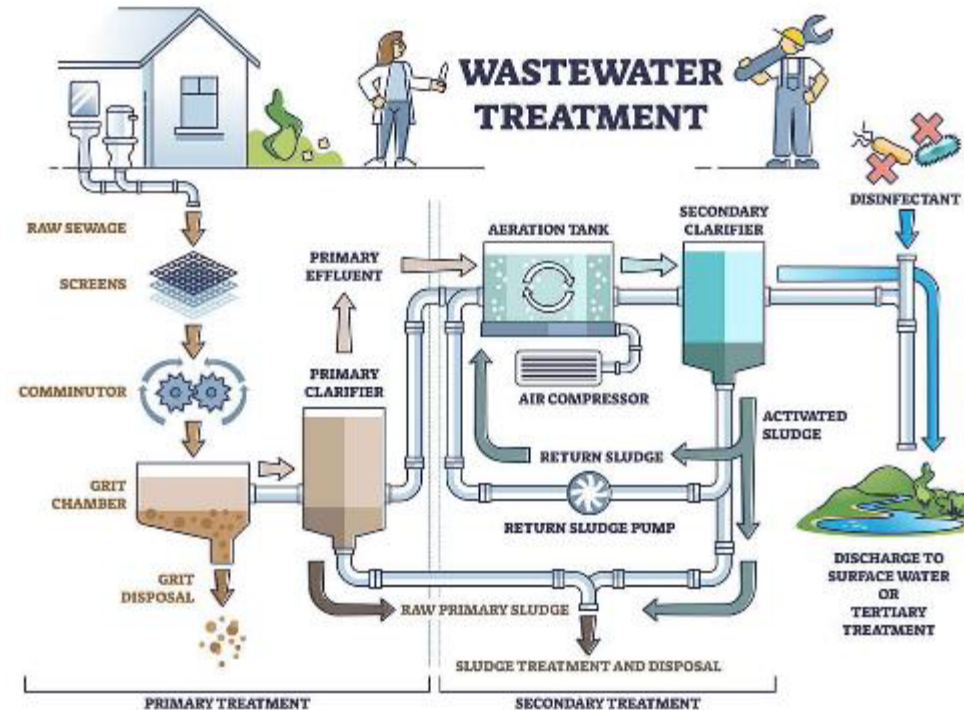
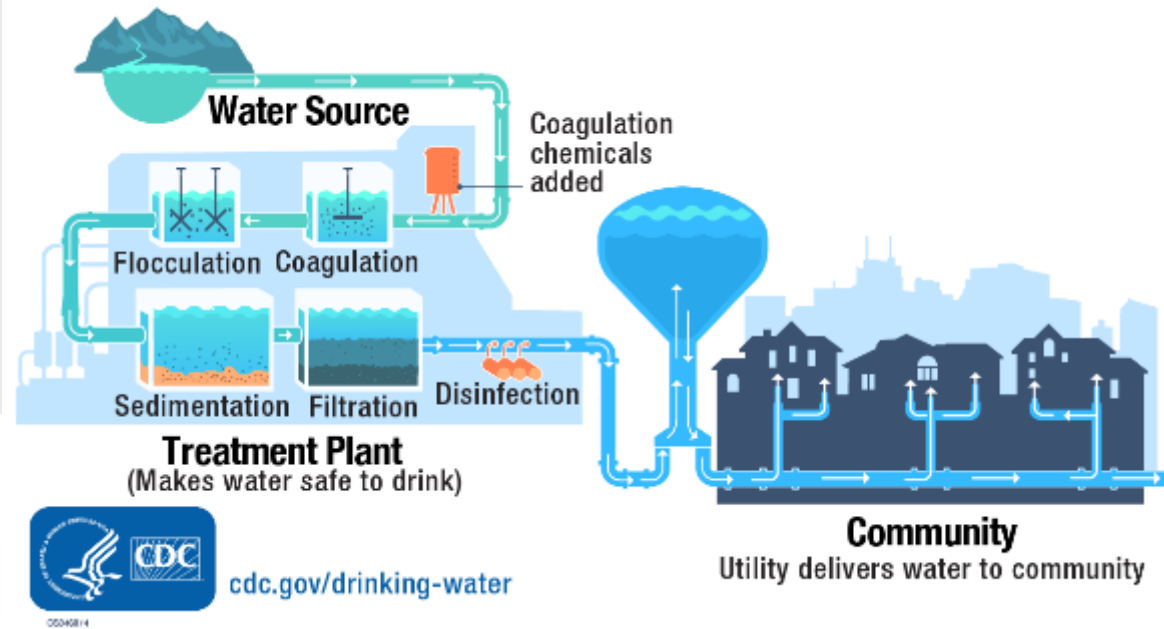
GRSP Opportunities



- More time for research
- EPSCoR conference attendance
- Networking

Drinking Water and Wastewater

Indirect Potable Reuse

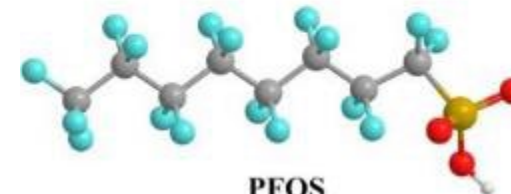


PFAS Information

- Class of chemicals
- Thousands of them
- Highly toxic and potentially carcinogenic
- Man-made
- Carbon-fluorine bonds



PFOA



PFOS

Final Regulations for PFAS in Drinking Water

💧 National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR)

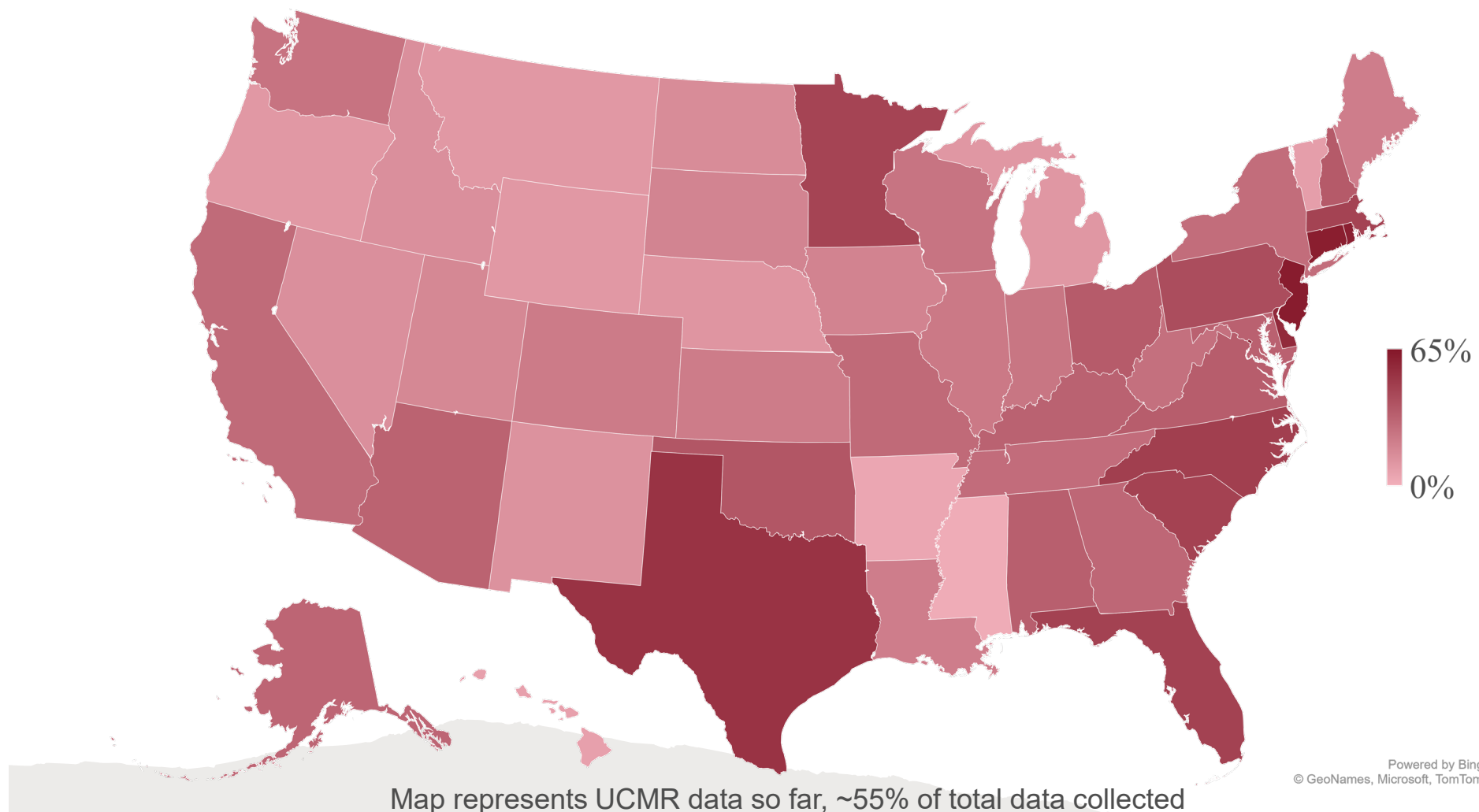
- Compliance required within 5 years (April 2029)

Compound	MCL (enforceable levels)	% of PWSs exceeding MCL (as of 10/01/24)
PFOA	4.0 ppt	7.8%
PFOS	4.0 ppt	9.4%
PFNA	10 ppt	0.1%
PFHxS	10 ppt	0.8%
HFPO-DA (GenX)	10 ppt	0.02%
Mixture of 2+: PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, PFBS	1.0 (unitless) HI	0.9%

$$HI = \frac{[PFNA]}{10 \text{ ppt}} + \frac{[PFHxS]}{10 \text{ ppt}} + \frac{[HFPO - DA]}{10 \text{ ppt}} + \frac{[PFBS]}{2000 \text{ ppt}}$$

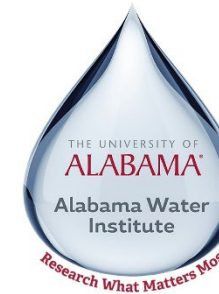
PFAS are Detected Throughout The United States

Percent of drinking water systems that have detected PFAS



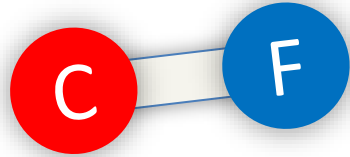
Building an interactive PFAS database for Alabama

- GIS-based database
- Dynamic tool to visualize and analyze PFAS concentrations in drinking water across the state of Alabama
- Will use spatial and temporal data to track PFAS occurrence, identify hotspots, and assess contamination trends
- An interactive and accessible resource for stakeholders
- Will support environmental management and research by facilitating data-driven decision-making

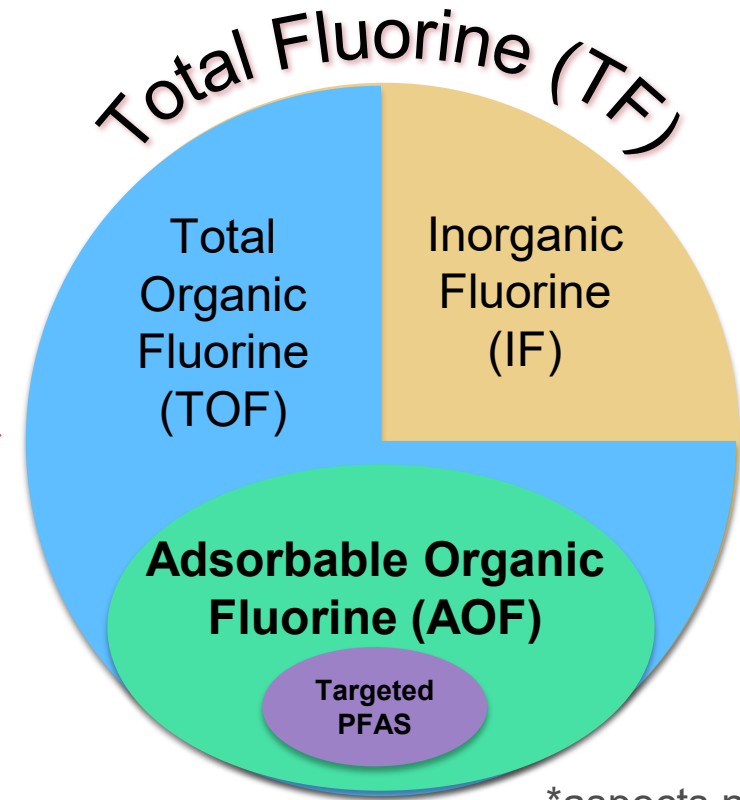


PFAS are Frequently Underestimated

There are thousands of them and only ~100 can be tested for



Organic fluorine measurements can help to abate this underestimation

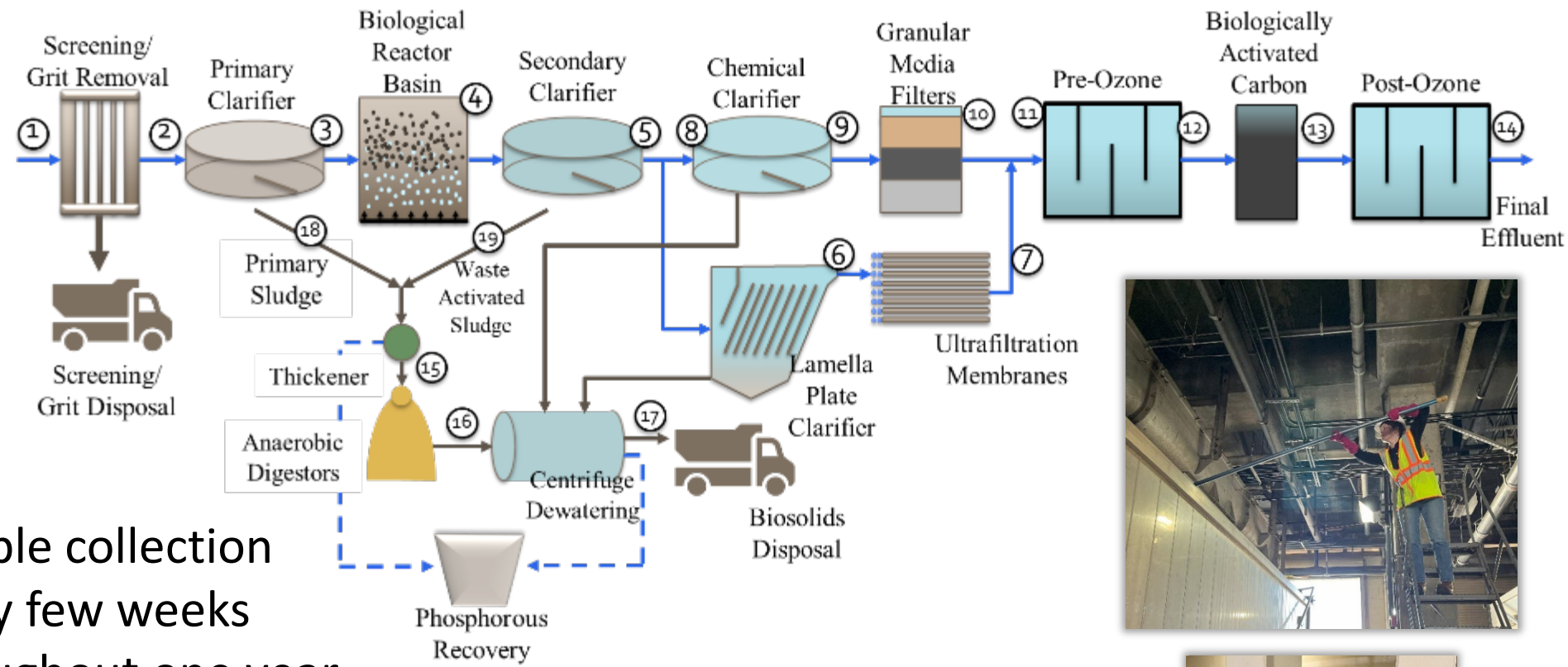


*aspects not drawn to scale

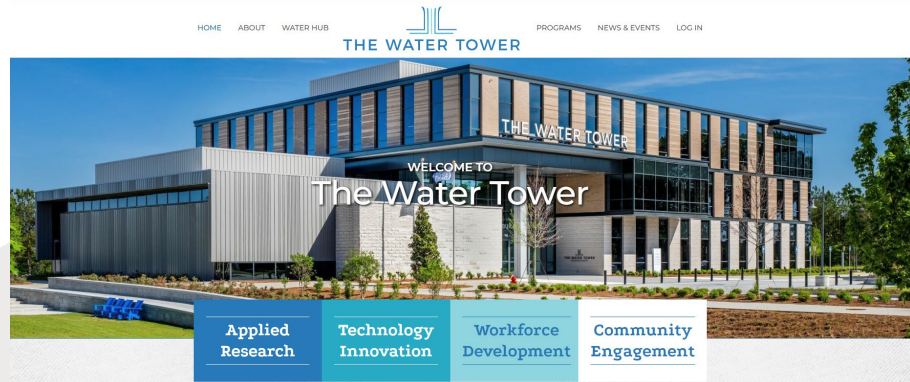
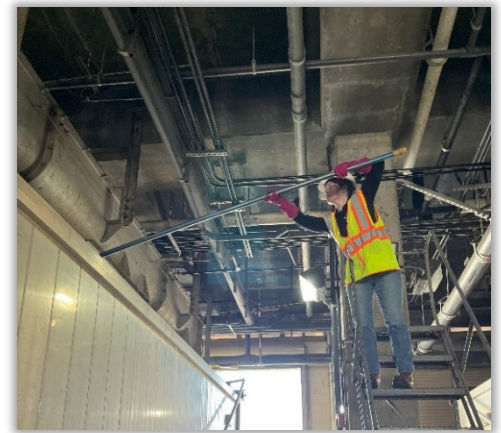
Adsorbable Organic Fluorine (AOF) Combustion Ion Chromatography



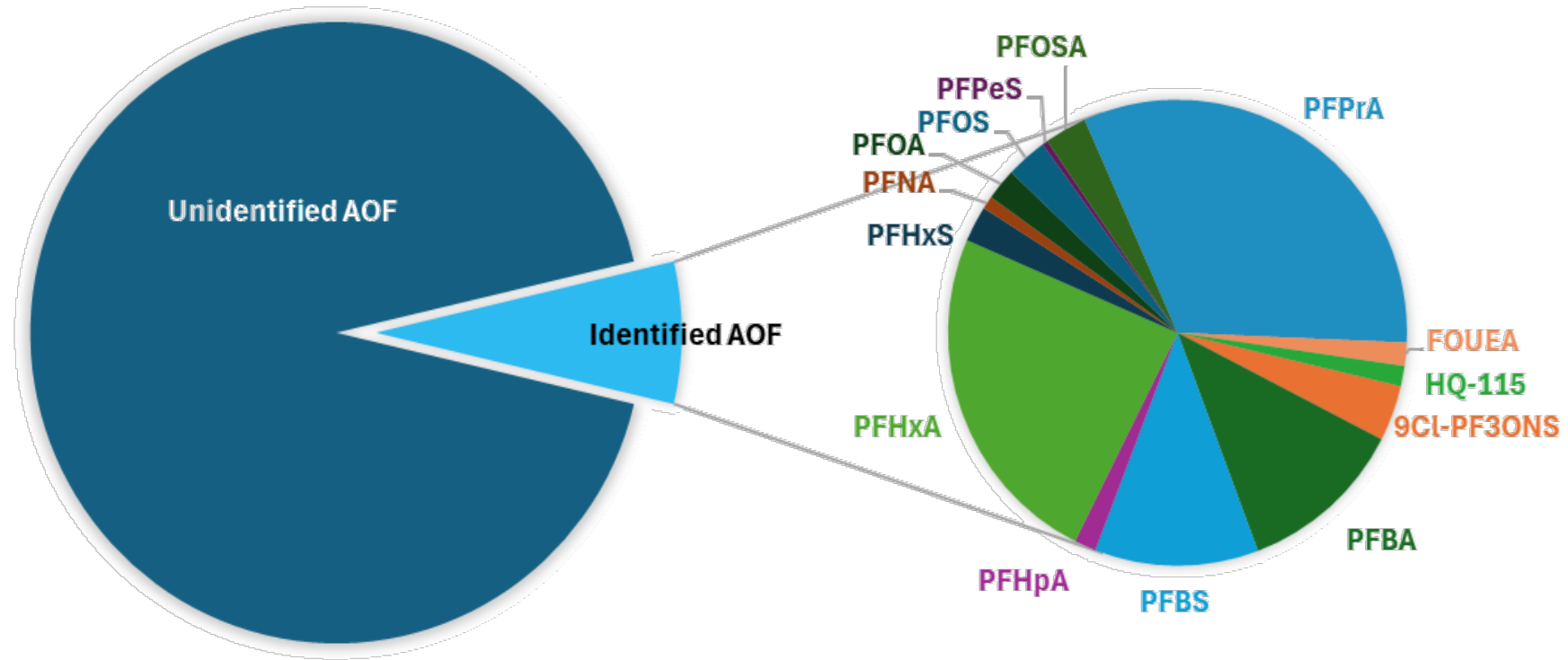
Sample Collection



Sample collection
every few weeks
throughout one year



Target PFAS Only Make Up a Small Fraction of AOF



Conclusions

- PFAS are detected throughout the United States in drinking water systems
- PFAS are frequently underestimated, but organic fluorine methods can account for this
- Target PFAS analytes account for only a few percent of AOF
- Characterization of organic fluorine contamination is important to accurately quantify contamination and reduce the frequent underestimation of PFAS



Acknowledgements



- Dr. Leigh Terry and Dr. Christopher A. Impellitteri
- Terry Water Research Lab Group
- The Water Tower Institute
- Alabama EPSCoR
- National Science Foundation
- Alabama Water Institute
- University of Alabama Center for Water Quality
- The University of Alabama Graduate School
- University of Alabama Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering



College of
Engineering

Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering



Thank you!

Questions?

VII. DECISION ITEMS



A. Executive Budget Request FY 2025-26

Staff Presenter: Mrs. Veronica Harris





Executive Budget Request Submission



- The Code of Alabama, Title 41, Chapter 19, Section 6(a)(3) states that, each state agency/department, on the date and in the form and content prescribed by the Department of Finance, shall prepare and forward to the Budget Officer the budget requested to carry out its proposed plans in the succeeding fiscal year.
- The due date for Budget Request packages, as set by law is November 1st of each year. Therefore, the FY 2024-2025 budget request packet was due Friday, November 1, 2024 (§41-4-84, Code of Alabama 1975).
- In order to comply with the designated submission deadline, a budget request was submitted to EBO.
- Any changes made by the Commission will be submitted through a budget request revision.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

FY 2025-26 Executive Budget Request

- **ACHE requests \$77,859,213 for FY25-26.** The budget includes no increase in the agency's operations and maintenance funding but does recommend increases for state student financial aid programs and the adult scholarship program that has been funded through supplemental budgets the last two years.
- ACHE's unique budget structure primarily earmarks funds for specific educational activities and serves as a pass-through for statewide education initiatives, encompassing 55* programs across six appropriation units.

*Includes six new program proposals

New Program Requests for FY 2025-26

Hunger Free Campus Initiative - \$200,000

- This program is designed to expand access to healthy food for college students struggling with hunger and other basic needs insecurities. Surveys conducted show 45% to 50% of students at participating community colleges and universities experience food insecurity each year.

Alabama Literacy and Numeracy Initiative - \$100,000

- These funds are to support the Alabama's Colleges of Education in adapting their operations and academic programs to meet the demands of the Alabama Literacy Act and the Alabama Numeracy Act.

New Program Requests for FY 2025-26

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) - \$650,000

- This line item appeared in ACHE's budget in FY 23; however, it was not funded in FY 24 nor FY 25. ACHE is requesting an amount of \$650,000 to restore the HBCU Consortium line item in FY 26.

Alabama Special Education Rural Teacher Scholarship (ASERT) - \$250,000

- Funds will be used to establish a scholarship to address Alabama's special education teacher shortage in rural schools across the state for individuals seeking degrees in education.

New Program Requests for FY 2025-26

Cybersecurity Insurance - \$150,000

- ACHE is requesting funds to secure cybersecurity insurance to better protect student enrollment records for 38 public institutions, covering prevention, data recovery, attack response, notifications, legal costs, and other liabilities associated with a cybersecurity breach.

National Student Clearinghouse Accountability Matrix - \$100,000

- Funds will secure the services of the National Student Clearinghouse to track Alabama high school graduates attending out-of-state colleges and universities.

Planning Assumptions Used in Developing the FY 2025-26 Executive Budget Request

FY 24 appropriation in the amount of \$665,048 reverted and was reappropriated in FY 25. Therefore, no additional funds were requested for Planning and Coordination (Operations and Maintenance). Below are the reasons for this assumption:

- Although employee benefits continue to rise, an increase in O&M was not made because ACHE will replace retired senior staff at a lower salary, which will absorb these costs.
- Additionally, funds will be reallocated from major object codes, like personnel costs, to other areas of need, such as purchases to support the replacement of aged computer equipment.

Assumptions for Other Existing Programs

- **\$1,500,000** increase was requested for the following programs:
 - Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP) - \$500,000
 - Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP) - \$500,000
 - Alabama National Guard Scholarship Program (ANGEAP) - \$500,000
- **\$1,000,000** increase for STEM Major Teacher Recruitment (UTeach)
- **\$200,000** increase for Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL)
- **\$2,000,000** increase for (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program to move from the Supplemental Budget

Level funding was recommended for all other programs overseen by ACHE.

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 2024	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES 2025	REQUESTED EXPENDITURES 2026	INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM PRIOR YEAR	
					AMOUNT	PERCENT
172	PLANNING AND COORDINATION SERVICES					
0144	Postsecondary Education (ACHE O&M)	3,589,479	5,111,257	4,446,209	(665,048)	(13.01%)
0322	Non Resident Institutions	28,830	236,239	236,239		
1174	Industry Credential Directory	89,250	125,235	100,000	(25,235)	(20.15%)
1175	Retain Alabama	841,234	1,012,163	650,000	(362,163)	(35.78%)
1209	FAFSA Completion	480,950	641,850	580,000	(61,850)	(9.64%)
1241	Study Alabama		50,000	50,000		
1323	SARA - Reciprocity	150,826	200,000	200,000		
DBCS	Data Breach Cyber Security Insurance			150,000	150,000	.....
NCHA	National Clearinghouse Accountability Matrix			100,000	100,000	.....
TOTAL		5,180,568	7,376,744	6,512,448	(864,296)	(11.72%)
153	STUDENT ASSISTANCE					
0121	Alabama Student Assistance Program	8,930,284	9,661,964	10,000,000	338,036	3.50%
0122	Alabama Educational Grants Program	8,578,620	10,380,350	10,000,000	(380,350)	(3.66%)
0124	Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program	6,488,896	11,093,210	9,331,114	(1,762,096)	(15.88%)
0794	Police and Firefighter's Survivors Tuition Program	283,835	967,321	466,935	(500,386)	(51.73%)
1137	Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program	281,716	746,750	746,750		
1161	Birmingham Promise Scholarship Program	892,500	892,500	892,500		
1212	(Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program	114,777	8,885,223	2,000,000	(6,885,223)	(77.49%)
1242	Indians Affairs Scholarship Program		100,000	100,000		
SERT	Alabama Special Education Rural Teacher Scholarship			250,000	250,000	.....
TOTAL		25,570,628	42,727,318	33,787,299	(8,940,019)	(20.92%)
152	SUPPORT OF OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES					
0107	AGSC/STARS	598,418	803,660	799,589	(4,071)	(0.51%)
0109	Southern Regional Education Board	666,340	855,488	831,214	(24,274)	(2.84%)
0116	Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research	1,165,048	1,386,059	1,260,184	(125,875)	(9.08%)
0118	Network of Alabama Academic Libraries	350,783	473,198	584,076	110,878	23.43%
1208	STEM Major Teacher Recruitment	4,870,489	6,296,959	5,500,000	(796,959)	(12.66%)
1211	Outcome Based Funding		15,000,000		(15,000,000)	(100.00%)
1193	GEERS II	9,049				.....
ALNI	Alabama Literacy and Numeracy Initiative			100,000	100,000	.....
HFCA	Hunger Free Campus			200,000	200,000
TOTAL		7,660,127	24,815,364	9,275,063	(15,540,301)	(62.62%)

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					AMOUNT	PERCENT
151	SUPPORT OF STATE UNIVERSITIES					
0800	Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance	6,491,284	6,491,283	6,491,283		
	TOTAL	6,491,284	6,491,283	6,491,283		
189	SUPPORT OF STATE PROGRAMS					
0306	Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC&D)	5,943,840	7,113,984	7,037,744	(76,240)	(1.07%)
0307	Soil and Water Conservation Committee Program	2,810,388	2,957,863	2,923,376	(34,487)	(1.17%)
0308	Alabama Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative	528,956	538,644	532,000	(6,644)	(1.23%)
0315	Alabama Black Belt Adventures	473,071	479,330	475,000	(4,330)	(0.90%)
0316	Alabama Black Belt Treasures	331,691	355,709	350,000	(5,709)	(1.60%)
0318	Alabama Civil Air Patrol	97,000	128,000	125,000	(3,000)	(2.34%)
0319	National Computer Forensics Institute	545,500	554,500	550,000	(4,500)	(0.81%)
0320	Adaptive Sports Scholarship	58,200	61,800	60,000	(1,800)	(2.91%)
0321	Motorsports Hall of Fame	197,000	203,001	200,000	(3,001)	(1.48%)
1110	Alabama Humanities Foundation	297,000	203,000	200,000	(3,000)	(1.48%)
1140	Alabama Forestry Commission Education Program	199,600	200,401	200,000	(401)	(0.20%)
1141	Alabama Recruit and Retain Minority Program	689,801	713,747	700,000	(13,747)	(1.93%)
1157	Best and Brightest Stem Program	270,000				
1162	AKEEP Education and Teacher Recruitment Partnership	147,900	252,101	250,000	(2,101)	(0.83%)
1181	Historically Black College and Universities	96		650,000	650,000	.....
1182	USS Alabama Battleship	1,840,100	1,362,301	1,350,000	(12,301)	
1197	Museum of Flight	200,000				
1213	Birmingham Zoo-Alabama Veterinary Teaching Hospital	2,500,000				
1231	Historically Black College and Universities Cares Program	647,500	652,500	650,000	(2,500)	(0.38%)
1236	EarlyWorks Museum	850,000				
1237	NCAA Woman's Basketball		250,000		(250,000)	
1238	Para-Cycling Road Championship		250,000		(250,000)	
1239	SEC Baseball Tournament		500,000		(500,000)	
1240	Selma University	100,000				
1243	Scottsboro Boys Museum		200,000	200,000		
1327	Alabama Trails Foundation	336,400	347,200	340,000	(7,200)	(2.07%)
	TOTAL	19,064,043	17,324,081	16,793,120	(143,112)	(0.83%)
340	DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM					
1142	Deferred Maintenance	8,967,978	5,004,522	5,000,000	(4,522)	(0.09%)
	TOTAL	8,967,978	5,004,522	5,000,000	(4,522)	(0.09%)
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	72,934,628	103,739,312	77,859,213	(25,880,099)	(24.95%)

STATE OF ALABAMA EBO Form No. 2		AGENCY BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARY BUDGET REQUEST		Agency: Alabama Commission on Higher Education		
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0307	Soil and Water Conservation Committee Program	2,810,388	2,957,863	2,923,376	(34,487)	(1.17%)
0308	Alabama Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative	528,956	538,644	532,000	(6,644)	(1.23%)
0315	Alabama Black Belt Adventures	473,071	479,330	475,000	(4,330)	(0.90%)
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0318	Alabama Civil Air Patrol	97,000	128,000	125,000	(3,000)	(2.34%)
0319	National Computer Forensics Institute	545,500	554,500	550,000	(4,500)	(0.81%)
0320		58,200	61,800	60,000	(1,800)	(2.91%)
0321		97,000	203,001	200,000	(3,001)	(1.48%)
1110		97,000	203,000	200,000	(3,000)	(1.48%)
1140		99,600	200,401	200,000	(401)	(0.20%)
1141		99,801	713,747	700,000	(13,747)	(1.93%)
1157		70,000				
1162		17,900	252,101	250,000	(2,101)	(0.83%)
1181		96		650,000	650,000
1182		40,100	1,362,301	1,350,000	(12,301)	
1197	Museum of Flight	200,000				
1213	Birmingham Zoo-Alabama Veterinary Teaching Hospital	2,500,000				
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1236	EarlyWorks Museum	850,000				
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1240	Selma University	100,000				
1243	Scottsboro Boys Museum		200,000	200,000		
1327	Alabama Trails Foundation	336,400	347,200	340,000	(7,200)	(2.07%)
	TOTAL	19,064,043	17,324,081	16,795,120	(143,112)	(0.83%)
340	DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM					
1142	Deferred Maintenance	8,967,978	5,004,522	5,000,000	(4,522)	(0.09%)
	TOTAL	8,967,978	5,004,522	5,000,000	(4,522)	(0.09%)
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	72,934,628	103,739,312	77,859,213	(25,880,099)	(24.95%)

The FY25-26 Budget Request results as a 24.95% decrease due to a combination of several reversions and carryover funds from prior years.

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					AMOUNT	PERCENT
0100	Personnel Costs	3,441,089	4,292,021	4,060,518	(231,503)	(5.39%)
0200	Employee Benefits	949,838	1,304,709	1,255,196	(49,513)	(3.79%)
0300	Travel-In-State	28,264	92,092	62,325	(29,767)	(32.32%)
0400	Travel-Out-Of-State	31,370	115,545	69,045	(46,500)	(40.24%)
0500	Repairs and Maintenance		4,600	4,200	(400)	(8.70%)
0600	Rentals and Leases	473,061	906,893	760,741	(146,152)	(16.12%)
0700	Utilities and Communication	59,434	331,083	204,086	(126,997)	(38.36%)
0800	Professional Services	563,296	1,394,722	1,078,391	(316,331)	(22.68%)
0900	Supplies, Materials and Operating Expenses	423,929	673,964	679,307	5,343	0.79%
1000	Transportation Equipment Operations	8,954	29,900	17,700	(12,200)	(40.80%)
1100	Grants and Benefits	66,802,248	94,186,148	69,430,869	(24,755,279)	(26.28%)
1200	Capital Outlay					.....
1300	Transportation Equipment Purchases	41,507	55,000	50,000	(5,000)	(9.09%)
1400	Other Equipment Purchases	111,640	352,635	186,835	(165,800)	(47.02%)
1500	Debt Service					.....
1600	Miscellaneous					.....
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		72,934,628	103,739,312	77,859,213	(25,880,099)	(24.95%)
TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES		30.35	30.80	32.80	2	6.49%
FUND NO.	SOURCE OF FUNDS					
0200	ETF Appropriation	99,521,809	97,551,801	71,676,224	(25,875,577)	(26.52%)
1742	Deferred Maintenance	5,000,000	5,004,522	5,000,000	(4,522)	(0.09%)
0200	ACHE GEERS II Balance Forward	(50,951)				.....
0200	ETF Reversion- Reappropriated	(32,030,101)				.....
0403	Local - NRI	236,239	236,239	236,239		
1687	Local - SARA	200,000	200,000	200,000		
0403	Local - Lumina Equity and Quality Assurance					.....
0403	GEERS II	60,000				.....
0403	Transfer Math and Science	746,750	746,750	746,750		
1742	Deferred Maintenance Reverted-Reappropriated	(27,500)				
0403	Balance Brought Forward - NRI/SARA/Math	(721,617)			
TOTAL FUNDS		72,934,628	103,739,312	77,859,213	(25,880,099)	(24.95%)

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1742	Deferred Maintenance Reverted-Reappropriated	(27,500)				
0403	Balance Brought Forward - NRI/SARA/Math	(721,617)			
TOTAL FUNDS		72,934,628	103,739,312	77,859,213	(25,880,099)	(24.95%)

The value of the reversions and carryovers is \$32,751,718.

Motion, Decision Item A:

That the Commission approve the FY 2025-2026 ACHE Executive Budget Request.

B. Consolidated Budget Recommendation for FY 2025-26

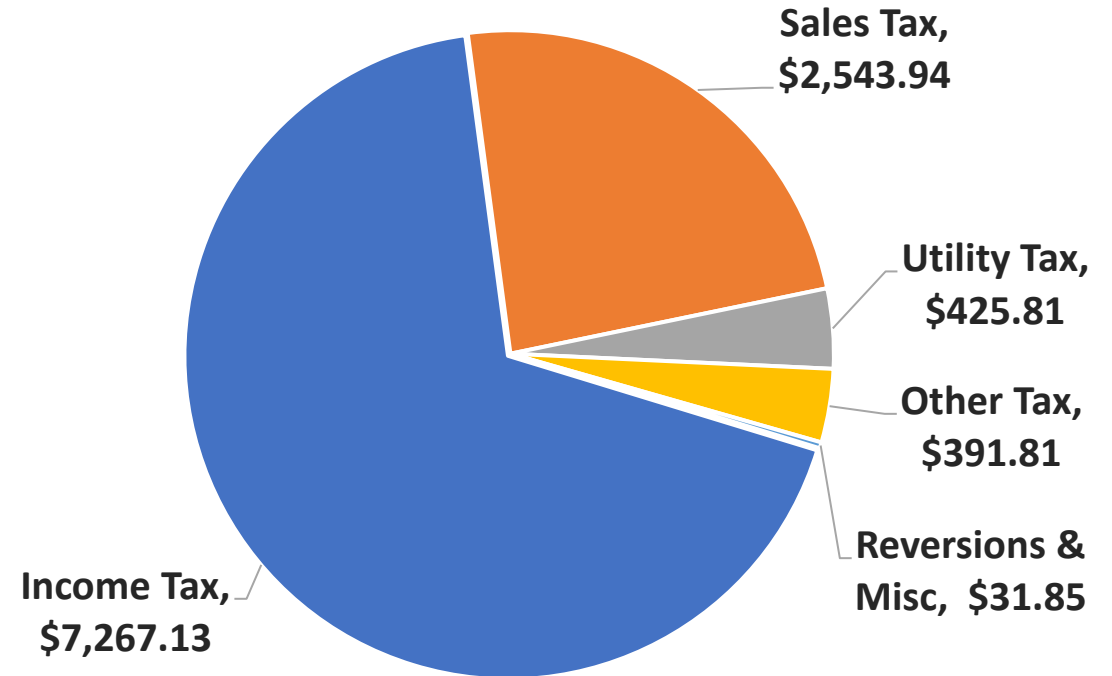
Staff Presenter: Dr. Jim Hood

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 FY2025-2026: Revenue for ETF Estimate

- 92% of the revenue for the ETF is from income (68.17%) and sales (23.86%) taxes
- **Income tax has grown 56% in five years**
(\$4,657.17M to \$7,267.13M)
- **Sales tax has grown 22% in five years**
(\$2,085.73M to \$2,543.94M)



Tax Category	2024 Revenue (Millions)		% of Total	5-Year Change
Income Tax	\$	7,267.13	68.17%	56.0%
Sales Tax	\$	2,543.94	23.86%	22.0%
Utility Tax	\$	425.81	3.99%	9.7%
Other Tax	\$	391.81	3.68%	33.4%
Reversions & Misc	\$	31.85	0.30%	-90.0%
Total	\$	10,660.55		

CBR for FY2025-2026: 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
Higher Education	16.02	10.68	6.76	6.00
Public Institutions	17.53	11.19	6.84	6.29

- **ACHE recommended ETF at 6.00%: \$144,729,275**

CBR for FY2025-2026: Budget Hearings

- Conducted institutional budget hearings on November 6th.
- Institutions had opportunity to provide additional context on budget requests and highlight areas of need.
- Financial Affairs Committee had opportunity to gain 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 for FY2025-2026: Budget Hearings

ACHE Financial Affairs Committee

Stan Nelson, Chair

Paul Kennedy

Rod Scott

Jody Singleton

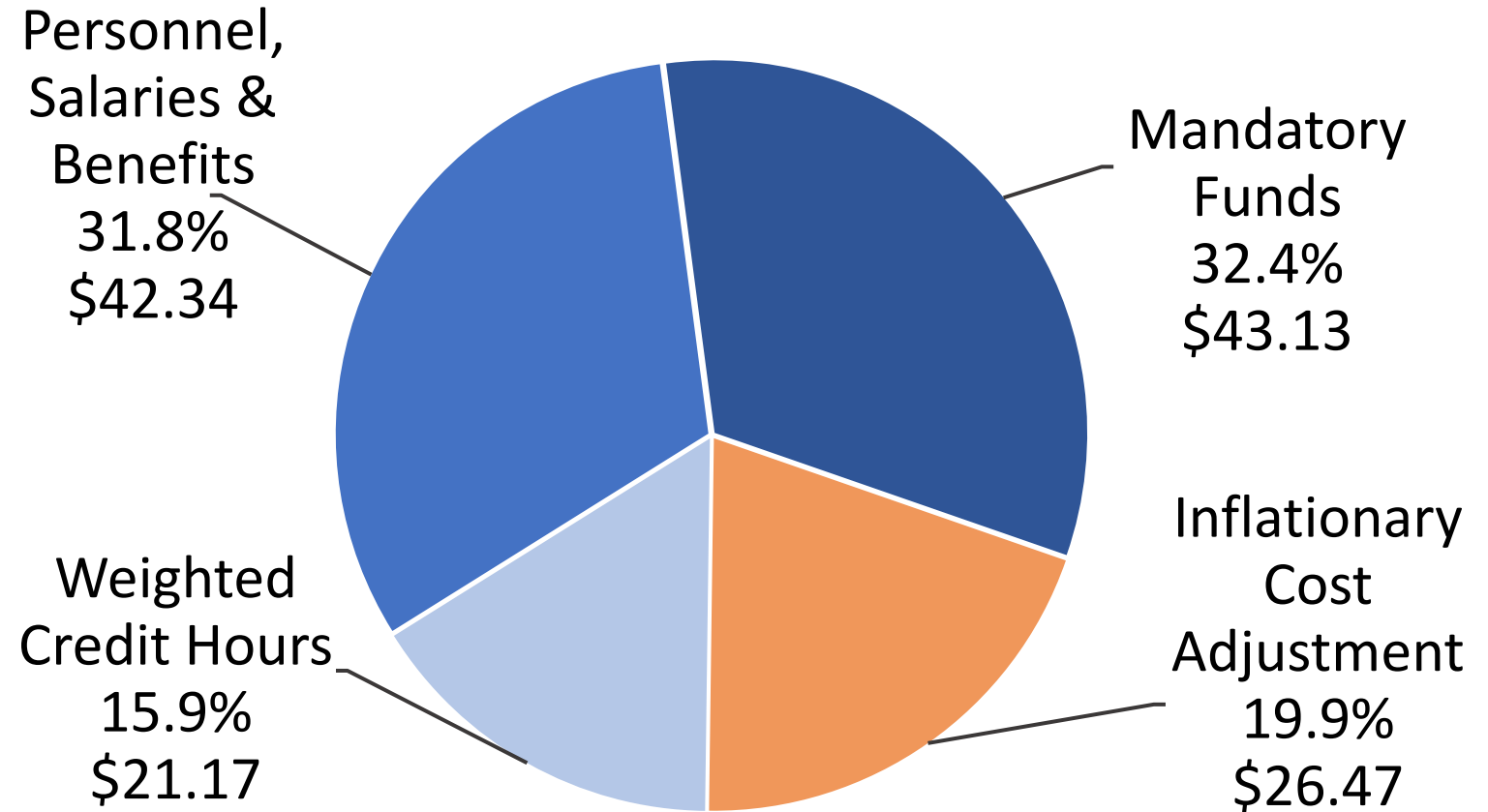
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 - Growing need for capital assets to address deferred maintenance, building construction, and building renovation.

CBR Distribution Trend by Priority

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Personnel, Salaries, Benefits	55.2	41.1	0.0	31.8
Weighted Credit Hours (Based on Academic Discipline and Level)	15.8	17.9	20.6	15.9
Mandatory Funds (Insurances, Retirement Contributions, etc.)	5.4	3.3	28.2	32.4
Inflationary, Deferred Maintenance, Other	23.6	37.7	51.2	19.9
Totals	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

CBR Increases for FY2025-2026 by Priority*

- Reflects a \$133.11 million (6.29%) increase for public institutions
- Less than prior year recommended increase of 6.84%
- Aligned with increases outlined in legislation (6.0%)



*Figures in millions. Does not include statewide line items.

CBR for FY2025-2026: Personnel, Salaries, and Benefits

Rationale: Personnel costs were reoccurring themes in the budget hearings. Institutions are struggling to attract and retain employees as they wrestle with salary compression, compete with a growing number of remote work opportunities in the workforce, and keep pace with a higher cost of living for faculty and staff.

Calculation: 2.0% increase of total FY 2024-25 appropriation
This recommendation trails ongoing rising standard of living costs.

Amount: \$42.34 million (31.8% of total CBR)

Note: Does not include statewide line items.

CBR for FY2025-2026: Mandatory Funds

Rationale: Portion of recommendation to support increases in mandatory funds related to retirement obligations, Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Program (PEEHIP), and other rising insurance costs.

Calculation: Reflects requested funds reported from institutional needs assessment reporting. Increases in retirement rates are as follows:

TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS)	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
Tier I Employees (Hired on or Before 01/01/13)	12.59%	13.57%	14.57%
Tier II Employees (Hired After 01/01/13)	11.57%	12.60%	13.61%

Amount: \$43.13 million (32.4% of total CBR)

Note: Does not include statewide line items.

CBR for FY2025-2026: Inflationary Cost Adjustment

Rationale: Portion of recommendation to give institutions flexibility in addressing rising utility costs, increases in infrastructure costs, ongoing technology costs, and other unique needs of their campuses.

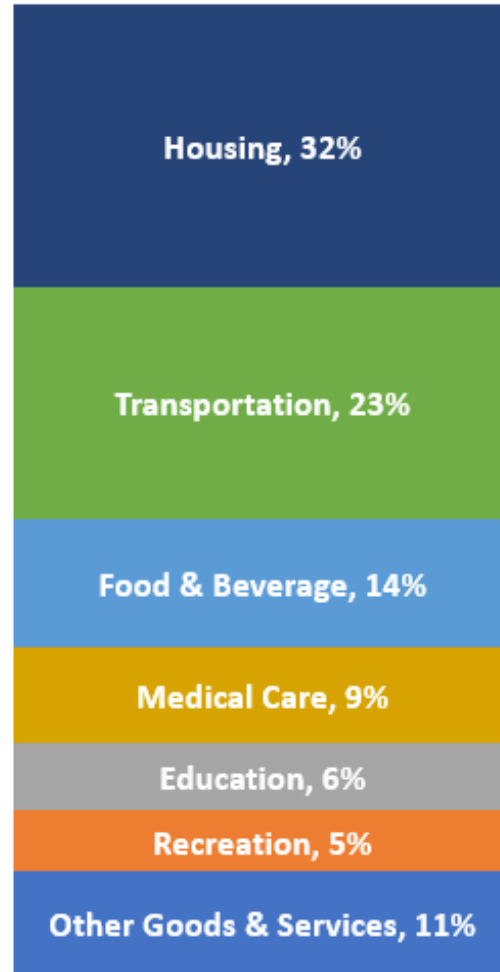
Calculation: 1.25% increase of total FY 2024-25 appropriation
This slight increase to address inflation still lags behind recent Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) estimates of 3.4% used for FY2024. HEPI is used to project budget increases required to preserve purchasing power.

Amount: \$26.47 million (19.9% of total CBR)

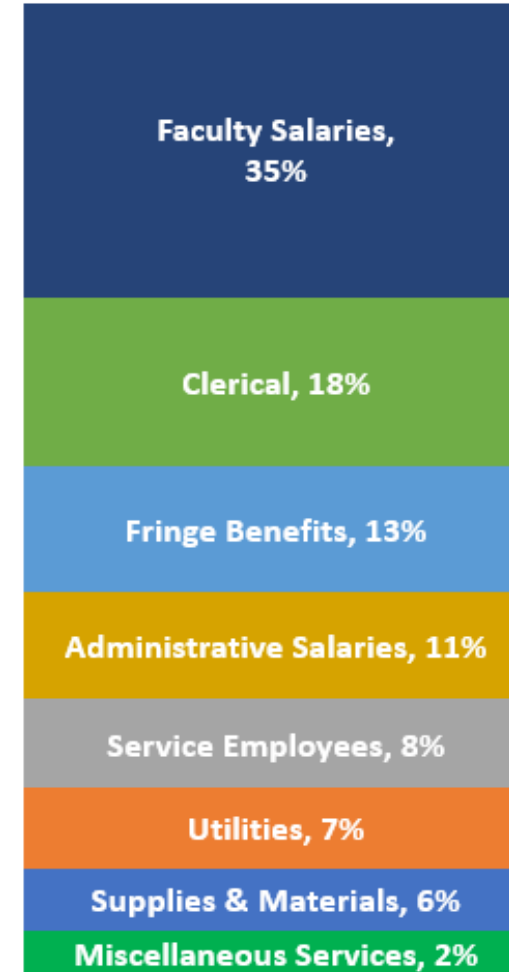
Note: Does not include statewide line items.

CBR for FY2025-2026: Inflationary Cost Adjustment

Consumer Price Index (CPI)



Higher Education Price Index (HEPI)



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

CBR for FY2025-2026: Weighted Credit Hours

Rationale: Portion of recommendation based on weighted credit hours. These funds recognize increases in enrollment, credit hour productivity, and the need to fund STEM and other high-costs programs requiring more resources.

Calculation: 1.0% increase of total FY 2024-25 appropriation distributed by weighted credit hours from AY2024.

Amount: \$21.17 million (15.9% of total CBR)

Note: Does not include statewide line items.

CBR Increases for FY2025-2026 by Sector

Universities (73.4%)

\$106.20 Million

6.40% increase over FY2025

Community Colleges (18.6%)

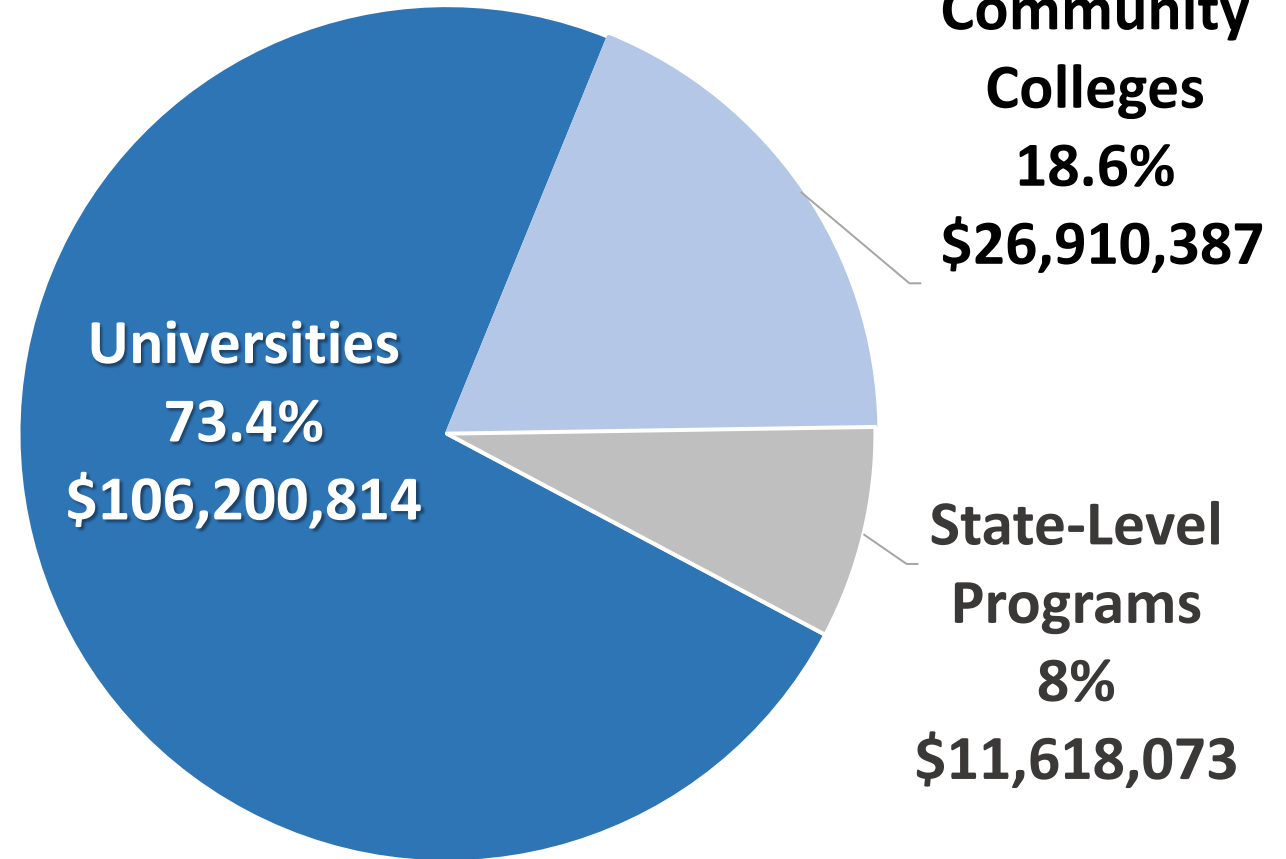
\$26.91 Million

5.88% increase over FY2025

State-Level Programs (8.0%)

\$11.62 Million

3.94% increase over FY2025





FY2025-26 Consolidated Budget Recommendation

Institution	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026		FY 2025-2026	FY 2025-2026	% Change CBR
	Appropriation	Institutional EBO Request	% Increase Requested	Consolidated Budget Recommendation	Amount CBR Increase	
Alabama A&M University	57,304,433	71,366,345	24.54%	61,242,443	3,938,010	6.87%
Alabama State University	62,783,930	67,315,683	7.22%	66,512,412	3,728,482	5.94%
Athens State University	21,741,509	24,696,858	13.59%	23,264,674	1,523,165	7.01%
Auburn University	355,844,105	390,735,372	9.81%	377,129,459	21,285,354	5.98%
Auburn University at Montgomery	33,112,856	35,752,691	7.97%	35,178,559	2,065,703	6.24%
Jacksonville State University	57,283,222	63,806,376	11.39%	61,696,928	4,413,706	7.71%
Troy University	81,246,926	104,075,000	28.10%	85,929,812	4,682,886	5.76%
University of Alabama	248,302,456	268,649,829	8.19%	265,444,683	17,142,227	6.90%
University of Alabama at Birmingham	393,173,000	424,800,542	8.04%	419,485,867	26,312,867	6.69%
University of Alabama in Huntsville	72,681,686	143,932,879	98.03%	77,196,566	4,514,880	6.21%
University of Montevallo	30,680,750	33,633,825	9.63%	32,440,002	1,759,252	5.73%
University of North Alabama	53,189,628	66,025,000	24.13%	56,309,257	3,119,629	5.87%
University of South Alabama	161,458,465	181,904,311	12.66%	171,243,355	9,784,890	6.06%
University of West Alabama	30,515,149	33,915,000	11.14%	32,444,912	1,929,763	6.32%
Total Universities	1,659,318,115	1,910,609,711	15.14%	1,765,518,930	106,200,815	6.40%
Total Community Colleges	457,974,345	536,220,063	17.09%	484,884,732	26,910,387	5.88%
Total Public Institutions	2,117,292,460	2,446,829,774	15.56%	2,250,403,662	133,111,202	6.29%
All State-Level Programs	294,862,112	349,942,536	18.68%	306,480,185	11,618,073	3.94%
Total	2,412,154,572	2,796,772,310	15.94%	2,556,883,847	144,729,275	6.00%

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



Motion, Decision Item B:

That the Commission approve the Consolidated Budget Recommendation FY 2025-2026.

C. Report on Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests for FY 2025-26 – FY 2029-30

Staff Presenter: Mr. Julian Rogers



Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests for FY25-26 – FY29-30

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 (FY25-26)
- **Intermediate** - Projects within 2nd academic year of the planning cycle (FY26-27)
- **Long-Term** - Projects within the final three academic years of the planning cycle (FY27-28 – FY29-30)

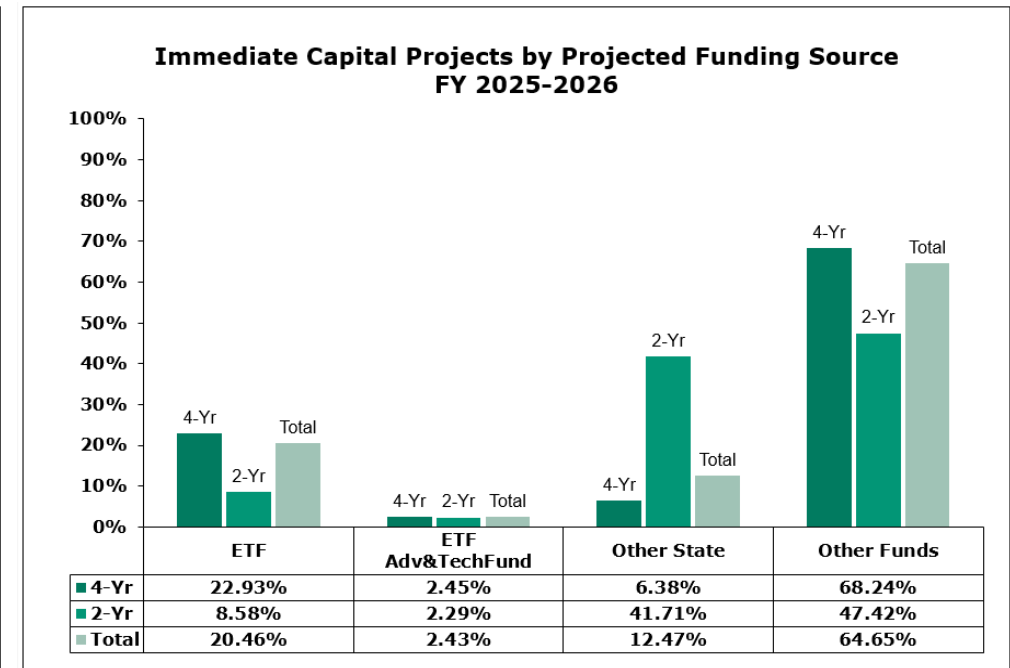
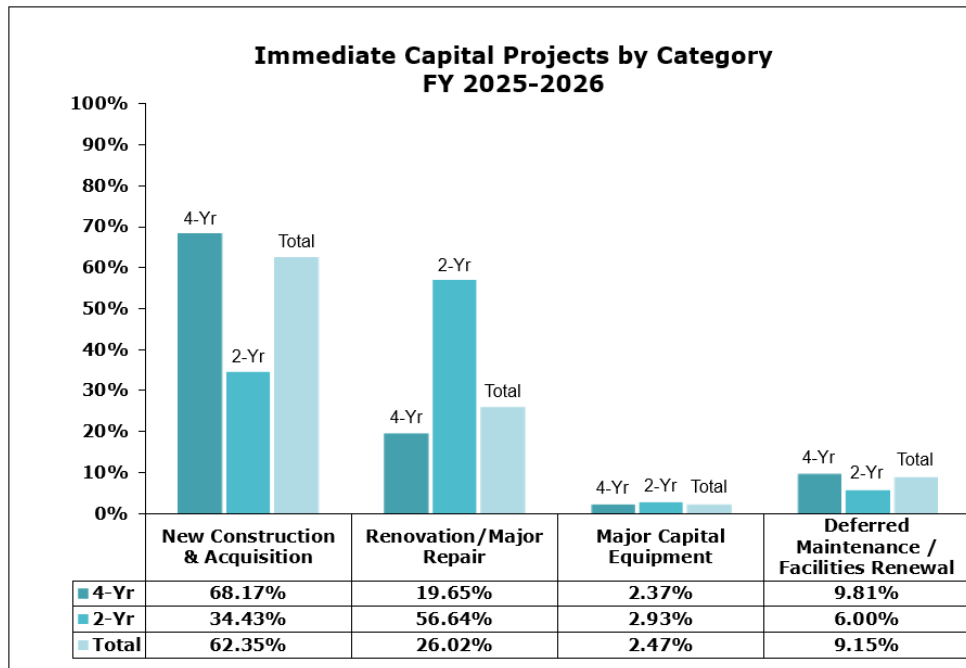
All projects are divided into four separate project categories:

New Construction/Acquisition
Major Capital Equipment

Deferred Maintenance/Facilities Renewal
Renovation and Remodeling

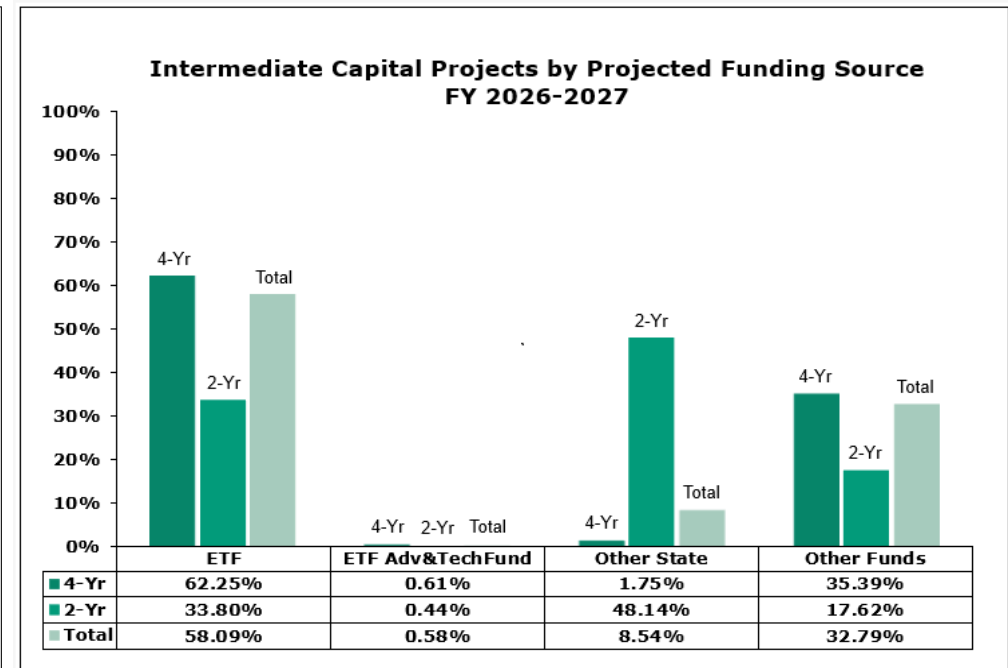
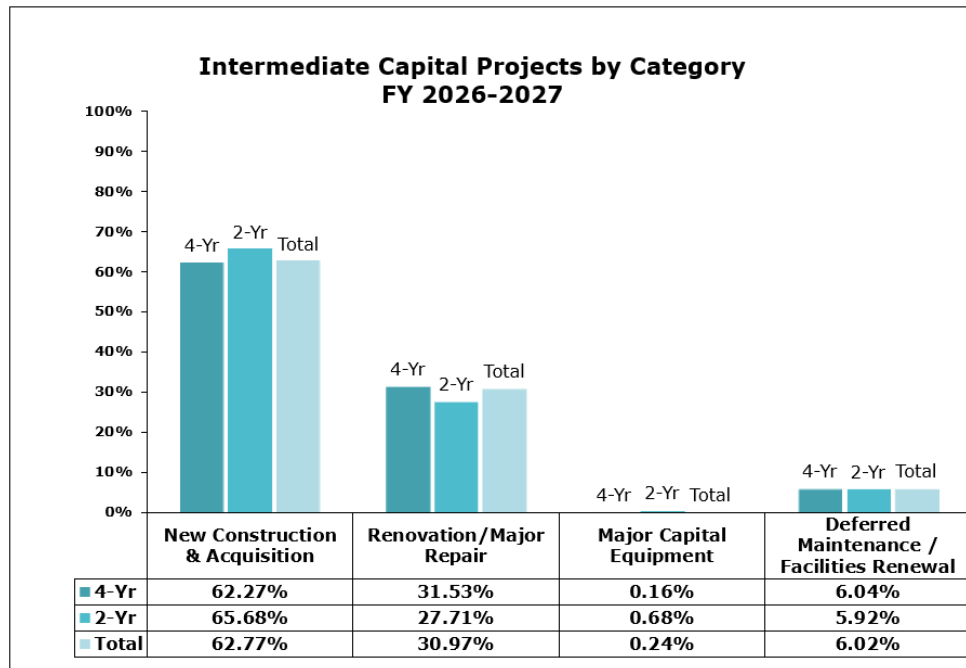
Immediate Capital Projects Requests for FY25-26

The colleges and universities are estimating capital project needs in FY 2025-26 to exceed \$2.95B. Of this funding, 62% is for new construction, 26% is for renovation and major repair of existing structures, and 9% is needed for deferred maintenance and facilities renewal. Institutions propose that 20% of this total (almost \$605M) will need to be supported by the ETF.



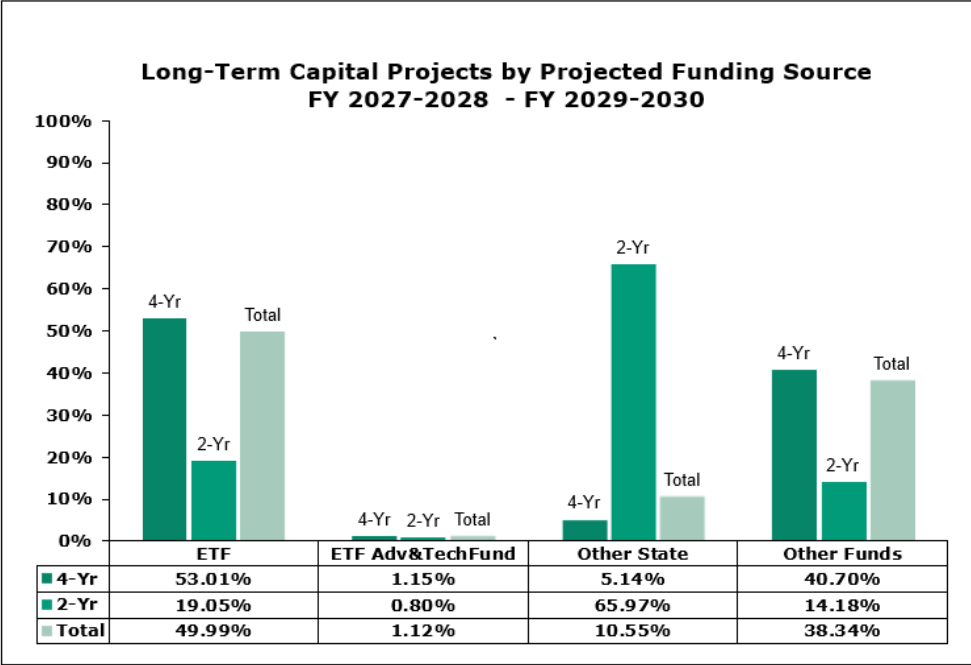
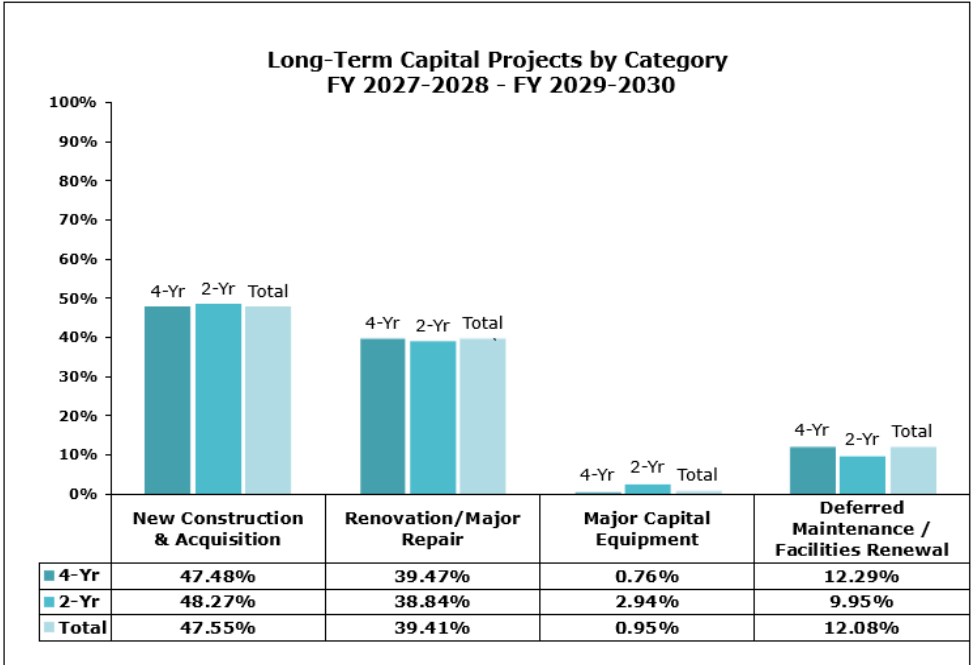
Intermediate Capital Projects Requests for FY26-27

The colleges and universities are estimating capital project needs in FY 2026-27 to exceed \$2.6B. Of this funding, 63% is for new construction, 31% is for renovation and major repair of existing structures, and 6% is for deferred maintenance and facilities renewal. Institutions propose that 58% of this total (almost \$1.5B) will need to be supported by the ETF.



Long-Term Capital Projects Requests for FY27-28 – FY29-30

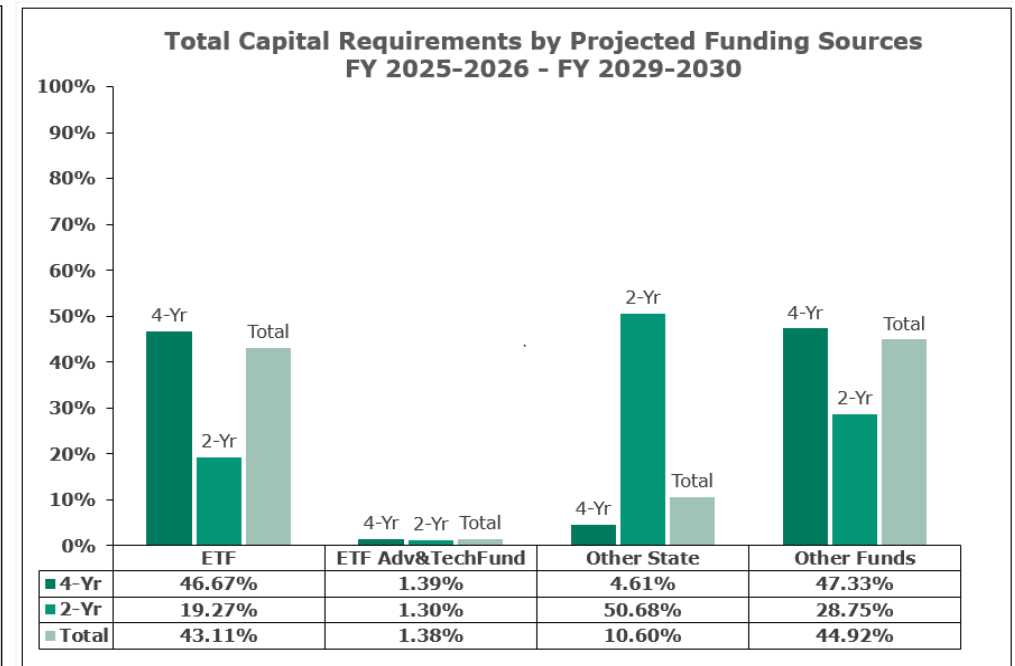
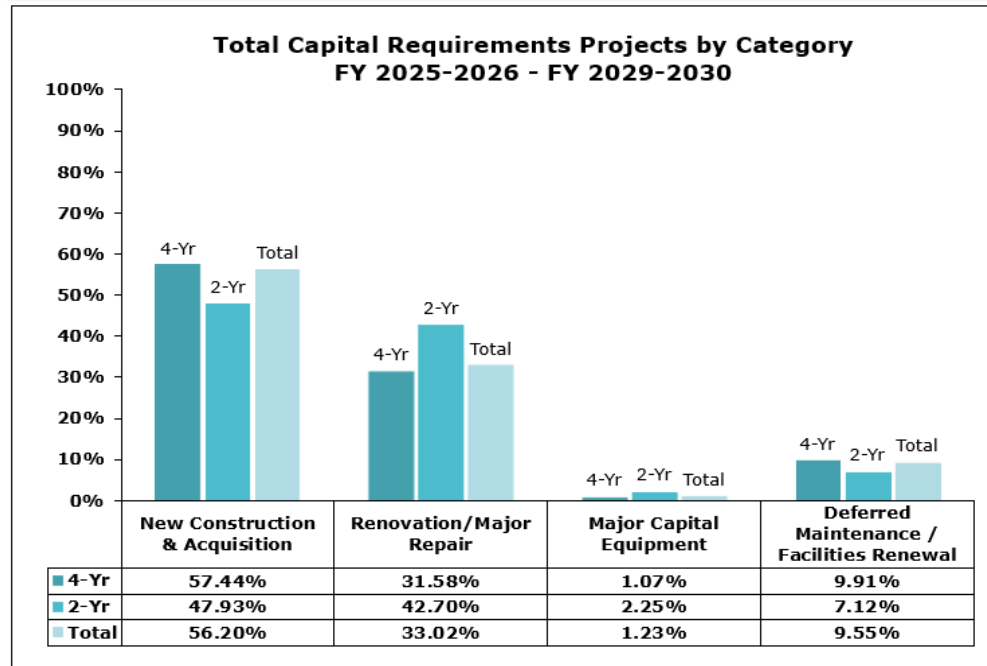
Institutions estimate over \$4B will be needed for capital projects in the final three academic years of this report. Almost fifty percent (49.99%) of the funding is anticipated to come from the ETF. Of the Long-Term projects, over fifty-one percent (51.49%) fall into renovation/major repair and deferred maintenance/ facilities renewal of existing facilities.



Total Five-Year Capital Projects Requests FY25-26 – FY29-30

For the five-year period of this report:

- Institutions project \$9.6B will be needed for proposed projects, which includes \$4.1B for deferred maintenance or remodeling of current structures.
- Institutions propose 55% (\$5.31B) of this total will require the support of the ETF or other State-related funds.



Physical Plant by Year of Construction from 1810 to 2024

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	Total GSF	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent	Total GSF	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Unknown	2,621	0.00%		29,919	0.21%					32,540	0.04%	
1810-1819	918	0.00%	0.00%	-	0.00%	0.21%				918	0.00%	0.04%
1820-1829	14,644	0.02%	0.02%	-	0.00%	0.21%				14,644	0.02%	0.05%
1830-1839	22,713	0.03%	0.05%	720	0.01%	0.22%				23,433	0.03%	0.08%
1840-1849	86,340	0.11%	0.17%	-	0.00%	0.22%				86,340	0.10%	0.17%
1850-1859	79,593	0.10%	0.27%	30,514	0.22%	0.44%				110,107	0.12%	0.30%
1860-1869	209,500	0.27%	0.54%	-	0.00%	0.44%				209,500	0.23%	0.53%
1870-1879	-	0.00%	0.54%	-	0.00%	0.44%				-	0.00%	0.53%
1880-1889	155,182	0.20%	0.75%	-	0.00%	0.44%				155,182	0.17%	0.70%
1890-1899	125,284	0.16%	0.91%	-	0.00%	0.44%				125,284	0.14%	0.84%
1900-1909	312,420	0.41%	1.32%	6,030	0.04%	0.48%				318,450	0.35%	1.19%
1910-1919	457,528	0.60%	1.92%	7,442	0.05%	0.53%				464,970	0.51%	1.70%
1920-1929	2,803,119	3.67%	5.59%	55,201	0.39%	0.92%				2,858,320	3.15%	4.86%
1930-1939	2,400,723	3.14%	8.73%	66,358	0.47%	1.40%				2,467,081	2.72%	7.58%
1940-1949	1,352,807	1.77%	10.50%	136,757	0.97%	2.37%	8,344	5.38%	5.38%	1,497,908	1.65%	9.23%
1950-1959	1,834,501	2.40%	12.90%	294,785	2.10%	4.47%	82,948	53.50%	58.88%	2,212,234	2.44%	11.67%
1960-1969	9,197,831	12.04%	24.94%	3,605,846	25.67%	30.14%	0	0.00%	58.88%	12,803,677	14.13%	25.80%
1970-1979	9,477,918	12.40%	37.34%	2,503,652	17.82%	47.96%	0	0.00%	58.88%	11,981,570	13.22%	39.02%
1980-1989	7,101,968	9.29%	46.63%	1,335,003	9.50%	57.46%	5,616	3.62%	62.51%	8,442,587	9.32%	48.34%
1990-1999	8,393,698	10.98%	57.62%	2,022,343	14.40%	71.86%	17,102	11.03%	73.54%	10,433,143	11.51%	59.85%
2000-2009	14,450,374	18.91%	76.53%	2,317,719	16.50%	88.36%	28,600	18.45%	91.98%	16,796,693	18.54%	78.39%
2010-2019	14,279,125	18.69%	95.21%	1,273,320	9.06%	97.42%	12,428	8.02%	100.00%	15,564,873	17.18%	95.56%
2020-2024	3,657,397	4.79%	100.00%	362,013	2.58%	100.00%				4,019,410	4.44%	100.00%
Total	76,416,204	100.00%		14,047,622	100.00%		155,038	100.00%		90,618,864	100.00%	

= 36.7%

Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education's Fall 2024 Facilities Inventory survey
Gross Square Feet (GSF)

Over **36.7%** of the square footage being used by the public colleges and universities in Alabama was constructed between 1960 and 1989. An additional **11.7%** 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 2023-378 appropriated \$875M as a supplement to the 2023 budget to be used for capital improvement at higher education institutions.
- Act 2024-428 appropriated an additional \$279M to the 2024 budget to be used for capital improvements at higher education institutions.
- Public institutions in Alabama are allowed to issue their own bonds.
- Two- and four-year public institutions currently have approximately \$4.01B in outstanding bonds.
 - Public institutions paid approximately \$393.6M in debt service in the last fiscal year to pay these bonds off (\$14.6M-2YR / \$379M-4YR).
 - Public institutions commonly use tuition and student fees as a source of funds for debt service.

Motion, Decision Item C:

That the Commission accept the Report on Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests for FY 2025-26 – FY 2029-30.

D. Final Approval of Repeal and New Rule (§300-2-1.05) within Administrative Procedures for Program Review

Staff Presenter: Dr. Robin McGill



Overview of Proposed New Rule §300-2-1-.05

300-2-1-.05 Review of Off-Campus Instruction Offered by Public Postsecondary Institutions and Determination of Service Areas

Last Amended: 2007

Synopsis of Rule: This rule sets forth procedures for reviewing off-campus instructional offerings in keeping with the Commission's charge. Its purpose is to ensure that institutions can bring forward new off-campus sites to serve postsecondary educational needs across the state, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of offerings.

Summary of Recommended Changes:

- Rule has been reorganized to improve clarity and align with SACSCOC rules.
 - New sections have been added on modifying sites and determining service areas.
- ➔ ***New subsections*** added to clarify requirements for sites exempt by statute.

Motion, Decision Item D:

That the Commission give Final Approval to the Repeal and New Rule 300-2-1.05 within Administrative Procedures for Program Review.

E. Final Approval of Repeal of Attachments to the Administrative Procedures for Program Review (§300-2-1-A)

Staff Presenter: Dr. Robin McGill



Overview of Proposed Repeal of §300-2-1-A

300-2-1-A Attachments to the Administrative Procedures for Program Review

List of Attachments:

- 1) “Service Area Tables Approved by the State Board of Education for Two-Year Colleges,” included in 2007 as attachment to §300-2-1-.05.
- 2) “Service Area Tables for Universities by County,” included in 2007 as attachment to §300-2-1-.05.
- 3) Alabama State Board of Education Resolution, relating to “Consolidation or Merger of Postsecondary Institutions” and “Chancellor’s Guidelines and Timetable for Merger or Consolidation,” included in 1998 as attachment to §300-2-1-.09.

Rationale:

- Attachments are outdated.
- It is more appropriate to publish updated content on ACHE’s website.

Motion, Decision Item E:

That the Commission give Final Approval to the Repeal of Attachments to the Administrative Procedures for Program Review (§300-2-1-A).

F. Academic Programs

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



FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS



AUBURN



1. Bachelor of Science in Applied Management (CIP 52.0201)

- The Applied Management degree is designed to provide a seamless pathway for those with AAS degrees in related fields, such as Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Automotive Technology, Industrial Maintenance, Robotics, and Welding.
- The proposed program will use coursework developed for ATSU's BS degrees in Advanced Manufacturing Management (CIP 52.0205), Management of Technology (CIP 52.0216), and Business Management (CIP 52.0201), and as a result will require minimal resources to implement.



Motion, Decision Item F-1:

That the Commission approve Athens State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Applied Management.

2a. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management (CIP 52.0201)

- The proposed program will use coursework developed for management-focused concentrations within TROY's existing BSBA offerings and as a result will require minimal resources to implement.
- An undergraduate major in Management is considered a core offering for Colleges of Business with specialized accreditation.



Motion, Decision Item F-2a:

That the Commission approve Troy University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management.

2b. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Risk Management and Insurance (CIP 52.0215)

- The proposed BSBA in Risk Management and Insurance will convert an existing concentration within the BSBA in Global Business to a standalone degree and will not require any additional resources to implement.
- The proposed program will prepare graduates for employment in careers such as Insurance Sales Agents (SOC 41-3021), which appear on the 2023-2024 Statewide In-Demand Occupations List.

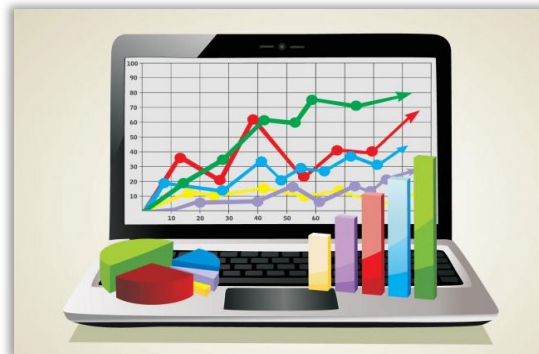


Motion, Decision Item F-2b:

That the Commission approve Troy University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Risk Management and Insurance.

3. Master of Science in Applied Statistics (CIP 27.0601)

- The proposed MS in Applied Statistics will prepare students for careers, such as statisticians, which are included on the Alabama Fast Growing Occupations 2020-2030 and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Fastest Growing Occupations 2022-2032.
- The proposed program will extend the statistics offerings at USA to the master's level and will require minimal resources to implement.
- USA has designed the program to allow doctoral students from other disciplines to complete the degree concurrently, which should provide a steady enrollment pipeline.



Motion, Decision Item F-3:

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

4. Request to Amend Post-Implementation Conditions: Master of Athletic Training in Athletic Training (CIP 51.0913)

- UWA has requested an extension of the post-implementation monitoring period so that the seven-year window for this program would begin when CAATE accreditation was granted in Spring 2022 and continue through Academic Year 2028-29. ACHE staff is recommending approval of the request based on the following rationale:
 - The State of Alabama is experiencing a severe shortage of licensed athletic trainers, and the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers has expressed an interest in partnering with ACHE to expand the pipeline of qualified professionals across the state.
 - Implementation of UWA's MAT program was delayed in part due to changes in educational standards for professional licensure established by CAATE.



Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers

Guest Presenter: Chris King, Chairman



Chris King, a licensed Athletic Trainer for 33 years and retired high school teacher of 25 years, now works as a sports medicine manager for a national physical therapy company. He chairs the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers, the Alabama Athletic Trainers Association, and the Southeast Athletic Trainers Association Governmental Affairs Committees, while also serving on the National Athletic Trainers Association Governmental Affairs Committee. His wife, Amy, is a math specialist at Athens State University. They have two sons: one is a high school teacher in Huntsville, and the other is a police officer in Birmingham.

Motion, Decision Item F-4:

That the Commission approve the University of West Alabama's request to amend post-implementation conditions on the Master of Athletic Training in Athletic Training.



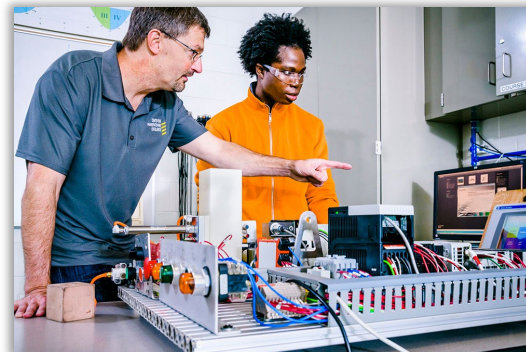
ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM



Chattahoochee Valley Community College

5. Associate of Applied Science in Electrical Technology (CIP 47.0105)

- The proposed AAS in Electrical Technology is designed to prepare graduates for employment in occupations on the Statewide In-Demand Occupations List, such as Electronic Equipment Installers and Repairers.
- This program was initiated as part of a multi-institution grant to enhance workforce training opportunities as part of the Chips for America Initiative which aims to restore US leadership in semiconductor and advanced manufacturing.



Motion, Decision Item F-5:

That the Commission approve Chattahoochee Valley Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Electrical Technology.

Enterprise State Community College

6. Certificate in Cosmetology (CIP 12.0401)

- This program is being developed and launched in partnership with the Troy Pike Center for Technology for dually enrolled high school students who are interested in pursuing professional certification in Cosmetology.
- The proposed Certificate in Cosmetology is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Manicurists and Pedicurists, and Skincare Specialists, both of which are included on the 2023-24 Statewide In-Demand Occupations List.



Motion, Decision Item F-6:

That the Commission approve Enterprise State Community College's proposal to offer a Certificate in Cosmetology.

Northeast Alabama Community College



7a. 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 2023-24 Statewide In-Demand Occupations List.
- The proposed AAS program will support the expansion of rural healthcare programs in the state and was awarded funding through a FY 2023 state grant to establish Rural Centers for Healthcare Opportunities.



Motion, Decision Item F-7a:

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

Northeast Alabama Community College

7b. Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technology (CIP 51.1004)



- The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for entry-level employment as medical laboratory technicians, which are included on the 2023-24 Statewide In-Demand Occupations List.
- The proposed AAS program will support the expansion of rural healthcare programs in the state and was awarded funding through a FY 2023 state grant to establish Rural Centers for Healthcare Opportunities.



Motion, Decision Item F-7b:

That the Commission approve Northeast Alabama Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technology.



G. 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. Reid State Community College: Georgiana Instructional Center
 - b. Enterprise State Community College: Troy Pike Center for Technology

G. Information Items



7. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

a. Programs that Met Post-Implementation Conditions

Two-Year Institutions

- Calhoun Community College, Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene (CIP 51.0602)
- Coastal Alabama Community College, Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Maintenance Technology (CIP 47.0303)
- Lawson State Community College- Selma, Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (CIP 51.0910)
- Snead State Community College, Associate of Applied Science and Certificate in Airframe Technology (CIP 47.0607)

G. Information Items



7. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

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

Four-Year Institutions

- University of Alabama, Doctor of Philosophy in Geography (CIP 30.4401)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Bachelor of Science in Medical Sociology (CIP 45.1101)
- University of West Alabama, Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (CIP 30.9999)
- University of West Alabama, Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Science in Sport Management (CIP 31.0504)
- University of West Alabama, Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (CIP 51.0000)

G. Information Items



7. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

b. Programs that Did Not Meet Post-Implementation Conditions

Two-Year Institutions

- Northwest Alabama Community College, Certificate in Automotive Service Technology (CIP 47.0604) – Program to be Deleted

Four-Year Institutions

- Alabama A&M University, Bachelor of Science in Plant Biotechnology (CIP 26.1201) – Program to be Deleted
- Alabama State University, Master of Arts in History (CIP 54.0101) – Program to be Deleted
- Auburn University, Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design Studies (CIP 50.0499) – Program to be Deleted

G. Information Items



7. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

b. Programs that Did Not Meet Post-Implementation Conditions - *Continued*

Four-Year Institutions

- Auburn University at Montgomery, Bachelor of Science/ Bachelor of Arts in Entrepreneurship (CIP 52.0701) – Program to be deleted
- University of Alabama in Huntsville, Bachelor of Science in Individualized Bachelor of Science (CIP 30.9999) – Program to be deleted
- University of West Alabama, Master of Training in Athletic Training (CIP 51.0913) – Extension Requested

Motion, Decision Item G:

That the Commission accept the Information Items as presented.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

