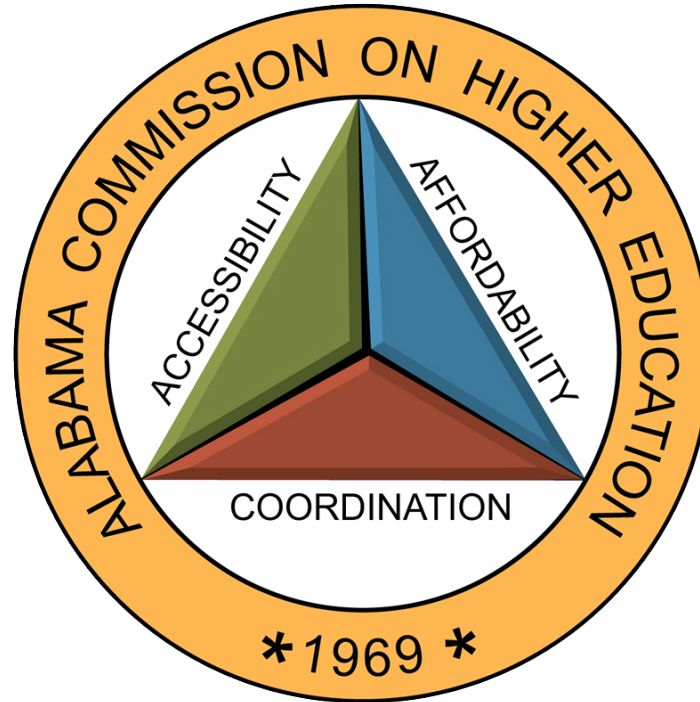


Alabama Commission on Higher Education



Commission Meeting
September 11, 2026

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



SEPTEMBER 11

We will not forget

New York City

The Pentagon

Shanksville, Pennsylvania



II. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum



III. Approval of Agenda



**Commission Meeting Agenda
of September 11, 2026**

Motion, Item III:

That the Commission accept the agenda for the September 11, 2026, meeting.

IV. Consideration of Minutes



**Commission Meeting Minutes
of June 12, 2026**

Motion, Item IV:

That the Commission accept the Commission Meeting minutes for the June 12, 2026, meeting.

V. Consideration of Special Meeting Minutes



**Special Meeting Minutes of
July 7, 2026**

Motion, Item V:

That the Commission accept the Special Meeting minutes for the July 7, 2026, meeting.

VI. Chairman's Report



VII. Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Report

Larry Turner, Chair

Nicholas Bolden

Anne Forbes





Commissioner Nelson, Chair



Commissioner Singleton, Vice Chair

VIII. Executive Director's Report



HIGHER EDUCATION: EVERYTHING IS CHANGING... EXCEPT THE LENGTH OF FACULTY MEETINGS.



If I attempted to explain everything happening in higher education in Washington right now, we would need lunch brought in. Possibly dinner.

DEMOGRAPHICS ARE CHANGING

FEDERAL POLICY IS CHANGING

TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING

THE WORKFORCE IS CHANGING

THE PUBLIC IS ASKING HARDER QUESTIONS ABOUT COST AND VALUE

IS IT WORTH THE COST? HOW MUCH WILL I EARN? WILL I GET A GOOD JOB? HOW MUCH DEBT?

FACULTY MEETING AGENDA:

- Updates
- Updates
- More Updates
- Discussion
- More Discussion
- Adjourn?

**3:00 p.m. – ?
(AS ALWAYS)**

LUNCH?
YES.
DINNER?
MAYBE.

CHANGE IS HERE.
ADAPT.
INNOVATE.
EDUCATE.

FUEL FOR LONG MEETINGS

STRONG COFFEE.
STRONGER PATIENCE.

POLICIES
INITIATIVES

SAME AGENDA.
SAME CHAIRS.
SAME LENGTH.
FOREVER.

TENURED
SINCE
1998

Planning now helps us prepare for what's ahead.

FUTURE ENROLLMENT PROBLEMS
NEXT EXIT:
SOMEDAY

The time to prepare is today.



NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

ENROLLMENT TASK FORCE

MARKETING CAMPAIGN

TUITION DISCUSSION

AI INITIATIVE

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE GET TO IT.

DEMOGRAPHIC CLIFF

POPULATION OF COLLEGE-AGE STUDENTS
2025-2040



**PLANNING FOR THE ROAD AHEAD:
PREPARING TODAY FOR
ALABAMA'S DEMOGRAPHIC FUTURE.**

WHERE HAVE ALL THE STUDENTS GONE?



FOR YEARS, DEMOGRAPHERS HAVE WARNED US ABOUT THE APPROACHING DECLINE IN THE TRADITIONAL COLLEGE-AGE POPULATION.



HIGHER EDUCATION RESPONDED THE WAY HUMAN BEINGS FREQUENTLY RESPOND TO WARNINGS ABOUT SOMETHING TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE: WE FORMED COMMITTEES. WE KICK THE CAN.



THE FUTURE HAS ARRIVED. NATIONALLY, THE NUMBER OF HS GRADS IS TO DECLINE SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THE COMING YEARS, ALTHOUGH THE SOUTH IS POSITIONED BETTER THAN OTHER REGIONS.



PRELIMINARY FALL 2026 ENROLLMENT AT OUR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS REACHED **285,186** STUDENTS, AN INCREASE OF **2.4 PERCENT** FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.



HALF OF THE ENROLLMENT INCREASE AT THE UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL WAS DUE TO INCREASES IN DUAL ENROLLMENT. TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT INCREASED BY **3.3%** AND DUAL ENROLLMENT BY **9.8%**.

DEMOGRAPHICS ARE CHANGING



PLANNING

DATA

STRATEGY

STUDENT SUCCESS

INFORMED
DECISIONS.
STRONGER
FUTURE.

ENROLLMENT TRENDS



PLAN TODAY.
PREPARE FOR
TOMORROW.

Fall 2026 Preliminary Enrollment Report

Four-Year Institutions	TOTAL			
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u># of Change</u>	<u>% of Change</u>
Alabama A&M University	7,816	8,157	341	4.4%
Alabama State University	4,565	5,068	503	11.0%
Athens State University	3,013	2,930	-83	-2.8%
Auburn University	35,201	35,715	514	1.5%
Auburn University at Montgomery	4,751	5,124	373	7.9%
Jacksonville State University	10,041	10,390	349	3.5%
Troy University	12,447	11,830	-617	-5.0%
University of Alabama	42,384	42,408	24	0.1%
University of Alabama at Birmingham	22,475	21,877	-598	-2.7%
University of Alabama at Birmingham	8,423	8,514	91	1.1%
University of Alabama in Huntsville	3,124	2,900	-224	-7.2%
University of Montevallo	10,436	9,990	-446	-4.3%
University of North Alabama	14,621	14,507	-114	-0.8%
University of South Alabama	6,160	6,837	677	11.0%
University of West Alabama	185,457	186,247	790	0.4%

Two-Year Institutions

	TOTAL			
	2025	2026	# of Change	% of Change
Bevill State Community College	4,512	4,603	91	2.0%
Bishop State Community College	3,166	4,662	1,496	47.3%
Calhoun Community College	9,504	10,465	961	10.1%
Central Alabama Community College	2,312	2,319	7	0.3%
Chattahoochee Valley Community College	1,771	1,796	25	1.4%
Coastal Alabama Community College	9,258	9,178	-80	-0.9%
Drake State Community and Technical College	1,361	1,525	164	12.0%
Enterprise State Community College	2,866	3,106	240	8.4%
Gadsden State Community College	4,960	5,542	582	11.7%
Ingram State Technical College	1,112	697	-415	-37.3%
Jefferson State Community College	9,198	11,340	2,142	23.3%
Lawson State Community College	3,592	3,505	-87	-2.4%
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College	2,197	2,220	23	1.0%
Marion Military Institute	313	305	-8	-2.6%
Northeast Alabama Community College	3,544	3,532	-12	-0.3%
Northwest-Shoals Community College	5,076	5,062	-14	-0.3%
Reid State Technical College	725	670	-55	-7.6%
Shelton State Community College	4,839	4,713	-126	-2.6%
Snead State Community College	3,110	3,542	432	13.9%
Southern Union State Community College	5,119	5,114	-5	-0.1%
Trenholm State Community College	2,099	2,168	69	3.3%
Wallace Community College-Dothan	4,342	4,554	212	4.9%
Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)	6,040	6,075	35	0.6%
Wallace Community College-Selma	2,115	2,246	131	6.2%
Total Two-Year Institutions	93,131	98,939	5,808	6.2%

WHO IN ALABAMA ARE WE STILL NOT REACHING?



DEMOGRAPHICS TELL US THAT WE CANNOT BUILD THE FUTURE OF ALABAMA'S ECONOMY AND THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION ENTIRELY AROUND RECRUITING MORE 18-YEAR-OLDS.

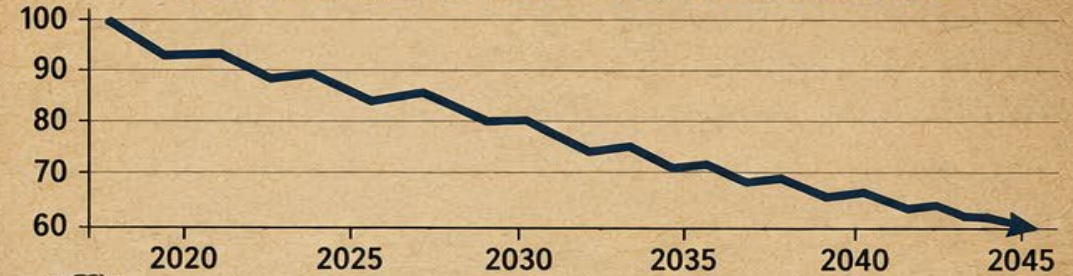


THERE SIMPLY AREN'T GOING TO BE ENOUGH OF THEM.



INCREASINGLY, OUR STUDENTS WILL ALSO BE WORKING ADULTS, PARENTS, VETERANS, STUDENTS RETURNING AFTER STOPPING OUT, PEOPLE CHANGING CAREERS, AND PEOPLE WHO NEED EDUCATION SEVERAL DIFFERENT TIMES DURING THEIR WORKING LIVES.

DEMOGRAPHICS ARE CHANGING



OLDER STUDENTS

RETURNING ADULTS

CAREER CHANGERS

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

WORKING PROFESSIONALS

ADULT LEARNERS

BUILDING THE FUTURE



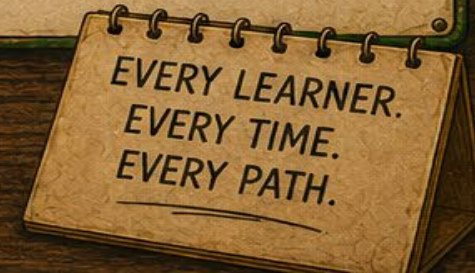
WE NEED TO STOP ASKING ONLY: "HOW DO WE GET MORE HS GRADUATES INTO COLLEGE?"



WE ALSO NEED TO ASK: "WHO IN ALABAMA ARE WE STILL NOT REACHING?"



THAT IS ULTIMATELY THE MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION.



ACHE INITIATIVES TARGETING NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS



ReEngage Alabama – provide scholarships for returning adults that enroll in majors that lead to high-demand and high-wage jobs.



Recall Alabama – encourage graduates that left the state to return to work in Alabama.



Pathway to Progress – scholarships for AA/AS/AAS graduates living in specific communities to earn a bachelor's.



Loan Assistance in Support of Educators in Alabama (LASEA) – helps recent graduates in teacher shortage areas repay federal student loans up to \$30,000 over 4 years.



Need-based aid – for students attending both public and private colleges and universities.



OLDER
STUDENTS

RETURNING
ADULTS

CAREER
CHANGERS

PARENTS
AND
CAREGIVERS

WORKING
PROFESSIONALS

ADULT
LEARNERS

BUILDING
THE FUTURE



FAFSA Completion efforts



Move on When Ready – Allow “ready” HS students to enroll as full-time college students.



Expanded dual enrollment



Support more workforce-specific training – credit and noncredit offerings and apprenticeships.



PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR WORKING PARENTS



IN US, 18% OF UNDERGRADUATES
WERE RAISING CHILDREN IN
2019-20.



OF THOSE WORKING PARENTS,
91% WORKED MORE THAN 20
HOURS PER WEEK AND TWO-THIRDS
WORKED AT LEAST 40 HOURS
PER WEEK.



PRIORITY REGISTRATION CAN GIVE
STUDENT PARENTS MORE OPPORTUNITY
TO SELECT CLASSES THAT ALIGN WITH
WORK SCHEDULES, CHILDCARE HOURS,
SCHOOL DROP-OFF OR OTHER
RESPONSIBILITIES.



CALIFORNIA, MINNESOTA, AND TEXAS HAVE ENACTED
STATEWIDE PRIORITY REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR QUALIFYING STUDENT PARENTS.



FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT ALTERED



DIMINISHED SCOPE OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.



PELL GRANTS COVER MORE THINGS:

- Workforce Pell that can cover programs as short as eight weeks.
- Criteria for program eligibility are tough
- Determination of student eligibility is in continuous flux.



POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL BE A CONTINUOUS PART OF A PERSON'S CAREER.

- Short-term credentials, Certificates, Associates, Bachelor's, graduate education, continuing education, professional development.
- A person ought to be able to enter higher education, earn something of value, go to work, return later, build upon what they have already learned, and continue moving forward.

EDUCATION
BUILDS
OPPORTUNITY.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING



BUILD SKILLS.
CHANGE CAREERS.
CREATE FUTURES.
TOGETHER.

FEDERAL POLICY IS CHANGING

- ✓ 1 NEW EXPECTATIONS
- ✓ MORE ACCOUNTABILITY
- ✓ STRONGER OUTCOMES

FOCUS:
STUDENTS
JOBS
ECONOMIC
FUTURE

ADAPT.
RESPOND.
MOVE
FORWARD.

NEW RULES
NEW REPORTING
NEW REQUIREMENTS
NEW DEADLINES



ACHE'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO MAKE SURE CREDENTIALS:

- ✓ ALIGN WITH THE WORLD OF WORK,
- ✓ MAINTAIN QUALITY,
- ✓ REMAIN VIABLE AND
- ✓ ARE A PART OF A CAREER PATHWAY.

ALIGN
WITH WORK

MAINTAIN
QUALITY

REMAIN
VIABLE

CAREER
PATHWAY

NEW DEMANDS FROM WASHINGTON ON WHAT HIGHER EDUCATION SHOULD BE DOING

The federal government is asking a straightforward question:

Did going to college actually improve this person's economic circumstances?

1 WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER COLLEGE PAYS



There is another major change underway.

2 FOCUS ON OUTCOMES



The federal government is becoming increasingly interested in what happens to students after we give them a diploma.

3 NEW EARNINGS-ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK



This summer, the Department of Education finalized a new earnings-accountability framework.

4 HOW PROGRAMS WILL BE EVALUATED



- At the undergraduate level, programs will ultimately be evaluated in part on whether graduates earn more than comparable workers with only a high school education.
- Graduate programs face a similar comparison with bachelor's-degree holders.

5 CONSEQUENCES OF REPEATED FAILURE



Repeated failure can eventually affect access to federal student loans.

6 THE FEDERAL QUESTION



So the federal government is asking a rather straightforward question:

Did going to college actually improve this person's economic circumstances?

WHAT FAMILIES ARE ASKING ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION



The public conversation
about higher education has changed.
Families increasingly want to know:

1 WHAT WILL
THIS COST?



2 HOW LONG
WILL IT TAKE?



3 WILL THE STUDENT
GRADUATE?



4 WILL THERE
BE A JOB?



5 WHAT WILL
THAT JOB PAY?



6 HOW MUCH DEBT
WILL THE STUDENT
CARRY?



THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND FAMILIES ARE ASKING LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS.

- Higher education can no longer simply assert its value.
- Increasingly, we have to demonstrate it.
- Fortunately, ACHE has spent years developing the data infrastructure that allows us to begin answering these questions:



Horizon Database (for prospective students and parents)



ACHE Data Portal (for campus and statewide policy staff)



FAFSA Completion Portal



Employment Outcomes Reports



Education and Workforce Needs Index



Higher Education Accountability

LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS.
MEANINGFUL ANSWERS.

DATA. INSIGHT. IMPACT.



OUR GOAL:

- ☒ INFORM POLICY
- ☒ SUPPORT STUDENTS
- ☒ STRENGTHEN ALABAMA

BETTER DATA.
BETTER DECISIONS.
BETTER ALABAMA.

EDUCATION

WORKFORCE

ACCOUNTABILITY

OPPORTUNITY

EVIDENCE
INFORMS
THE FUTURE.

FEDERAL PUSH TO MODIFY ACCREDITATION



- For most of my career, accreditation was something understood by about **twelve people**. (And nine of them worked for an accrediting agency.)



- The Department of Education recently proposed significant changes to federal accreditation regulations, including making it easier for institutions to change accreditors and placing greater emphasis on **outcomes and institutional performance**.



- Whatever ultimately happens with those proposals, accreditation has moved from the back office into the **national policy debate**.



- Presidents, trustees, policymakers—and state coordinating boards—need to **pay attention**.



- I realize I have now used the words “**exciting**” and “**accreditation**” in the same presentation.



- I promise not to do it again.

ACCREDITATION IS NOW A NATIONAL PRIORITY

EASIER TO CHANGE ACCREDITORS

FOCUS ON OUTCOMES & PERFORMANCE

GREATER FLEXIBILITY
NEW EXPECTATIONS

ACCREDITATION IN THE NATIONAL POLICY DEBATE



ACCREDITATION REFORM

- ☒ OUTCOMES
- ☒ INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE
- ☒ TRANSPARENCY
- ☒ FLEXIBILITY

FROM BACK OFFICE



TO NATIONAL POLICY DEBATE



Everyone needs to pay attention.

FEDERAL POLICY

HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

STUDENT SUCCESS

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



- A few years ago, the biggest question on college campuses was: “How do we stop students from using ChatGPT?”



- Today the question is **much larger**: What does it mean to be an educated person when artificial intelligence can perform increasingly sophisticated intellectual work?



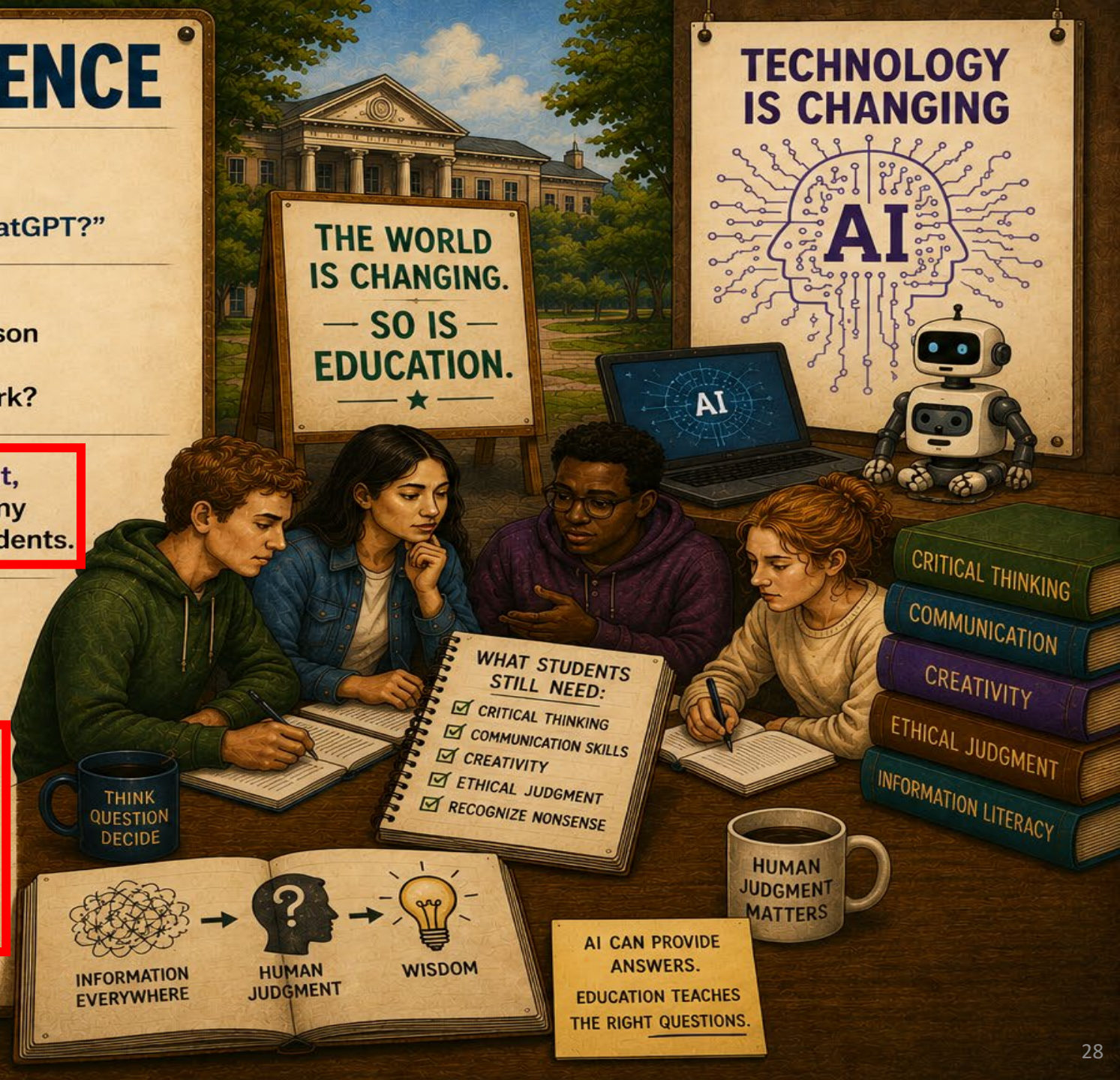
- AI is going to change **teaching, assessment, research, administrative work**, change many of the **jobs** for which we are preparing students.



- Presidents, trustees, policymakers—and state coordinating boards—need to **pay attention**.



- When machines can generate information almost instantly, human judgment becomes more valuable. Students still need **critical thinking, communication skills, creativity, ethical judgment**, and the ability to **recognize when something on the Internet is complete nonsense**.





ALABAMA HAS A WORKFORCE ISSUE.



- Our unemployment rate remains relatively low.
- Low unemployment rate does not necessarily mean that we have enough workers.



- Alabama continues to face the challenge of bringing more people into the workforce and making sure those workers have the **education and skills** our economy requires.



- That makes higher education an economic-development issue.



- We can recruit companies to Alabama, but eventually somebody has to show up on Monday morning who knows how to do the job.



- Technology and the economy are changing the knowledge and skills people need and how we demonstrate the value of higher education is changing.



- Graduation will always matter.



- But increasingly, so will affordability, employment, earnings, debt, workforce demand and return on investment.



- So the question for Alabama isn't whether higher education is going to change. It is. Our choice is whether we spend the next decade reacting to those changes—or whether we help shape them.

THE WORKFORCE IS CHANGING



EDUCATED.
SKILLED.
PREPARED.
READY TO WORK.

TODAY'S
LEARNERS.
TOMORROW'S
WORKFORCE.

ALABAMA'S ECONOMY NEEDS:

- ☒ EDUCATION
- ☒ SKILLS
- ☒ TALENT
- ☒ INNOVATION



INVESTING IN PEOPLE



BUILDS A STRONGER ALABAMA.

A STRONGER ALABAMA



BUILDS OUR FUTURE.

OUR CHOICE:
REACT TO CHANGE
— OR —
SHAPE THE FUTURE.

ALABAMA

THE WORK AHEAD FOR ALABAMA HIGHER EDUCATION

★
FOUR AREAS. ONE GOAL: A STRONGER ALABAMA.

DEMOGRAPHICS ARE CHANGING



- Shrinking college-age population
- More adult learners
- Greater demand for access, affordability, and flexibility



WE MUST MEET STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE—AND WHERE THEY'RE GOING.

FEDERAL POLICY IS CHANGING

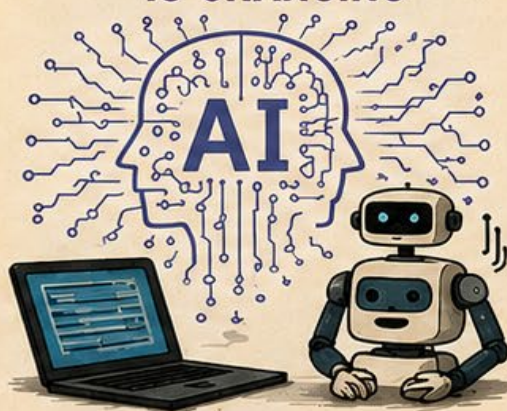


- More accountability and transparency
- Evolving funding formulas
- Increased reporting burden
- Need to demonstrate outcomes and impact

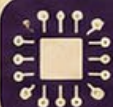


WE MUST STAY INFORMED, ADAPT QUICKLY, AND TELL OUR STORY WELL.

TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING



- AI and automation are reshaping jobs
- Digital learning continues to evolve
- Students expect seamless technology experiences
- Data is our greatest asset—if we use it well



WE MUST INNOVATE BOLDLY AND USE TECHNOLOGY TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITY.

THE WORKFORCE IS CHANGING



- New jobs. New skills. New industries.
- Employers need talent—now.
- We must align education with workforce needs
- Strong partnerships drive stronger outcomes



WE MUST PREPARE PEOPLE FOR GOOD JOBS AND A STRONG ECONOMY.



OUR CHALLENGE IS CLEAR. OUR CHOICE IS OURS.

We can react to change—or we can lead it.

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER ALABAMA.



BETTER DATA.
BETTER DECISIONS.
BETTER ALABAMA.
★

IX. Discussion Items



Thirteenth Quadrennial Evaluation of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education August 2026

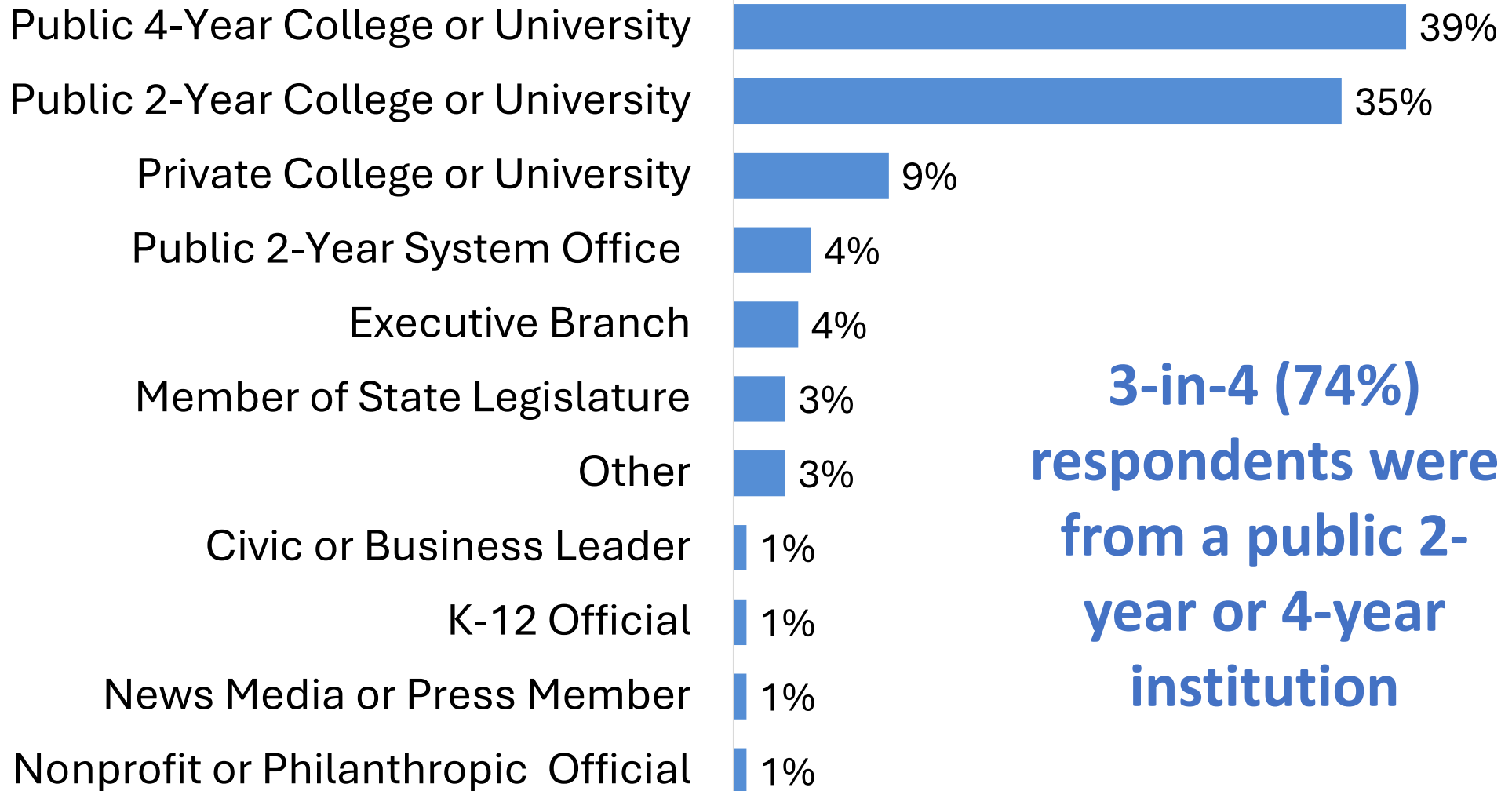
Staff Presenter: Dr. Jim Hood



Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 16-5-12

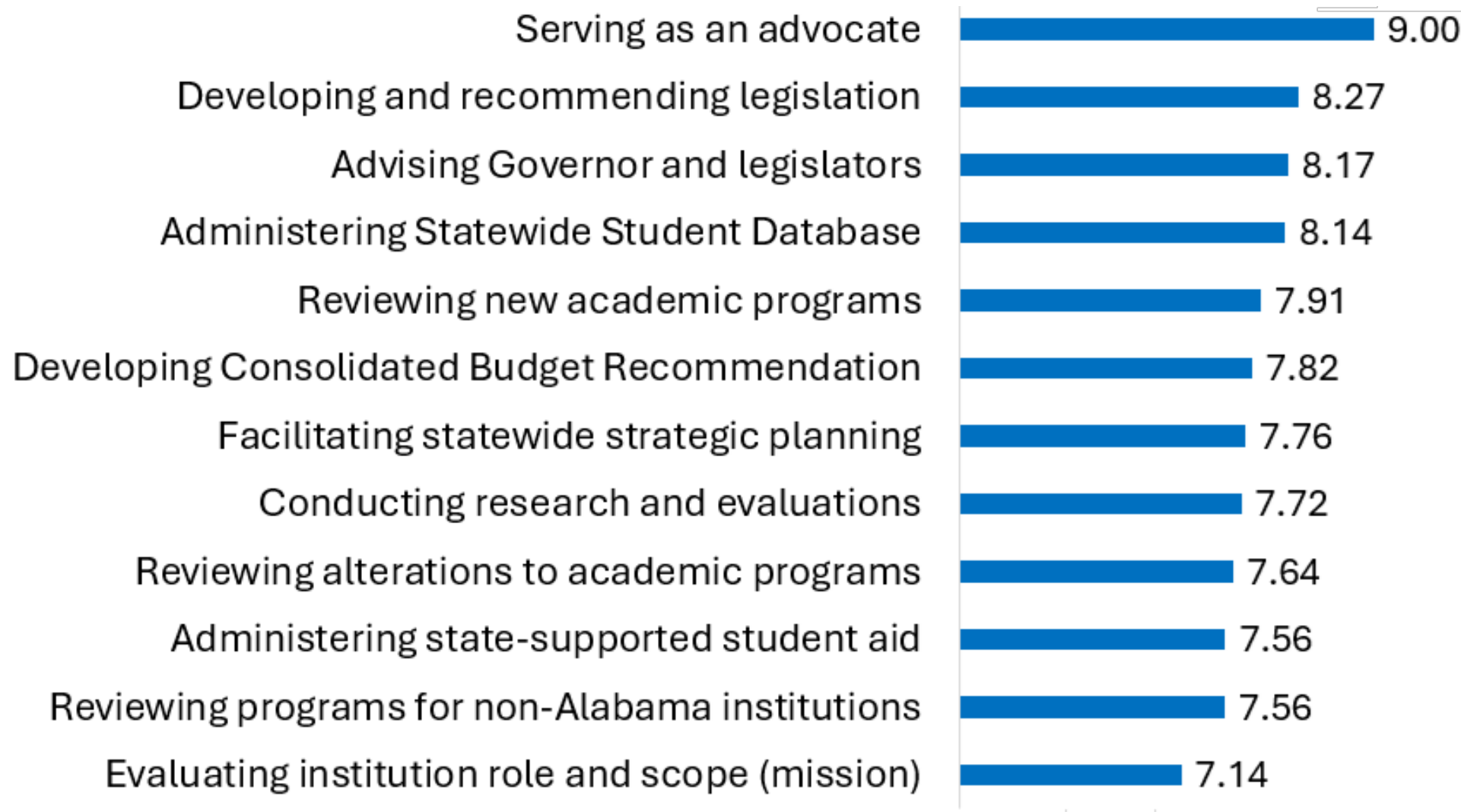
- During the last year of each gubernatorial term, the commission shall conduct a survey of its constituents to evaluate the effectiveness of the work of the commission.
- A report detailing the results of the survey and any recommended changes, shall be submitted to the Governor, the Legislature, the presidents and governing boards of the public institutions of higher education of this state, and the public.

Survey Respondents



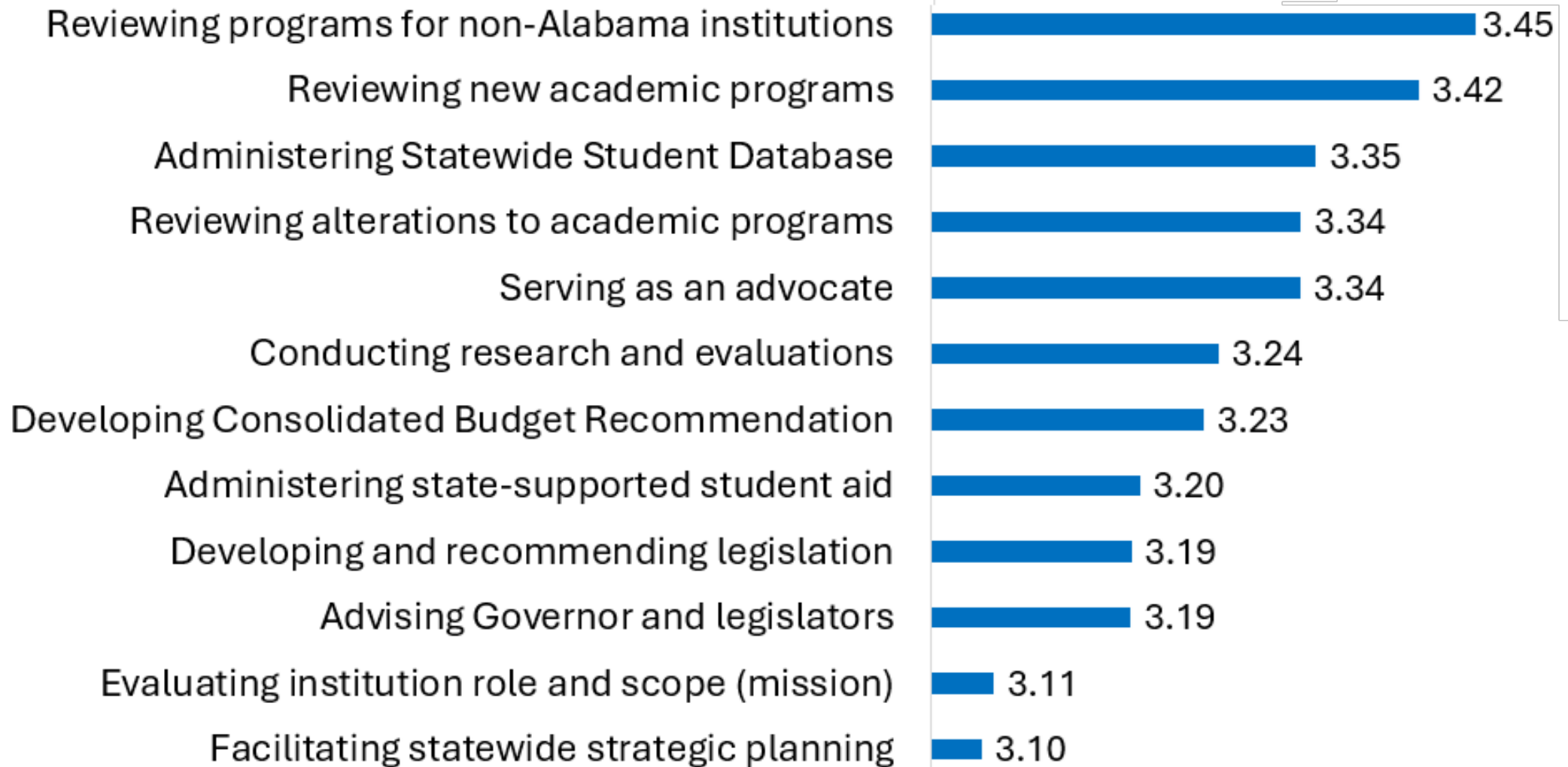
**3-in-4 (74%)
respondents were
from a public 2-
year or 4-year
institution**

Rate Importance of Commission's Responsibilities (on a scale of 1 to 10)



Rate Commission's Effectiveness by Responsibility

1-Not Effective | 2-Minimally Effective | 3-Adequately Effective | 4-Highly Effective



Commission's Authority and Effectiveness

Authority



Does the Commission have sufficient authority to perform its multiple statewide responsibilities effectively?



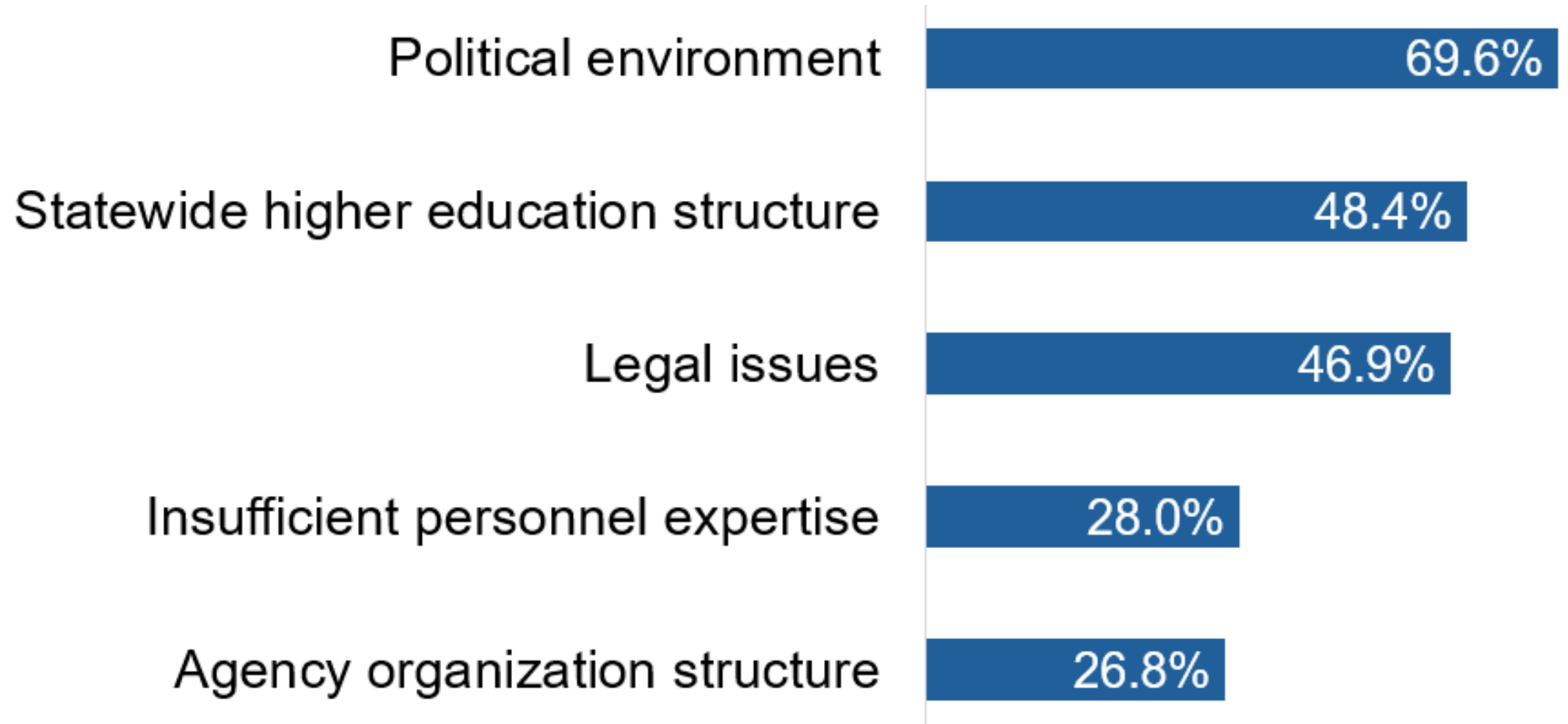
Effectiveness



Overall, is the Commission effective in the performance of its duties as they are currently defined?

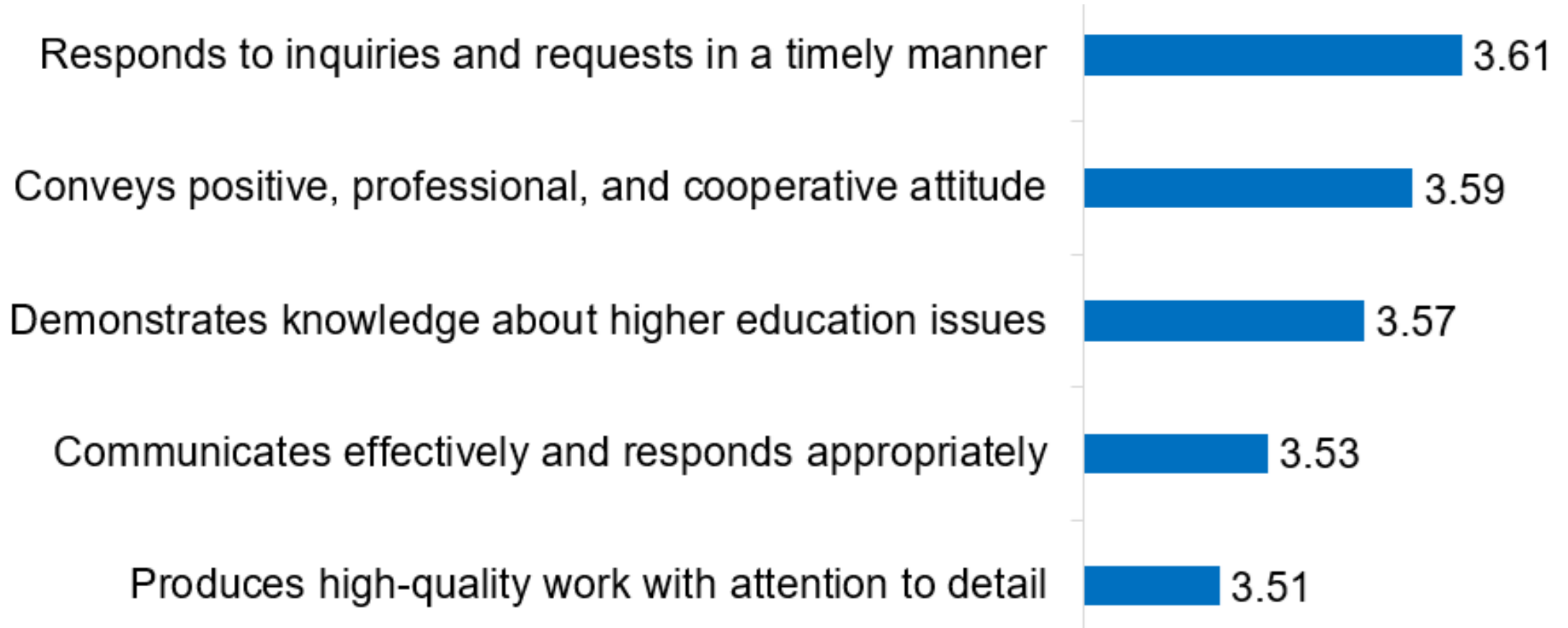


Commission's Impediments to Providing Leadership in Higher Education



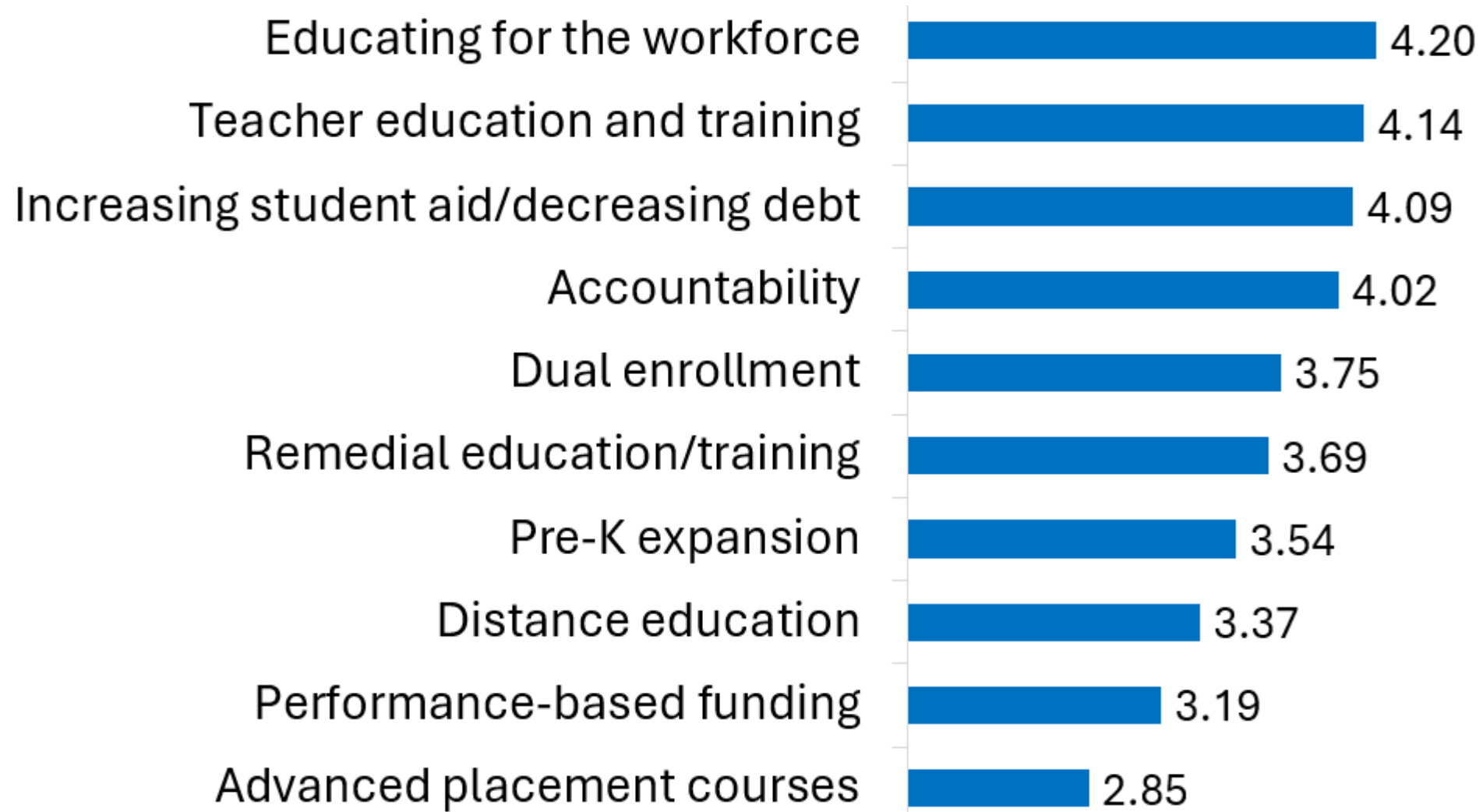
Commission Staff's Effectiveness

1-Not Effective | 2-Minimally Effective | 3-Adequately Effective | 4-Highly Effective



Significant Issues Facing AL Higher Education

1-Not Important | 2-Somewhat Important | 3-Important | 4-Very Important | 5-Critical



Conclusions

- Overall, the survey results are...
 - consistent with prior quadrennial reviews, and
 - reflect continued confidence in ACHE and its role as the state's coordinating board for higher education.
- Nine out of ten respondents (90.6%) indicated that the Commission is meeting its statutory responsibilities.



Recommendations



Strengthen ACHE's advocacy and coordination in affordability, access and success, financial aid, and alignment with workforce and economic development.



Enhance the Statewide database and analytics to support analysis of enrollment, academic programs, degree production, and institutional performance.



Expand data-driven decision support through interactive dashboards, workforce analyses, and other actionable resources.

Recommendations



Strengthen coordination with state partners to advance and expand analysis of education, employment, and workforce outcomes.



Promote college affordability and student access through FAFSA completion and expanded access to state and federal financial aid.



Broaden communication and engagement to ensure ACHE's policies, data, and coordination remain responsive to Alabama's higher education needs.

X. Decision Items



A. Approval of 2027 Meeting Schedule

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2027

March 12, 2027

June 11, 2027

September 10, 2027

December 10, 2027

*Mark your
calendars*



Motion, Decision Item A:

That the Commission approve the Commission's 2027 Meeting Schedule.

B. 2025-2026 Annual Report

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan

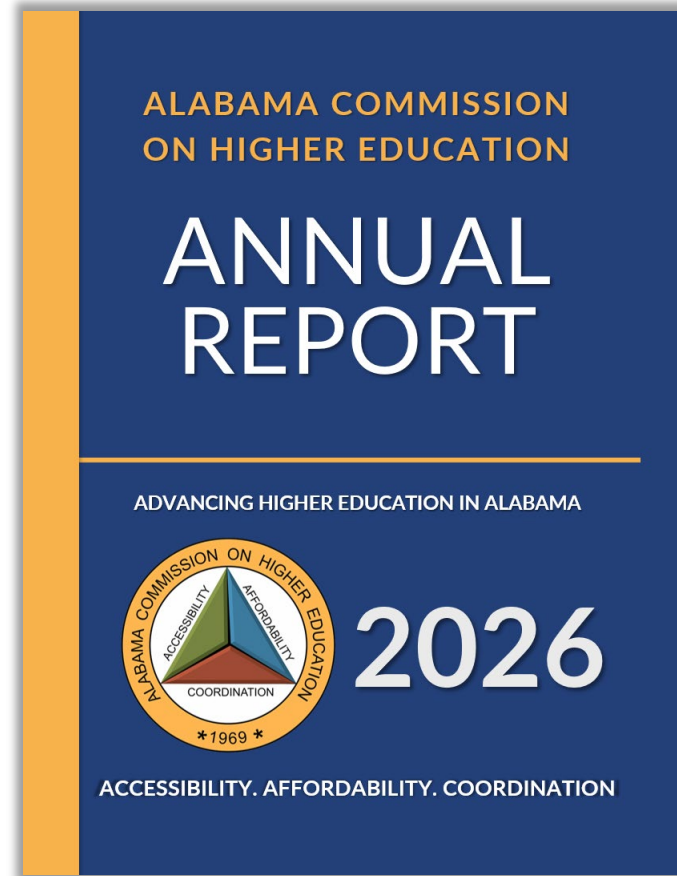


Table of Contents

Mission, Vision, and Responsibilities	2
ACHE Commissioners	3
Message from the Commission Chair	5
Message from the Executive Director	6
Alabama Public Higher Education Map	7
Legislative Updates	8
ACHE Board Appointments	9
Institutional Finance	10
Academic Affairs	12
Student Financial Assistance Programs	17
Support of Other State Programs	18
Support of Other Educational Activities	19
Support of State Universities	19
Building Human Capital: Strategic Plan 2018-2030 Update	20
Priority One: Improving Access	21
Priority Two: Enhancing Student Success	25
Priority Three: Enhancing STEM Progress	26
Priority Four: Developing Alabama's Economy and Workforce	28
Priority Five: Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency	29
ACHE in Action	30



1

Mission, Vision, and Responsibilities

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education, a statewide 12-member lay board appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House and confirmed by the Senate, is the state agency responsible for the overall statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama, the administration of various student aid programs, and the performance of designated regulatory functions. The Commission seeks to provide reasonable access to quality collegiate and university education for the citizens of Alabama. In meeting this commitment, the Commission facilitates informed decision-making and policy formulation regarding wise stewardship of resources in response to the needs of students and the goals of institutions. The agency also provides a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the needs of the citizens of the State.

Responsibilities of the Commission include the following:

- Approves new units of instruction (This includes new institutions, mergers, branch campuses, colleges, schools, divisions and departments);
- Approves any new academic programs;
- Approves off-campus instruction;
- Facilitates planning for higher education;
- Reviews and makes recommendations concerning existing programs;
- Prepares a Consolidated Budget Recommendation for Alabama's public institutions of higher education for the Governor and Legislature;
- Collects and compiles information concerning higher education in the State;
- Administers student assistance programs;
- Conducts studies on higher education issues and makes recommendations to the institutions, the Legislature and the Governor concerning its findings;
- Provides a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the needs of the citizens of the State;
- Reviews institutional facilities master plans and reports to the Commission and the Legislature;
- Maintains an electronic student unit record system to provide accountability on student progress;
- Provides oversight for the programmatic review of public and private institutions operating as foreign corporations in Alabama, in accordance with the statutory authority granted to the Commission; and
- Serves as the state portal for Alabama's participation in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).



2

ACHE Commissioners



Stan Nelson, Chair
At-Large
Term: 08/07/2019 - 08/31/2027



Jody M. Singleton, Vice Chair
At-Large
Term: 09/01/2021 - 08/31/2030



Nicholas Bolden
3rd District
Term: 02/19/2020 - 08/31/2033



Ann Forbes
At-Large
Term: 09/01/2020 - 08/31/2029



Harry Hobbs
5th District
Term: 02/18/2023 - 08/31/2033



Paul W. Kennedy
4th District
Term: 09/01/2020 - 08/31/2029



3

ACHE Commissioners



Payne Meadows
2nd District
Term: 09/01/2024 - 08/31/2033



Douglas Ragland
6th District
Term: 02/18/2025 - 08/31/2033



Rod Scott
7th District
Term: 08/07/2019 - 08/31/2028



Shane Spiller
8th District
Term: 02/21/2024 - 08/31/2029



Larry Turner
At-Large
Term: 03/27/2019 - 08/31/2027



Jennifer Whitt
At-Large
Term: 02/19/2026 - 02/20/2031



4

Message from the Commission Chair



Commissioner Stan Nelson

As Chair of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, I have had the privilege of working alongside a dedicated group of Commissioners committed to strengthening higher education for all Alabamians. The Commission exists to ensure that decisions affecting our colleges and universities—academic programs, funding, and long-term priorities—are made with the interests of our entire state in mind. This year, I am especially proud of the thoughtful leadership, collaboration, and commitment demonstrated by the Commission as we advanced initiatives that will benefit students, institutions, employers, and communities across the state.

This legislative session marked one of the most significant in recent years for higher education in Alabama. The Legislature passed the College and Higher Education Excellence and Results (CHERR) Act, establishing the state's first outcomes-based funding model for public higher education and creating a coordinating committee to guide its implementation, which is a milestone that reflects years of collaboration among policymakers, higher education leaders, and stakeholders committed to improving student success and institutional performance. Lawmakers also expanded eligibility for the (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program, broadened and renamed the Loan Assistance for Shortage Area Educators (LASAE) Program, established the Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship for the officers' spouses and dependents, and implemented Move On When Ready statewide, allowing eligible high school juniors and seniors to complete their high school diploma requirements while attending college full-time at no cost to their families.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate Alabama's commitment to expanding educational opportunity, strengthening the state's workforce, and investing in its long-term economic future. As these programs are implemented, the Commission will carefully evaluate participation, funding, and administrative processes to ensure they achieve their intended outcomes and deliver the greatest possible benefit to Alabama's students, families, institutions, and taxpayers.

Serving as Chair has been a tremendous honor. I am grateful to my fellow Commissioners for their thoughtful stewardship, to Dr. Jim Purcell and the exceptional ACHE staff for their professionalism and tireless dedication, and to Governor Kay Ivey, legislative leadership, and our partners across Alabama for their continued collaboration and support.

The work of strengthening higher education and connecting it to Alabama's workforce needs is ongoing. Because of the progress made this year, our state is better positioned than ever to provide meaningful educational opportunities, prepare a highly-skilled workforce, and expand economic prosperity for students, families, employers, and communities throughout Alabama.

Stan Nelson
Commission Chair, ACHE



5

Message from the Executive Director



Executive Director Jim Purcell

Since 1969, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) has been charged with the statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama: expanding accessibility, protecting affordability, and coordinating the work of our 38 public institutions so that Alabama's students and its economy both come out ahead. That mandate guided every decision ACHE made this year.

Fiscal year 2026 was, by several measures, one of the strongest years in ACHE's recent history. The Legislature and Governor Ivey approved a 6.2% increase in Education Trust Fund appropriations to our public institutions for FY2027—a fourth consecutive year of substantial growth—and the Commission approved 55 new academic programs across our four-year and two-year institutions. Each of these programs was built around demonstrated workforce demand, not simply institutional interest.

That workforce lens shaped one of our most significant initiatives of the year—a multi-million-dollar federal cooperative agreement through which ACHE has partnered with the Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN). The project focuses on developing and expanding the adoption of national occupational frameworks while establishing efficient, scalable processes for their production. It also includes additional activities designed to support the broader expansion of registered apprenticeship programs across states at both the industry and institutional levels. The initiative builds on Alabama's nationally recognized five-part test for identifying in-demand occupations, applying that same industry-driven approach to help inform and advance apprenticeship strategies on a national scale.

This is exactly the kind of work our state needs. Nationally, approximately 90% of U.S. counties face a potential automation-related job displacement rate of 22% to 27%, while more than two-thirds of Alabama counties are projected to experience job displacement rates exceeding 25%. Closing that gap and ensuring Alabamians are a meaningful return on their credentials is one of the clearest reflections of our mission, particularly as households with a bachelor's degree have a median income more than twice that of households with only a high school education.

We also continued to invest in the 380,000 Alabamians who have some college credit but no degree. (Re)Engage Alabama, an initiative for adult learners returning to complete a credential, expanded its eligibility this year. The program connects these Alabamians to degree programs aligned with the state's high-demand occupation list. We are tracking toward the state's Success Plus goal of 500,000 new degree earners since 2018, with an estimated 493,500 to date. Closing that last stretch is one of my top priorities for the year ahead.

None of this happens without the dedication of our multiple stakeholders: legislators, students, faculty, and administrators; regional and global partners; Alabama's 38 institutional partners; and ACHE's Commissioners and staff. Thank you for continuing to make Alabama's higher education system that works for its students and its economy alike.

Dr. Jim Purcell
Executive Director, ACHE



6

Alabama Public Higher Education Map

4-Year Institutions

Alabama A&M University
Alabama State University
Athena State University
Auburn University
Auburn University at Montgomery
Jacksonville State University
Troy University
University of Alabama
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of Montevallo
University of North Alabama
University of South Alabama
University of West Alabama

2-Year Institutions

Beville State Community College
Bishop State Community College
Calhoun Community College
Central Alabama Community College
Chattahoochee Valley Community College
Coastal Alabama Community College
Drake State Community and Technical College
Enterprise State Community College
Gadsden State Community College
Ingram State Technical College
Jefferson State Community College
Layton State Community College
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
Marion Military Institute
Northeast Alabama Community College
Northwest Shoals Community College
Reid State Community College
Shelton State Community College
Snead State Community College
Southern Union State Community College
Trenholm State Community College
Wallace Community College—Dothan
Wallace State Community College—Hanceville
Wallace State Community College—Selma



7

Legislative Updates

The 2027 Education Trust Fund bill was signed into law by Governor Kay Ivey in May 2026, providing nearly \$10.5 billion in funding for education across Alabama. The budget represented a significant increase in state education funding and included one of the largest appropriations for higher education in Alabama history.

Act 2026-380 FY 2027 Operating Budget for Higher Education		
Institution Type	Amount Received	Percentage Increase Over FY 2026
Two-Year	\$460,356,653	6.13%
Four-Year	\$1,886,687,569	6.20%
Other Higher Education	\$183,975,180	3.63%
Total Higher Education	\$2,711,019,402	6.02%

Act 2026-599 FY 2026 Supplemental Funding for Higher Education*	
Alabama A&M University	\$8,401,824
Alabama Community College System	\$27,201,249
Alabama Council on the Arts	\$375,000
Alabama Innovation Fund	\$2,000,000
Alabama State University	\$4,360,182
Athens State University	\$1,615,927
Auburn University	\$20,406,678
Auburn University at Montgomery	\$1,661,328
Central Alabama Community College	\$6,900,000
Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission/Fire College	\$1,025,000
Jacksonville State University	\$4,440,678
Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium	\$2,000,000
Troy University System	\$5,175,081
University of Alabama System	\$44,169,369
University of Montevallo	\$2,967,772
University of North Alabama	\$4,538,046
University of South Alabama	\$9,579,249
University of West Alabama	\$2,574,736

Alabama Commission on Higher Education Pass-Throughs	
Alabama Veterinary Hospital-Birmingham Zoo	\$2,000,000
North Alabama Agriplex	\$400,000
North Alabama Land Trust	\$250,000
Selma University	\$200,000
Sweet Trails	\$1,000,000
Talladega College	\$62,968
Tennessee RiverLine Program	\$185,000
Tuskegee University	\$2,750,992
USS Alabama Battleship	\$2,000,000

*Supplemental funding for Alabama higher education refers to additional state-allocated resources beyond regular operating budgets. These funds support specific initiatives, capital projects, or emerging needs not covered by standard appropriations.



Legislative Updates

Act 2026-600 Advancement and Technology FY 2026 Supplemental Appropriation*	
Alabama Community College System	\$102,630,833
Alabama A&M University	\$6,603,176
Alabama State University	\$3,018,925
University of Alabama System	\$63,655,827
Athens State University	\$3,396,437
Auburn University	\$30,644,049
Auburn University at Montgomery	\$25,220,344
Jacksonville State University	\$10,736,161
Troy University System	\$13,357,993
Tuskegee University	\$990,360
University of Montevallo	\$3,363,050
University of North Alabama	\$50,332,400
University of South Alabama	\$13,743,822
University of West Alabama	\$7,315,719

*The Advancement and Technology Fund is an appropriated fund established by the Alabama Legislature using Education Trust Fund (ETF) revenues. It provides public colleges and universities with dedicated resources for instructional technology, faculty support, and workforce development, allowing systems to plan and implement long-term.

ACHE Board Appointments

- Alabama Local Government Training Institute (ALGTI)
- Alabama STEM Council
- Alabama Terminal for Linking and Analyzing Statistics (ATLAS) on Career Pathways
- Alabama Virtual Library Advisory Council
- Alabama Workforce Council Commission on Credential Quality and Transparency
- Forever Wild and Trust
- Health Care Workforce Task Force
- Joint Interim Study Commission on Responsible Technology Purchases
- Postsecondary Math Task Force
- Principal Monitoring and Leadership Committee



9

Institutional Finance

Consolidated Budget Recommendation

The Commission receives, evaluates, and coordinates budget requests for the public institutions of higher education in Alabama. ACHE conducts budget hearings to gather additional insight and justification for funding needs. A single consolidated budget report containing recommendations for separate appropriations to each of the institutions is presented annually to the Governor and the Legislature. The recommendation of the Commission is based on, but not limited to, assessment of institutional requests, funding needs derived from standard techniques of objective measurement and need, and unit cost figures calculated using comparative, verified data supplied by the institutions. The Consolidated Budget Recommendation also includes the Commission's recommendation for a variety of statewide programs and activities.

Alabama Public Higher Education Institutions				
Institutions	Legislated FY 2025-26 Appropriation	FY 2026-27 Budget Request by Institutions	FY 2026-27 Budget Request Recommendation by ACHE	Legislated FY 2026-27 Appropriation
Alabama A&M University	\$61,115,049	\$81,416,710	\$65,231,774	\$64,754,117
Alabama State University	\$66,556,398	\$78,526,923	\$69,475,393	\$69,333,041
University of Alabama (Main Campus)	\$765,714,277	\$781,868,868	\$787,403,337	\$786,795,168
University of Alabama (Birmingham)	\$721,142,558	\$661,808,847	\$452,211,938	\$453,578,006
University of Alabama (Huntsville)	\$77,203,307	\$106,778,816	\$81,971,665	\$80,710,659
Athens State University	\$23,500,486	\$27,800,500	\$25,132,925	\$24,603,096
Auburn University	\$79,246,094	\$16,866,662	\$18,776,374	\$18,952,230
Auburn University at Montgomery	\$34,809,114	\$34,763,334	\$34,799,805	\$36,598,471
Jacksonville State University	\$61,933,407	\$66,746,082	\$67,438,825	\$66,549,021
Troy University	\$67,931,094	\$64,075,000	\$92,957,285	\$92,520,554
University of Montevallo	\$33,015,793	\$39,622,486	\$34,725,633	\$34,874,354
University of North Alabama	\$97,688,778	\$86,825,000	\$60,778,678	\$61,425,532
University of South Alabama	\$171,209,511	\$188,506,403	\$181,431,370	\$184,000,844
University of West Alabama	\$24,218,441	\$28,126,000	\$16,493,790	\$17,321,748
Total Public Sector Institutions	\$1,779,025,344	\$2,017,545,100	\$1,585,517,137	\$1,588,594,088
Total Two-Year Institutions*	\$483,311,151	\$573,912,200	\$515,584,774	\$508,055,614
Total All Public Institutions	\$2,262,336,507	\$2,591,477,106	\$2,101,101,911	\$2,096,649,702

*The Two-Year Institutions line includes GUMC for Public Two-Year Institutions, Marion Institute, and Private Education.

Alabama's higher education institutions requested an increase of 14.63% for their FY 2026-27 budgets. The Commission approved a recommendation for an increase of 6.02%, totaling \$2,392,928,607 based on estimated funds available for higher education. In Act 2026-380, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$2,394,059,697 from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) to these institutions, an increase of 6% above the previous year's budget.

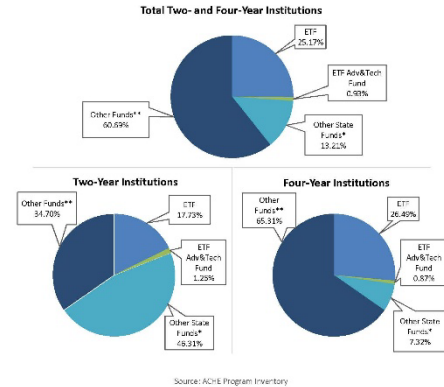
10

Institutional Finance

Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests

Each public two- and four-year institution submitted a Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Request to the Commission as required by statute. The Facilities Master Plan and Capital Budget Request report for the period covering FY 2027-31 was presented at the December 12, 2025, Commission meeting. The two- and four-year institutions project they will need over \$8.6 billion to fund capital projects during this five-year period.

Sources of Funding for Requested Capital Projects



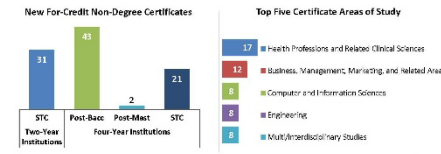
*Other State Funds – Direct legislative appropriations, state bonds, capital bond issuances or other funds not from the ETF
**Other Funds – All other potential sources of funding other than direct legislative appropriations

11

Academic Affairs

New For-Credit Non-Degree Certificates

Between June 2025 and June 2026, Alabama's public institutions developed 97 new for-credit, non-degree certificates. Two-year institutions reported 31 short-term certificates (STC), while four-year institutions reported 66 certificates: 21 under bachelor's (STC), 43 post-baccalaureate (Post-Bacc), and two post-master's (Post-Master's). The leading areas of study were Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences (17 certificates), followed by Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Areas (12 certificates), with three additional areas accounting for eight certificates each.



Post-Implementation Reporting

In March 2025, ACHE completed a cleanup project initiated in 2022 to review academic programs that had not fulfilled the requirements to end their post-implementation monitoring. The 2022-2024 reporting period included the bulk of these outstanding PI reports. For Academic Year 2025-26, institutions submitted post-implementation reports for 12 programs, with 10 meeting conditions and two electing to close.

Program Report Status

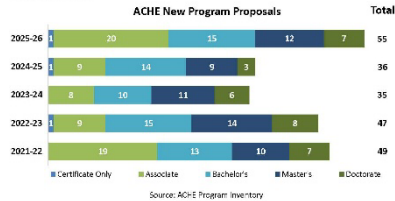


13

Academic Affairs

New Academic Program Approvals 2025-2026

Between September 2025 and June 2026, the Commission approved 55 new academic programs, the highest total of the five reporting periods shown. Associate degree programs represented the largest category, with 20 approvals, followed by 15 bachelor's, 12 master's, seven doctoral, and one certificate program.



Top New Program Areas of Study



12

Academic Affairs

Non-Resident Institutions

Out-of-state institutions offering postsecondary programs in Alabama are identified as Non-Resident Institutions (NRI) and must be licensed or exempt from licensing by the Private School Licensing Division in the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). Licensing is based in part on ACHE programmatic approval or exemption from ACHE review under specific criteria. Alabama is the only state with NRI licensure and programmatic review by two separate state agencies.

Since 2019, when the current programmatic review policy was adopted, a total of 249 NRIs have applied for ACHE programmatic review. Of these NRIs, 127 have closed, merged with another NRI, voluntarily withdrawn, or not met criteria for approval or exemption, leaving 122 that are currently active (see https://archive.ache.edu/academic/NRI/active_NRIs.pdf).

Ten of the 122 active NRIs are new exemptions this fiscal year and have central administrations in these seven states:

State	Number of New NRI Exemptions	State	Number of New NRI Exemptions
Florida	1	Montana	1
Georgia	1	Texas	4
Louisiana	1	Washington, D.C.	1
Michigan	1		

Three of the 122 active ACHE NRIs are owned by Adalem Global Education, Inc., a Chicago-based company, but are physically located outside the United States in Cupecoy, Sint Maarten; Barbados, West Indies; and Baxtersville, St. Kitts, West Indies. As a result, these institutions are ineligible for exemption from ACHE review. All three have undergone full programmatic review and are approved. Additional NRIs, including NC-SARA institutions without a physical site in Alabama, are exempt from ACCS licensure and may offer a broader range of programs. ACCS exemptions are automatically exempt from ACHE programmatic review and are not under the purview of, or listed by, ACHE.

ACHE NRI approval or exemption is valid for two years and can be renewed. The 122 currently active NRIs offer over 900 programs in 40 of the 47 NETS CIP classifications, ranging from a Certificate in Gourmet Cooking to a Doctor of Osteopathy. A list of these programs is available at https://archive.ache.edu/academic/NRI/Programs_by_CIP.pdf.

NRIs with current ACHE programmatic approval or exemption from review are listed at https://archive.ache.edu/academic/NRI/active_NRIs.pdf. The ACHE NRI programmatic review process is available at <https://archive.ache.edu/academic/NRI/Procedures.pdf>. For information on Alabama NRI licensing, including exemption from licensure, see <https://www.accs.edu/about-accs/private-school-licensure/>.

Source: ACCS-CIP: National Center for Education Statistics - Classification of Instructional Programs



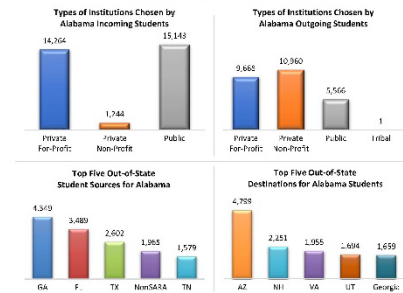
14

Academic Affairs

National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)

NC-SARA is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps students access educational opportunities and ensures efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs. Since 2016, Alabama's State Reciprocity Committee has contracted with ACHE to be the State Policy Entity for NC-SARA. ACHE enables and removes institutional barriers to NC-SARA (also commonly referred to as SARA), communicates policies and procedures to institutional contacts, and investigates student complaints. As a result of having a uniform set of regulations and a uniform sliding payment scale across the nation, NC-SARA member institutions can streamline the process of becoming authorized to offer distance education programs in other NC-SARA states. NC-SARA currently includes a total of 2,404 participating institutions across the two- and four-year sectors.

NC-SARA Data Dashboard



15

Academic Affairs

Academic Common Market

Organized through the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the Academic Common Market (ACM) is a tuition-savings program composed of fifteen (15) participating southern states that allow students to pursue specialized academic programs not offered in their home state at in-state tuition rates. Alabama residents who attended out-of-state institutions via the ACM had tuition savings in the amount of \$1,256,250 during the 2025-26 academic year. The average tuition savings per student for Alabama residents was \$13,958.

During academic year 2025-26, the ACM included 1,010 degree programs across the SREB states, with 183 institutions participating and 1,173 students approved for tuition savings. A total of 90 Alabama residents who were certified attended out-of-state institutions, while 87 out-of-state students certified by their home state attended Alabama institutions in 2025-26.

2025-26 Top 10 Degree Programs Attracting Out-of-State Students

1. Cancer Biology, BS	6. Neuroscience, BS
2. Immunology, BS	7. Accelerated Masters Entry to Nursing Pathway, MS
3. Aerospace Engineering, BS	8. Biobehavioral Nutrition & Wellness, BS
4. Genetics & Genomic Sciences, BS	9. Biomedical Science, BS
5. Metallurgical Engineering, BS	10. Biomedical & Health Sciences, MS

Doctoral Scholars Program

The SREB State Doctoral Scholars Program (<https://www.sreb.org/doctoral-scholars-program>) supports doctoral persistence and attainment for scholars pursuing careers in academia through financial assistance, research funding, career counseling, and professional development. Its annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring strengthens pathways to careers in academia and industry while preparing scholars for research and leadership roles in high-demand fields.

SREB DSP Outcomes 1993-Present		Alabama Institutions with Current Scholars	
Total Alabama Scholars Supported	252	Alabama State University	University of Alabama
Alabama SREB DSP Graduates	168	Tuskegee University	University of Alabama
Alabama SREB DSP Employee Graduates	144	University of Alabama	University of Alabama
Alabama's participation in the SREB State Doctoral Scholars Program supports scholars as they transition from doctoral study to faculty and leadership roles. Since 1993, 94% (135) scholars of the Alabama SREB DSP graduates (144 scholars) have been employed in higher education (select "Alabama" at https://www.sreb.org/statistical-profiles/).			



49

Student Financial Assistance Programs

ACHE is committed to expanding access to postsecondary education through scholarship and grant programs that support student success and strengthen Alabama's workforce. These programs address financial need, encourage academic achievement, and promote enrollment in high-demand fields. Several programs were revised during the 2026 Legislative Session for implementation in 2026–2027 to better meet student needs, while the Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship is a newly established program.

- **Alabama Athletic Trainer Loan Assistance Program (ATLAP)** – This program assists licensed athletic trainers in repaying their federal student loans while serving in public K–12 schools and supports the state's efforts to recruit and retain these professionals, ensuring safer and healthier sports environments for Alabama's students.
- **Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP)** – A need-based grant providing critical support for students attending eligible public and private institutions.
- **Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP)** – This program provides non-need-based grant aid for Alabama residents attending eligible private, nonprofit institutions in the state. Awards are available up to \$3,000 per year, depending on fund availability.
- **Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program (ANGEAP)** – This program provides tuition assistance to active members in good standing with a federally recognized unit of the Alabama National Guard who are enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution within the state. It recognizes the dedication of our service members and helps them pursue higher education while serving.
- **Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP)** – Effective Fall 2026, this program will be known as the **Loan Assistance in Support of Educators in Alabama (LASEA)**. The program expands loan repayment eligibility beyond math, science, and computer science to educators in other fields identified as experiencing acute shortages of certified educators, helping address critical teacher shortages across Alabama. LASEA offers two levels of financial support for up to four consecutive years.
- **Police Officer's and Firefighter's Survivor's Educational Assistance Program (POFSEAP)** – This program offers tuition, fees, and instructional costs for the dependents and eligible spouses of Alabama law enforcement officers and firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty. It serves as a small measure of support and gratitude for families who have made the ultimate sacrifice.
- **Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship Program** – This program provides financial assistance for the cost of tuition and mandatory fees to undergraduate students attending an accredited public postsecondary vocational school, technical school, community, junior college, or university in Alabama. An eligible student must be a dependent or spouse of a qualifying state, municipal, or county law enforcement officer who has been employed full-time in Alabama law enforcement for at least 15 years or who separated from full-time employment no more than 10 years.
- **(Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program** – This initiative provides scholarships targeted to support adult learners who have some college credit but no degree to return to college and complete their degrees. (Re)Engage Alabama connects these students with resources, flexible pathways, and financial assistance to help them cross the finish line and enter the workforce better prepared. The minimum age is 22 years, and those who have earned an associate may also qualify after a two-year stop-out if all other eligibility requirements are met.

For more information on these programs and how to apply, please visit <https://sp.ache.edu/student-financial-aid/>.

Support of Other State Programs Act 2026-380 for FY 2027

Alabama Soil and Water Conservation State Appropriation - \$3,023,376 	Alabama Resource Conservation and Development Councils State Appropriation - \$10,500,000 
Alabama Humanities Foundation State Appropriation - \$300,000 	USS Alabama Battleship State Appropriation - \$1,750,000 
National Computer Forensics Institute State Appropriation - \$650,000 	Alabama HBCU CARES State Appropriation - \$650,000 
Alabama HBCU Consortium State Appropriation - \$200,000 	Alabama Wing of Civil Air Patrol State Appropriation - \$155,000 
Adaptive and Disability Sports Education State Appropriation - \$60,000 	Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center State Appropriation - \$350,000 
International Motorsports Hall of Fame State Appropriation - \$200,000 	Alabama Black Belt Adventures State Appropriation - \$500,000 

Support of Other State Programs Act 2026-380 for FY 2027

Alabama Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative State Appropriation - \$532,000 	Alabama Forestry Commission Education Program State Appropriation - \$200,000 
Alabama Trails Commission State Appropriation - \$340,000 	
Support of Other Educational Activities Act 2026-380 for FY 2027	
Articulation & General Studies Committee/Alabama Transfers State Appropriation - \$999,589 	Alabama Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research State Appropriation - \$1,460,184 
Best and Brightest STEM Pilot Program State Appropriation - \$250,000 	Network of Alabama Academic Libraries State Appropriation - \$384,076 
Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) State Appropriation - \$831,214 	
Support of State Universities Act 2026-380 for FY 2027	
Alabama Agricultural Land-Grant Alliance (AALGA) - \$6,491,283  Alabama Agricultural Land-Grant Alliance	

Building Human Capital Strategic Plan 2018-2030

Pursuant to § 16-5-6, Code of Alabama 1975, the Commission is responsible for statewide long-range planning for postsecondary education through continuous study, analysis, and evaluation. This responsibility includes establishing statewide objectives and priorities and identifying methods and guidelines for achieving them.

Building Human Capital: The Educational Path to Alabama's Economic Success, approved by the Commission on December 8, 2017, serves as the agency's strategic plan for 2018–2030 (https://www.ache.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/State_plan.pdf).

Improving Access

Enhancing Student Success

Enhancing STEM Progress

Developing Alabama's Economy and Workforce

Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

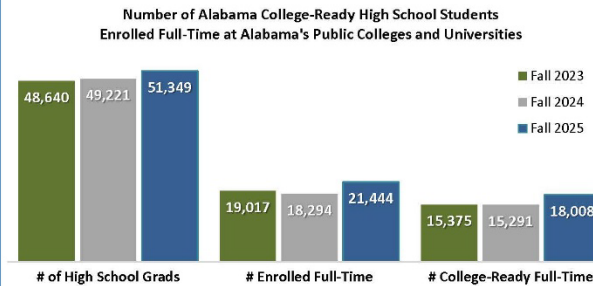


20

Priority 1: Improving Access

Strategy One

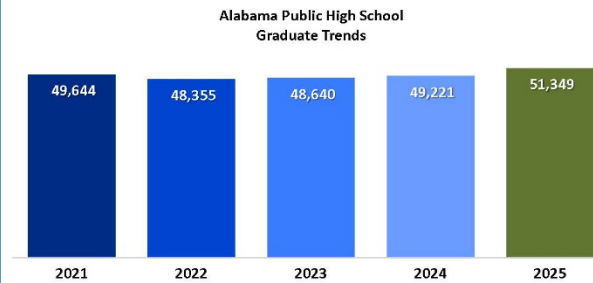
Increase the number of high school students prepared for college



Sources: Alabama Statewide Student Database and Alabama State Department of Education
Note: College-Ready students are those not requiring developmental education courses while in college.

Strategy One

Monitor Alabama public high school graduate trends



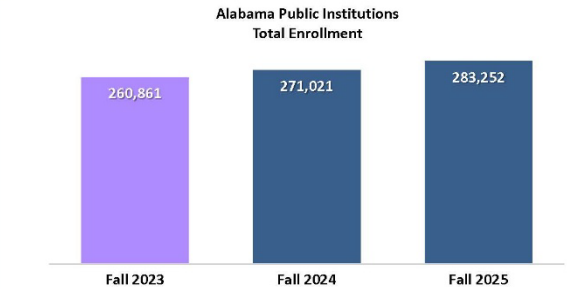
Source: Alabama State Department of Education

21

Priority 1: Improving Access

Strategy One

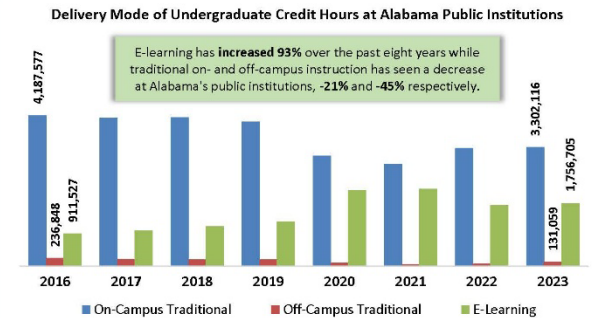
Monitor enrollment at Alabama public higher education institutions



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Strategy Two

Expand the delivery of coursework online



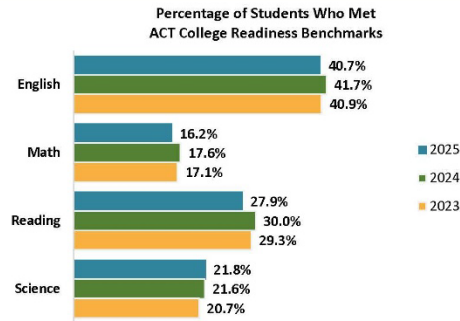
Sources: Alabama Commission on Higher Education; Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Data Exchange Survey

22



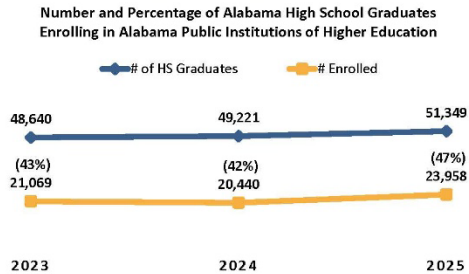
Priority 1: Improving Access

Strategy Two Monitor ACT readiness benchmarks



Source: Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA)

Strategy Two Monitor the number of high school graduates enrolling in Alabama public institutions



Sources: Alabama Statewide Student Database and Alabama State Department of Education
Note: Enrollment includes Full-Time and Part-Time Students.

Priority 1: Improving Access

Strategy Three Increase the number of students receiving financial aid by increasing scholarship and grant opportunities.

Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP)		
Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	11,790	\$9,698,099
2025	10,972	\$9,207,875
2024	10,184	\$8,728,582

Provides critical support as a need-based grant for students attending eligible public and private institutions.

Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program (ANGEAP)		
Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	1,189	\$7,660,015
2025	1,093	\$6,628,804
2024	1,108	\$6,365,556

Provides tuition assistance to active members of the Alabama National Guard who are enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution in the state.

Police Officer's and Firefighter's Survivors Educational Assistance Program (POFSEAP)		
Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	21	\$226,998
2025	20	\$231,662
2024	23	\$243,317

Offers tuition, fees, and instructional costs for the dependents and eligible spouses of Alabama law enforcement officers and firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty.

Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP)		
Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	5,435	\$9,592,158
2025	4,957	\$9,946,495
2024	5,015	\$8,346,325

Provides non-need-based grant aid for Alabama residents attending eligible private, nonprofit institutions in the state.

(Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program		
Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	46	*\$127,750
2025	52	\$158,375
2024	37	\$100,750

*A total of \$993,625 is earmarked to support participants through program completion.

Provides scholarships to support adult learners in returning to college and completing their degrees.

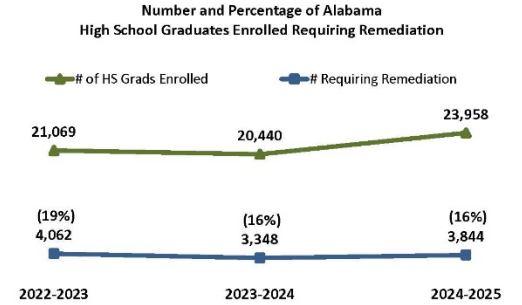
Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP)		
Report Year	Number of Participants	Funding Allocations
2026	49	\$324,932
2025	47	\$234,819
2024	52	\$271,716

Provides loan repayment incentives to Alabama certified teachers of mathematics, science, or computer science who teach in the public schools.

Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education Grant System
Note: All data collected as of August 2026

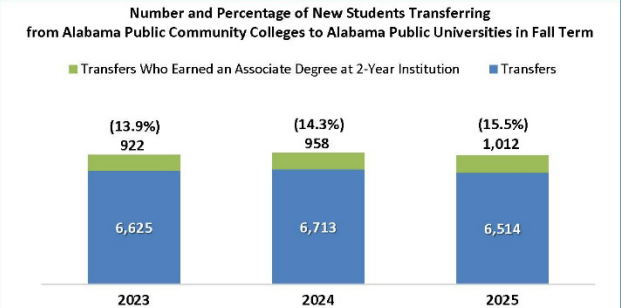
Priority 2: Enhancing Student Success

Strategy One Monitor remedial education



Sources: Alabama Statewide Student Database and Alabama State Department of Education

Strategy Two Promote the seamless transfer of students from community colleges to four-year institutions



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database Transfer Migration Report

Priority 2: Enhancing Student Success

Strategy One Monitor remedial education

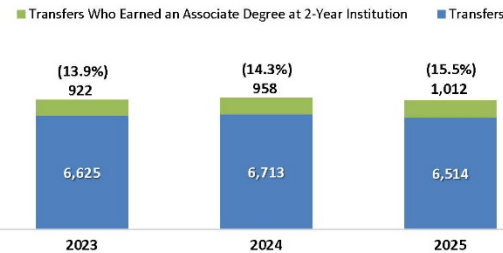
Number and Percentage of Alabama High School Graduates Enrolled Requiring Remediation



Sources: Alabama Statewide Student Database and Alabama State Department of Education

Strategy Two Promote the seamless transfer of students from community colleges to four-year institutions

Number and Percentage of New Students Transferring from Alabama Public Community Colleges to Alabama Public Universities in Fall Term

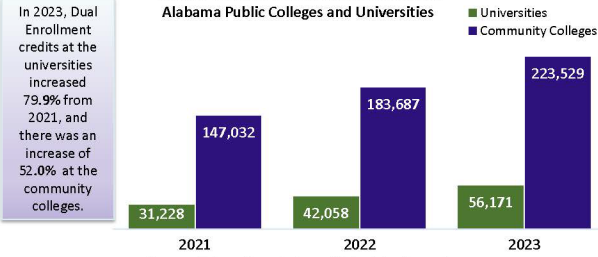


Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database Transfer Migration Report

Priority 2: Enhancing Student Success

Strategy Four Increase college access for high school students

Number of Dual Enrollment Credit Hours at Alabama Public Colleges and Universities

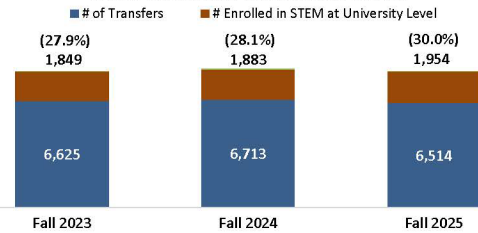


Sources: Alabama Commission on Higher Education and Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Data Exchange Survey

Priority 3: Enhancing STEM Progress

Strategy Four Promote the seamless transfer of students

Number and Percentage of Community College Transfer Students Who Enroll in STEM Programs

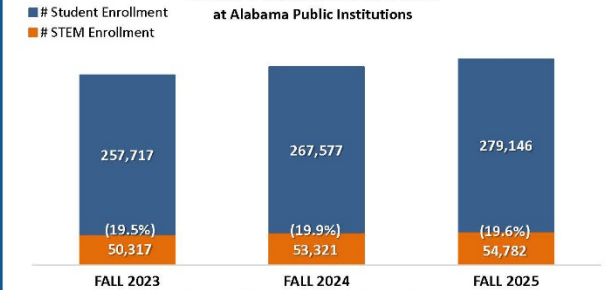


Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database
Note: The Department of Homeland Security STEM Degree Program list is used.

Priority 3: Enhancing STEM Progress

Strategy One Increase the number of high school students prepared for college

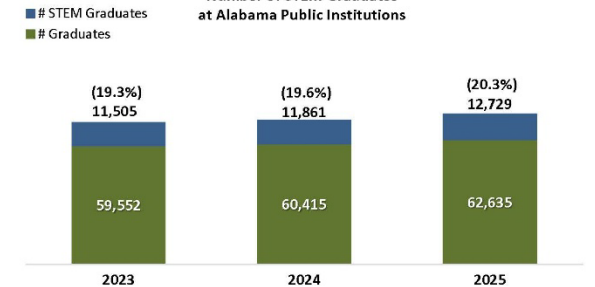
Number of Students Enrolled in STEM at Alabama Public Institutions



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database
Note: These numbers represent an unduplicated headcount.

Strategy Four Promote the seamless transfer of students

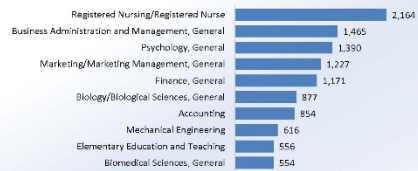
Number of STEM Graduates at Alabama Public Institutions



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database
Note: These numbers represent an unduplicated headcount.

Priority 4: Developing Alabama's Economy and Workforce

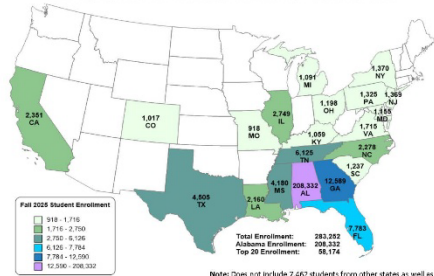
2024-2025 Top 10 Completions by Major for Baccalaureate Degrees



Number of baccalaureate degrees completed at Alabama public four-year institutions was 26,927.

Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Fall 2025 Enrollment in Alabama Public Colleges and Universities Including Students from Alabama and the Top 20 Feeder States



Note: Does not include 7,463 students from other states as well as 9,284 students from unknown states, territories, and foreign countries.

Percent of students enrolled from Alabama – 74%

Percent of students enrolled from Georgia, the top feeder state – 6%

Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

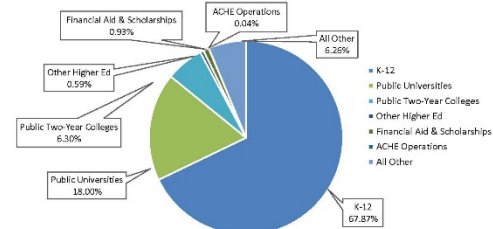
28

Priority 5: Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

Strategy One Optimize Institutional performance

Sectors	Split of ETF Appropriation	Percentage of ETF Split	Split of ETF Appropriation	Percentage of ETF Split
	FY 2025-26	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2026-27
K-12	\$6,737,754,832	67.99%	\$7,111,955,796	67.87%
Public Universities	\$1,776,618,830	17.93%	\$1,886,687,569	18.00%
Public Two-Year Colleges	\$622,223,785	6.28%	\$660,356,653	6.30%
Other Higher Ed	\$57,307,206	0.58%	\$61,988,494	0.59%
Financial Aid & Scholarships	\$96,451,091	0.97%	\$97,367,820	0.93%
ACHE Operations	\$4,470,148	0.05%	\$4,618,866	0.04%
All Other	\$614,590,647	6.20%	\$656,232,792	6.26%
Total	\$9,909,416,539	100.00%	\$10,479,207,990	100.00%

Percentage of ETF Appropriation for Education FY 2026-27



Source: ACHE Program Inventory



29



ACHE in Action



ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

(334) 242-1998

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Alabama Commission on Higher Education
100 North Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN ALABAMA



2026

ACCESSIBILITY. AFFORDABILITY. COORDINATION



Motion, Decision Item B:

That the Commission accept the ACHE 2025-2026 Annual Report.

C. HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant Program Funds Distribution

Staff Presenter: Dr. Jim Hood



HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant: Timeline

- July 13 - Zoom meeting to discuss grant
- July 31 - Institutions submitted projects in priority order (31 total projects requesting over \$8.65M)
- August 20 - **ACHE Financial Affairs Committee** reviewed projects
- August 27 - Institutions verified matching funds
- September 11 – **ACHE Financial Affairs Committee** finalized projects
- November 6 – Funds are distributed on a quarterly basis



Lawson State
Roof Replacement Project

HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant: Timeline

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- August 20 - **ACHE Financial Affairs Committee** reviewed projects
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- November 6 – Funds are distributed on a quarterly basis

Financial Affairs Committee

Payne Meadows, Chair

Harry Hobbs

Paul W. Kennedy

Rod Scott

Deferred Maintenance Landscape

- Public Universities:
32.7% of GSF constructed between 1960 and 1989
- Public Community Colleges:
51.1% of GSF constructed between 1960 and 1989
- 15-25+ Year Cycle:
 - Full replacement of HVAC and/or chillers
 - Total replacement of roof membrane
 - Major electrical upgrades and elevator modernization
 - Total window replacement and reseal

Note: Figures reflect all Alabama public colleges and universities.

Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education's Fall 2026 Facilities Inventory survey.

Physical Plant By Year of Construction Alabama Public Colleges and Universities 1810-2026, Gross Square Feet (GSF)

Decade	Total University		Total Two-Year	
	Total GSF	Percent of Total	Total GSF	Percent of Total
Unknown	456,926	0.57%	71,421	0.50%
1810-1819	918	0.00%	0	0.00%
1820-1829	14,627	0.02%	0	0.00%
1830-1839	22,713	0.03%	720	0.01%
1840-1849	96,217	0.12%	0	0.00%
1850-1859	82,746	0.10%	30,514	0.21%
1860-1869	220,726	0.27%	0	0.00%
1870-1879	2,240	0.00%	0	0.00%
1880-1889	188,772	0.23%	0	0.00%
1890-1899	142,474	0.18%	0	0.00%
1900-1909	344,331	0.43%	6,030	0.04%
1910-1919	456,946	0.57%	7,442	0.05%
1920-1929	2,856,786	3.55%	67,675	0.47%
1930-1939	2,431,636	3.02%	77,882	0.54%
1940-1949	1,419,893	1.76%	136,757	0.95%
1950-1959	1,966,390	2.44%	286,346	2.00%
1960-1969	9,201,937	11.42%	3,456,975	24.13%
1970-1979	9,597,794	11.91%	2,483,742	17.34%
1980-1989	7,564,945	9.39%	1,377,363	9.62%
1990-1999	8,472,720	10.52%	1,992,435	13.91%
2000-2009	15,480,077	19.21%	2,448,537	17.09%
2010-2019	14,421,263	17.90%	1,279,072	8.93%
2020-2026	5,293,191	6.57%	600,644	4.19%
Total	80,573,618	100.20%	14,323,555	100.00%

HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant: Overview

- Lawmakers passed Act 2026-380 that provided \$5 million in funding.
- Projects limited to deferred maintenance defined as general upkeep and maintenance of facilities.
- Priority placed on projects related to ADA, health, and safety compliance.
- Grant included a matching requirement between institutional and state funds.
- \$750K cap per institution (15% of total funds).



Gadsden State
Roof and Gutter Replacement Project

Eligible Deferred Maintenance

Deferred maintenance projects are associated with the upkeep of the institutions' facilities. Projects also include work related to ADA, health, and safety compliance. **The grant prioritizes plans necessary to maintain functionality, not to improve aesthetics.**

Projects include but are not limited to the following:

- Roofing
- Gutters and Downspouts
- Interior or Exterior Painting
- Resurfacing of Floors
- Windows and Window Hardware
- Electrical and Plumbing Systems
- Security Cameras and Systems
- Interior or Exterior Lighting
- Sidewalks, Ramps, Access
- Parking Areas and Roadways
- Central Heating and Cooling (HVAC)
- Traffic Control Devices

Eligible HBCU Institutions (14)

- Alabama A&M University
- Alabama State University
- Bishop State Community College
- Drake State Community College
- Gadsden State Community College
- Lawson State Community College
- Miles College
- Oakwood University
- Selma University
- Shelton State Community College
- Stillman College
- Talladega College
- Trenholm State Community College
- Tuskegee University



38,848 Students



6,119 Employees



7,567 Degrees

Source: Federal IPEDS Institutional Surveys.

Distribution of Funds

Public Universities

- A&M and ASU each received the \$750K cap limit
- 30% of total available funds

Public Community Colleges

- Average award of \$306,645
- 36.8% of total available funds

Private Colleges & Universities

- Average award of \$276,689
- 33.2% of total available funds

Institution	FY 2027	Percent of Total
Public Universities		
Alabama A&M University	\$ 750,000	15.0%
Alabama State University	\$ 750,000	15.0%
Public Community Colleges		
Bishop State Community College	\$ 335,883	6.7%
Drake State Community College	\$ 284,400	5.7%
Gadsden State Community College	\$ 335,365	6.7%
Lawson State Community College	\$ 337,138	6.7%
Shelton State Community College	\$ 277,000	5.5%
Trenholm State Community College	\$ 270,081	5.4%
Private Colleges and Universities		
Miles College	\$ 278,514	5.6%
Oakwood University	\$ 278,880	5.6%
Selma University	\$ 268,685	5.4%
Stillman College	\$ 277,688	5.6%
Talladega College	\$ 279,750	5.6%
Tuskegee University	\$ 276,616	5.5%
Total	\$ 5,000,000	100.0%

Deferred Maintenance Project Highlights

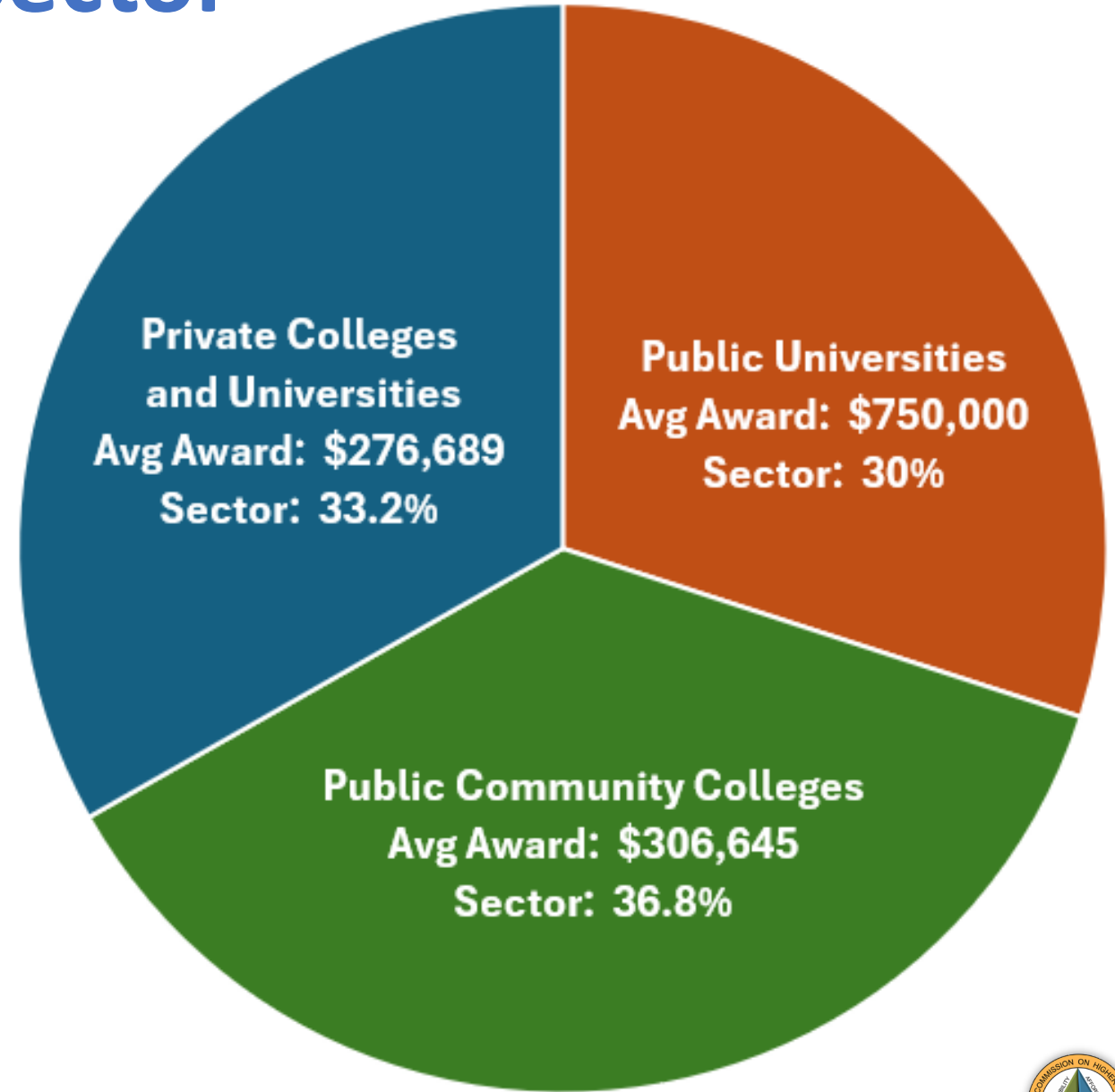
- **Alabama A&M - \$750,000 (cap)**
 - Drake Hall Interior Renovation (HVAC, Fire Alarm, ADA)
- **Alabama State - \$750,000 (cap)**
 - Tullibody Roof Expansion Joint Replacement and Lighting Upgrade
- **Gadsden State Community College - \$335,365**
 - Education Building Roof and Gutter Replacement
- **Lawson State Community College - \$337,138**
 - Building P HVAC Replacement (\$131,088)
 - Building E and F Roof Replacement (\$206,050)

Deferred Maintenance Project Highlights

- **Shelton State Community College - \$277,000**
 - Fredd Campus Window Replacement (\$92,000)
 - Fredd Campus Sidewalk Accessibility (\$185,000)
- **Trenholm State Community College - \$270,081**
 - Building N Roof Repair (\$155,187)
 - Building Q Roof Repair (\$114,894)
- **Talladega College - \$279,750**
 - Restroom Upgrades; 3 Buildings (\$73,500)
 - Roof Shingle Replacement; 3 Buildings (\$142,500)
 - Window Replacement – 3 Buildings (\$63,750)

Funding Summary by Sector

- Institutions collectively submitted 31 projects totaling \$8.65 million
- 80% of those projects received full (20) or partial (5) funding
- The grant dollars addressed 57.8% of the requested dollars indicating the ongoing need for these funds.



Motion, Decision Item C:

That the Commission approve the distribution of funds for the HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant Program.

D. Operations Plan for FY 2026-2027

Staff Presenter: Mrs. Veronica Harris



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

FY 2026-27 Budgetary Facts

The purpose of the Operations Plan is to ensure that the objectives of the Legislature's FY 2026-27 appropriations are satisfied. Each agency is required to submit a plan for each budget unit showing expenditures for each quarter of the fiscal year. This plan was due to the Executive Budget Office (EBO) on July 31, 2026, and submitted; however, any changes can be made by a revision after October 1, 2026.

The Commission has 42 programs under 6 appropriation units.

- One new program was added in the FY 2026-27 budget, which is **Move on When Ready**. Additionally, the **Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship** was appropriated in FY 26 but was not enacted until FY 27; therefore, this program's total amount of \$10,000,000 will be administered in FY 27.
- The FY 2026-27 budget represents a 2.43% increase over the previous fiscal year's budget.

Program Variants

The following programs received increases/decreases in the FY 2026-27 ETF budget:



ACHE Operations and Maintenance	\$148,718
NC-SARA Fees (Earmarked)	\$50,000
Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship	\$6,000,000
Alabama Student Grant Program	\$500,000
Alabama National Guard Program	\$500,000
Move on When Ready	\$3,000,000
AGSC/STARS (Articulation)	\$200,000
The National PASI Cooperative Agreement	\$7,144,819
★ STEM Major Teacher Recruitment	(\$4,500,000)
Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)	\$200,000
Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC & D)	\$1,537,256
★ AKEEP	(\$400,000)
★ Alabama Recruit & Retain Teachers	(\$700,000)
Alabama Black Belt Adventures	\$25,000
USS Alabama	\$200,000
Historical Black College Consortium (HBCU)	\$200,000

ACHE continues
to manage
these programs.

**Alabama Commission on Higher Education
FY 2026-27 Budget - All Funds**

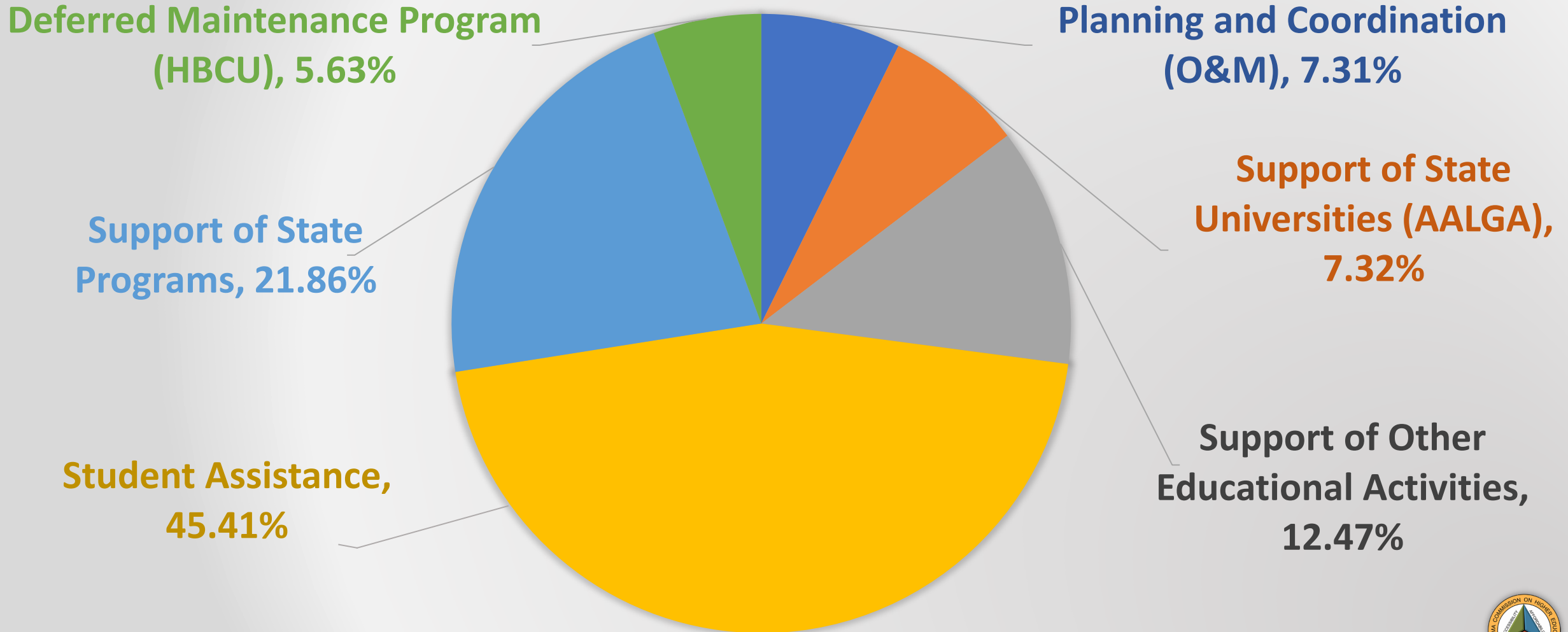
Fund Code No.	PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	FY 2025-26 Appropriated	FY 2026-27 As Passed	Difference	
				Dollars	Percent
172	Planning and Coordination Services				
	Postsecondary Education (ACHE O&M)	\$ 4,470,148	\$ 4,618,866	\$ 148,718	3.33%
	Industry Credential Directory	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Retain Alabama (\$400,000 to O&M and \$250,000 to AHEP)	\$ 650,000	\$ 650,000	\$ -	0.00%
	FAFSA Completion	\$ 580,000	\$ 580,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Study Alabama	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	
	Subtotal O&M	\$ 5,850,148	\$ 5,998,866	\$ 148,718	2.54%
	Non-Resident Institutions Fees (Local Funds - Fees)	\$ 236,239	\$ 236,239	\$ -	0.00%
	NC-SARA Fees (Local Funds - Fees)	\$ 200,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 50,000	25.00%
Total for 172		\$ 6,286,387	6,485,105	\$ 198,718	3.16%
153	Student Assistance				
	Alabama Student Assistance Program	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Educational Grants Program	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,500,000	\$ 500,000	5.00%
	Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program	\$ 9,331,114	\$ 9,831,114	\$ 500,000	5.36%
	Police and Firefighter's Survivors Tuition Program	\$ 466,935	\$ 466,935	\$ -	0.00%
	(Re)Engage Alabama Program	\$ 1,935,000	\$ 1,935,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ (6,000,000)	- 75.00%
	Loan Assistance in Support of Educators in Alabama (LASEA)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Pathways to Progress	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Move on When Ready	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	
	Indian Affairs Scholarship Program	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Birmingham Promise Scholarship Program	\$ 892,500	\$ 892,500	\$ -	0.00%
Total for 153		\$ 42,325,549	\$ 40,325,549	\$ (2,000,000)	- 4.73%
152	Support of Other Educational Activities				
	Southern Regional Education Board	\$ 831,214	\$ 831,214	\$ -	0.00%
	Network of Alabama Academic Libraries	\$ 384,076	\$ 384,076	\$ -	0.00%
	AGSC/STARS	\$ 799,589	\$ 999,589	\$ 200,000	25.01%
	Best and Brightest STEM Pilot Program	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	
	STEM Major Teacher Recruitment	\$ 4,500,000	\$ -	\$ (4,500,000)	- 100.00%
	The National PASI Program		\$ 7,144,819	\$ 7,144,819	
	Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research	\$ 1,260,184	\$ 1,460,184	\$ 200,000	15.87%
Total for 152		\$ 8,025,063	\$ 11,069,882	\$ 3,044,819	37.94%



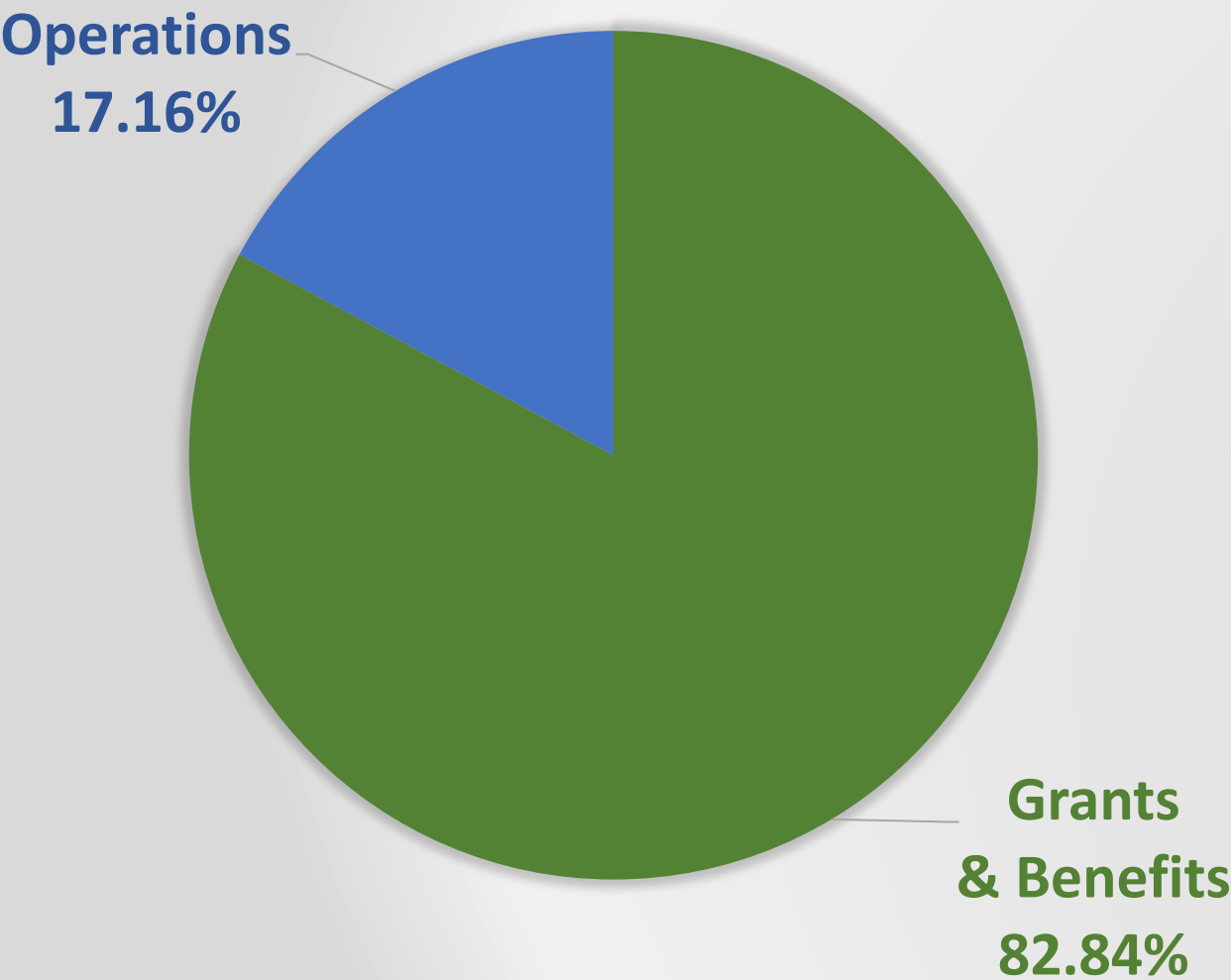
Alabama Commission on Higher Education FY 2026-27 Budget - All Funds						
Fund Code No.	PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES		FY 2025-26 Appropriated	FY 2026-27 As Passed	Difference	
					Dollars	Percent
151	Support of State Universities					
	Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance	Total for 151	\$ 6,491,283	\$ 6,491,283	\$ -	0.00%
189	Support of State Programs					
	Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC &D)		\$ 8,962,744	\$ 10,500,000	\$ 1,537,256	17.15%
	Soil and Water Conservation Committee Program		\$ 3,023,376	\$ 3,023,376	\$ -	0.00%
	AL Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative		\$ 532,000	\$ 532,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Black Belt Adventures		\$ 475,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 25,000	5.26%
	Alabama Black Belt Treasures		\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Humanities Foundation		\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Civil Air Patrol		\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	\$ -	0.00%
	National Computer Forensics Institute		\$ 650,000	\$ 650,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Adaptive Sports Scholarship		\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Motorsports Hall of Fame		\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Trails Foundation		\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Forestry Commission Education Program		\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Recruit and Retain Minority Teachers Pilot		\$ 700,000	\$ -	\$ (700,000)	- 100.00%
	AKEEP-Education & Teacher Recruitment Partnership (ALIEEP)		\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ (400,000)	- 100.00%
	USS Alabama		\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 200,000	12.90%
	Historical Black College Consortium (HBCU)		\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	
	Alabama HBCU Cares		\$ 650,000	\$ 650,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Total for 189		\$ 18,548,120	\$ 19,410,376	\$ 862,256	4.65%
340	Deferred Maintenance	Total for 340	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	0.00%
Grand Total (includes Local Funds)			\$ 86,676,402	\$ 88,782,195	\$ 2,105,793	2.43%
Source of Funds						
200	Education Trust Fund		\$ 86,240,163	\$ 88,295,956	\$ 2,055,793	2.38%
403	Federal Funds		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.00%
403	Local Funds (Fees and Grants)		\$ 436,239	\$ 486,239	\$ 50,000	11.46%
Grand Total			\$ 86,676,402	\$ 88,782,195	\$ 2,105,793	2.43%



FY 2026-27 Budgeted Expenditures by Appropriation Unit

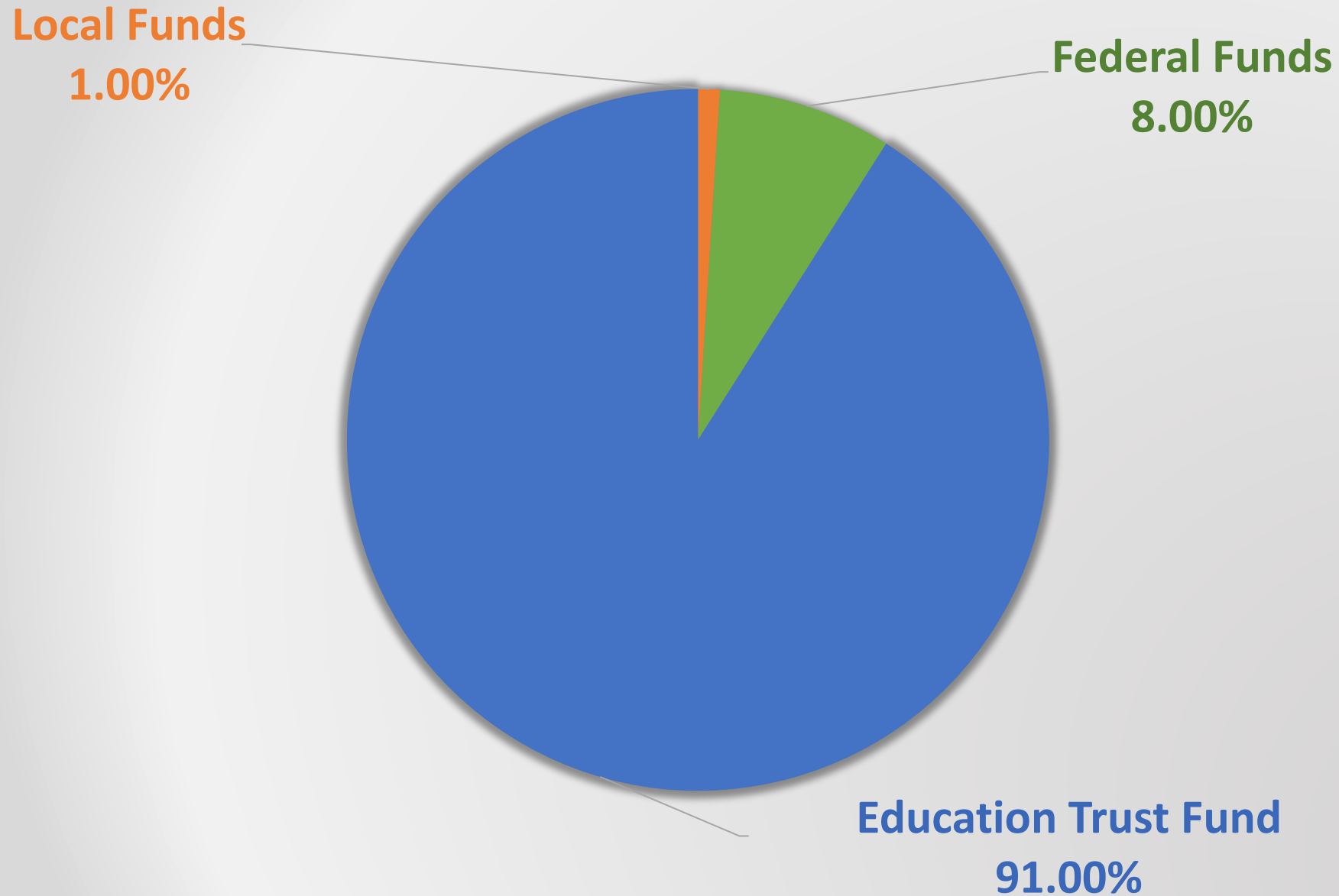


FY 2026-27 Budgeted Expenditures by Category



Planning and Coordinating Services
Operations & Maintenance Industry Credential Directory Retain Alabama FAFSA Completion Assistance Study Alabama
Student Assistance
Alabama Student Assistance Program Alabama Educational Grants Program Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program Police and Firefighters' Survivors Tuition Program Loan Assistance in Support of Educators in Alabama (LASEA) Birmingham Promise Scholarship Program Indians Affairs Scholarship Program ReEngage Alabama Scholarship Program Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship Program Pathways to Progress Move on When Ready
Support of Other Educational Activities
AGSC/STARS Southern Regional Education Board Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Best and Brightest STEM Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL)
Support of State Universities
Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance
Deferred Maintenance
State Programs (18 Programs)

ACHE's Sources of Revenue



Motion, Decision Item D:

That the Commission approve the Operations Plan for FY 2026-2027.

E. Public Drawing to Determine Order of Payment of ASGP Funds for 2026-2027

Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP) provides grants for eligible in-state students attending one of the following private institutions:

- Amridge University
- Faulkner University
- Huntingdon College
- Miles College
- Oakwood University
- Samford University
- Spring Hill College
- South University - Montgomery
- Stillman College
- U.S. Sports University
- University of Mobile

Since all funds cannot be disbursed immediately, drawing is needed to determine disbursement order by institution.



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY



Motion, Decision Item E:

That the Commission approve the Public Drawing to Determine the Order of Payment of Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP) Funds for the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

F. Final Approval of Amendments to the Administrative Procedures for the Chapter 300-4-16: Move On When Ready

Staff Presenter: Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan



300-4-16-.06 Fund Allocation Procedures.

(3) The total amount of Move On When Ready funds for each eligible student for the academic year will be split into two equal portions, with one portion distributed to a single eligible institution per academic period. A separate application must be submitted for each academic period of enrollment for every participating student by each participating institution.

~~(a) The parent or guardian of a participating student is responsible for paying any remaining costs owed to the eligible institution after the Move On When Ready funds have been applied for that academic period.~~

300-4-16-.07 Disbursement Procedures.

(4) The total amount of Move On When Ready funds for each eligible student for the academic year will be split into two equal portions, with one portion distributed to a single eligible institution per academic period. A separate application must be submitted for each academic period of enrollment for every participating student by each participating institution.

~~(a) The parent or guardian of a participating student is responsible for paying any remaining costs owed to the eligible institution after the Move On When Ready funds have been applied for that academic period.~~

Submission Deadline	Publication Date	Effective Date
September 21, 2026	September 30, 2026	November 14, 2026

Motion, Decision Item F:

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

G. Academic Programs

Staff Presenters: Dr. Robin McGill

Ms. Kristan White



Alabama Public Four-Year Institutions



G-1. Master of Science in Criminal Justice (CIP 43.0104)

- The proposed MS will prepare graduates for employment in positions included on the current Alabama Demand Occupations List.
- The MS program is designed to meet the scheduling and professional needs of working adults in the criminal justice field and will be offered 100% online.
- The program proposal includes letters of support from the City of Montgomery Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff's office, attesting to the need for the program.



Motion, Decision Item G-1:

That the Commission approve Alabama State University's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Criminal Justice.

G-2a. Substantive Modification to the Bachelor of Science in Special Education (CIP 13.1099)

- Auburn University is proposing to separate the existing Rehabilitation and Disability Studies option from the Bachelor of Science in Special Education at CIP 13.1099 and establish it as a **standalone BS in Rehabilitation and Disability Studies at CIP 51.2300**.
- Over the last 27 years, Rehabilitation and Disability Studies have evolved into a high-demand program preparing students for rehabilitation and therapeutic fields beyond public education, including pre-allied health, rehabilitation services, recreation therapy, and advocacy. The proposed CIP 51.2300 more accurately reflects the degree and its graduate outcomes.



Motion, Decision Item G-2a:

That the Commission approve Auburn University's substantive modification to the Bachelor of Science in Special Education.

G-2b. Substantive Modification to the Master of Education in Counselor Education (CIP 13.1101)

- Auburn University is proposing to separate the existing Clinical Mental Health Counseling option from the Master of Education in Counselor Education at CIP 13.1101 and establish it as a **standalone Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at CIP 51.1508.**
- AU notes that the Clinical Mental Health Counseling option holds separate programmatic accreditation through the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and prepares graduates for professional licensure as counselors, rather than educators.



Motion, Decision Item G-2b:

That the Commission approve Auburn University's substantive modification to the Master of Education in Counselor Education.

Auburn University at Montgomery



G-3. Master of Social Work in Social Work (CIP 44.0701)

- This program will prepare graduates for occupations included on the Statewide Demand Occupations List.
- Many of the state's social welfare institutions are in Montgomery, providing a potential pool of applicants for the program, namely state workers with bachelor's degrees who would like to obtain an MSW. Classes will be scheduled in the evenings to accommodate working professionals.
- The proposal includes two letters of support for the program from social services providers attesting to the need for an additional MSW program in the region.



Motion, Decision Item G-3:

That the Commission approve Auburn University's proposal to offer a Master of Social Work in Social Work.

G-4. Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies (CIP 22.0000)

- The proposed program will expand on the existing Legal Studies minor and require no new resources to implement.
- The proposed program will prepare graduates to be more competitive applicants for law school and other related graduate programs.



Motion, Decision Item G-4:

That the Commission approve Troy University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies.

G-5a. Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership (CIP 52.0213)

- The proposed BA in Organizational Leadership will prepare graduates for roles included on the current Alabama Demand Occupations List, such as Management Analysts and General and Operations Managers.
- The proposed program will be a foundational offering within the newly established School of Leadership and Policy and is expected to attract a significant number of students and advance the School's mission to contribute meaningfully to Alabama's social, economic, and civic development.



Motion, Decision Item G-5a:

That the Commission approve The University of Alabama's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership.

- The University of Alabama is proposing to consolidate four of its existing doctoral programs within the Manderson Graduate School of Business in the Culverhouse College of Business and establish a unified PhD in Business Administration (CIP 52.0101).
- The proposed consolidation is intended to ensure program viability, strengthen doctoral research, take advantage of synergies across disciplines, and identify economies in staffing and administration.
- UA notes that the substantive change will not require any new resources to implement and will not disrupt the progress of any students currently pursuing PhDs in one of the existing programs.



Motion, Decision Item G-5b:

That the Commission approve The University of Alabama's substantive modification to establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration.

G-5c. Substantive Modification to Establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Statistics and Operations Management (CIP 52.1399)

- The University of Alabama is proposing to consolidate two of its existing doctoral programs within the Manderson Graduate School of Business in the Culverhouse College of Business and establish a unified PhD in Applied Statistics and Operations Management (CIP 52.1399).
- The proposed consolidation is intended to ensure program viability, strengthen doctoral research, take advantage of synergies across disciplines, and identify economies in staffing and administration.
- UA notes that the substantive change will not require any new resources to implement and will not disrupt the progress of any students currently pursuing PhDs in either of the existing programs.

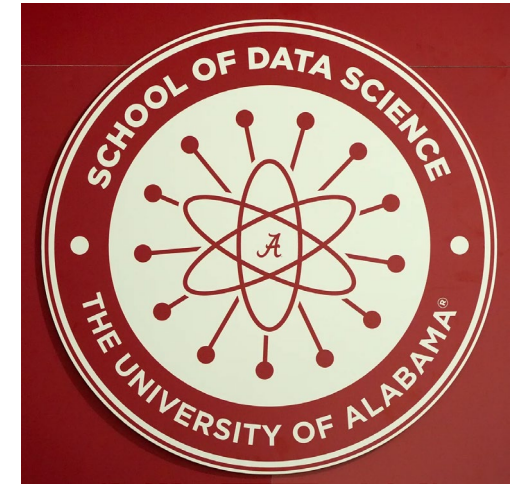


Motion, Decision Item G-5c:

That the Commission approve The University of Alabama's substantive modification to establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Statistics and Operations Management.

G-5d. Establishment of a New Major Unit of Instruction: School of Data Science

- Establishing the School of Data Science as an independent academic unit reporting directly to the Provost will provide a university-wide hub for applied data science, responsible artificial intelligence, and high-performance computing while expanding interdisciplinary education, research, and industry partnerships.
- UA projects that the School will require substantial institutional investment to recruit faculty and staff, develop academic programs, and support computing infrastructure. This investment is justified by anticipated tuition revenue, external research funding, industry partnerships, and the School's potential to strengthen Alabama's technology workforce and innovation capacity.

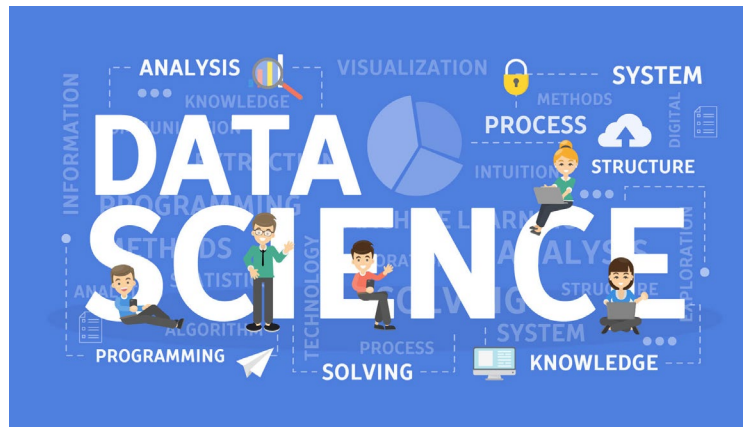


Motion, Decision Item G-5d:

That the Commission approve The University of Alabama's proposal to establish the School of Data Science as a New Major Unit of Instruction.

G-6. Bachelor of Science in Data Science (CIP 30.7001)

- The proposed program will be administered jointly by the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Mathematics and will create a more streamlined pathway for undergraduates to complete their studies in Data Science.
- The proposal includes three letters of support from industry professionals attesting to the need for this program.



Motion, Decision Item G-6:

That the Commission approve the University of Alabama at Birmingham's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Data Science.

University of Montevallo

G-7. Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (CIP 13.1205)

- This program will prepare graduates for employment as secondary school teachers in subject areas with identified teacher shortages.
- The program will repackage existing courses and resources and require minimal new funds to implement.



Motion, Decision Item G-7:

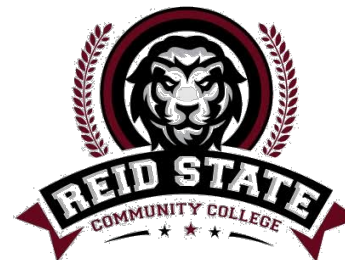
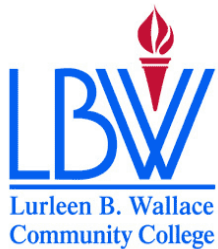
That the Commission approve the University of Montevallo to offer a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education.

AC
CS

Alabama Community College System



Bishop State



Wallace Community College - Dothan



G-8a. Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician (CIP 51.1004) – Conditional Approval

- The proposed AAS program will support the expansion of rural healthcare programs in the state and is supported by funding from the FY 2023 state appropriation to establish Alabama Centers for Rural Healthcare Opportunities.
- The business plan for the proposed program indicates that it is not expected to generate sufficient funds on an annual basis to offset ongoing program costs and will be run at a loss for the final two years of the program.
- The College has not identified a sustainable source of revenue to ensure that the program will remain financially viable beyond the post-implementation monitoring period.



Motion, Decision Item G-8a:

That the Commission approve Wallace Community College - Dothan's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician – Conditional Approval.

Wallace Community College - Selma



G-8b. Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician (CIP 51.1004) – Conditional Approval

- The proposed AAS program will support the expansion of rural healthcare programs in the Black Belt Region and is supported by funding from the FY 2023 state appropriation to establish Alabama Centers for Rural Healthcare Opportunities.
- The business plan for the proposed program indicates that it is not expected to generate sufficient funds on an annual basis to offset ongoing program costs and will be run at a loss for each year of the program, except Year 1.
- The College has not identified a sustainable source of revenue to ensure that the program will remain financially viable beyond the post-implementation monitoring period.



Motion, Decision Item G-8b:

That the Commission approve Wallace Community College - Selma's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician – Conditional Approval.

Wallace Community College - Selma



G-8c. Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology (CIP 51.0909) – Conditional Approval

- The proposed AAS in Surgical Technology is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Surgical Technologists, included on the current Alabama Demand Occupations List.
- The business plan for the proposed program indicates that it is not expected to generate sufficient funds on an annual basis to offset ongoing program costs and will be run at a loss for each year of the program, except Year 1.
- The College has not identified a sustainable source of revenue to ensure that the program will remain financially viable beyond the post-implementation monitoring period.



Motion, Decision Item G-8c:

That the Commission approve Wallace Community College - Selma's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology – Conditional Approval.

Wallace Community College - Selma



G-8d. Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology (CIP 51.0911) – Conditional Approval

- The proposed AAS in Radiologic Technology is designed to prepare graduates for entry-level employment as radiologic technologists and technicians, which are included on the current Alabama Demand Occupations List.
- The business plan for the proposed program indicates that it is not expected to generate sufficient funds on an annual basis to offset ongoing program costs and will be run at a loss for each year of the program, except Year 1.
- The College has not identified a sustainable source of revenue to ensure that the program will remain financially viable beyond the post-implementation monitoring period.



Motion, Decision Item G-8d:

That the Commission approve Wallace Community College - Selma's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology – Conditional Approval.

Central Alabama Community College

G-9. Associate of Applied Science in Child Development (CIP 19.0708)



- The Child Development program will support a critical workforce need in Alabama by preparing graduates for employment in early childhood education and childcare settings.
- The program builds on the College's successful short-term certificate program and is designed around early childhood program standards set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).



Motion, Decision Item G-9:

That the Commission approve Central Alabama Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Child Development.

Drake State Community and Technical College



G-10. Associate of Applied Science and Certificate in Barbering (CIP 12.0402)

- The AAS/CER in Barbering will build on coursework developed for the Barbering option within Salon and Spa Management AAS/CER and will require minimal expenses to implement.
- The program proposal includes letters of support from one local barber shop owner and two graduates of the DRA Certificate program attesting to the need for the program.



Motion, Decision Item G-10:

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

Northeast Alabama Community College



G-11. Associate of Applied Science and Certificate in Dental Assisting (CIP 51.0601)

- The proposed AAS and CER in Dental Assisting is designed to prepare graduates for entry-level employment as Dental Assistants and for further training necessary for employment as Dental Hygienists and Dental Laboratory Technicians. All three occupations are included on the current Alabama Demand Occupations List.
- NEC has secured FY23 state earmark funding to support this program through the Alabama Centers for Rural Healthcare Opportunities Initiative.
- This proposal includes four letters of support from local industry partners and future employers attesting to the need for this program.



Motion, Decision Item G-11:

That the Commission approve Northeast Alabama Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science and Certificate in Dental Assisting.

Wallace Community College - Dothan



G-12a. Associate of Applied Science in Biomedical Equipment Technology (CIP 15.0401)

- The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for entry-level employment as Medical Equipment Repairers, which are included on the current Alabama Demand Occupations List.
- The program will build upon WSD's existing Industrial Systems Technology infrastructure and Health Sciences resources, while supporting workforce development in a high-demand healthcare technology field.
- The proposal includes letters of support from three local businesses interested in hiring graduates from the program.



Motion, Decision Item G-12a:

That the Commission approve Wallace Community College - Dothan's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Biomedical Equipment Technology.

Wallace Community College - Dothan

G-12b. Associate of Applied Science in Diesel Technology (CIP 47.0605)

- The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for entry-level employment as diesel technicians for heavy machinery, commercial vehicles, and industrial equipment, which are included on the current Alabama Demand Occupations List.
- The program will incorporate work-based learning and preparation for industry-recognized certifications, such as Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification, which will enhance graduates' employability.
- The proposal is supported by 11 letters of support from local employers attesting to the need for the program.



Motion, Decision Item G-12b:

That the Commission approve Wallace Community College - Dothan's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Diesel Technology.

Wallace Community College - Selma



G-13a. Associate of Applied Science in Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003)

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



Motion, Decision Item G-13a:

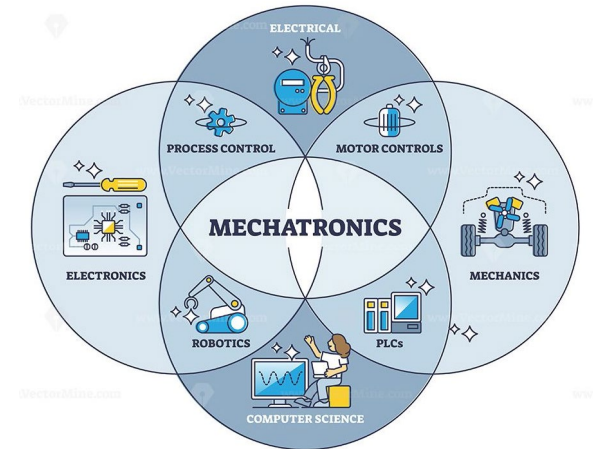
That the Commission approve Wallace Community College - Selma's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Cybersecurity.

Wallace Community College - Selma

G-13b. Associate of Applied Science in Mechatronics (CIP 15.0407)



- The proposed AAS in Mechatronics is designed to prepare graduates for employment in occupations on the current Alabama Demand Occupations List, such as Industrial Machinery Mechanics.
- The proposed program will not require any new courses to be developed and can be implemented with minimal start-up costs.
- This proposal includes two letters of support from local business and industry, both attesting to the need for the program and willingness to partner in its delivery.



Motion, Decision Item G-13b:

That the Commission approve Wallace Community College - Selma's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Mechatronics.

H. Information Items



1. Distribution of 2026-2027 Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP) Funds
2. Implementation of For-Credit Non-Degree Certificate Programs
3. Changes to the Academic Program Inventory
4. Curricular Modifications for Existing Degree Programs
5. Updates to Academic Units
6. Implementation of Distance Education Programs

H. Information Items



7. Modification of Approved Off-Campus Site with Academic Programs: Trenholm State Community College, Executive Park, 4520 Executive Park Drive, Montgomery
8. Reclassification of Off-Campus Site with Academic Programs: Alabama State University, Forest Avenue Building, 1600 Forest Avenue, Montgomery

Motion, Decision Item H:

That the Commission accept the Information Items as presented.

XI. Adjournment

