



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Communication
(334) 694-4686
comm@alsde.edu

Governor Kay Ivey
President

**FREE AND FUN SUMMER LEARNING RESOURCES NOW
AVAILABLE FOR ALL ALABAMA STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

“State Officially Kicks Off Exciting 2021 Summer Learning Challenge!”

Jackie Zeigler
District I
Vice President

Montgomery, Ala. – Our current school year is coming to an end, and many Alabama families are now making plans for the summer! For a ninth year, the State Department of Education is partnering with some of our nation’s top education organizations to *“minimize the summer learning slide.”*

Tracie West
District II



The 2021 Alabama Summer Learning Challenge is being held this year from *May 17 until July 31.*

Stephanie Bell
District III

“As our nation continues to recover from its year-long battle with COVID-19, creating at-home learning opportunities for students will be vital this summer,” said

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
President Pro Tem

State Superintendent, Dr. Eric G. Mackey. “To ensure students are fully prepared for their return to in-classroom learning in 2021-2022, we are asking parents and caregivers to consider incorporating fun reading, math, and science skill-building activities into their summer schedules. Students will greatly benefit from these special learning opportunities. They will be more prepared for further classroom success.”

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Starting today, Alabama parents have access to even more online resources to advance their children’s *reading, math, and science skills!*

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

These resources are easy-to-access and will encourage K-12 students throughout the summer, while they are away from the classroom. See the Alabama Summer Learning website at <https://www.alsde.edu/sec/comm/Pages/summer-learning.aspx>

Belinda McRae
District VII

“Fighting summer learning loss has long been a focus for MetaMetrics. This summer, with the impact on learning from the COVID-19 school closures, it is more important than ever

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

before that students have access to great books and fun learning activities to ensure they are on track to return to the classroom in the fall,” said *Malbert Smith, CEO and co-founder.* “We are proud to once again partner with the Alabama State Department of Education to support its Summer Learning Challenge to help ensure that all of the state’s K-12 students head back to school prepared for a successful year of learning.”

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Alabama Summer Learning Challenge 2021 - Free Learning Resources for Students!

- The Lexile-based "Find a Book, Alabama" tool (www.Lexile.com/fab/Alabama) offers students over 260,000 books to choose from. This book-search tool allows students and parents to build custom reading lists based on the student's Lexile range and personal interests. Students can also pledge to read this summer by using the "Find a Book, Alabama" tool.
- The Summer Learning Challenge also includes a fantastic online math skill builder to help remedy the summer math slide. MetaMetrics is offering the FREE *Summer Math Challenge*, a math maintenance program based on student grade-level standards. This program is focused on students who have just completed *first through eighth grades*. It is designed to help them retain the classroom skills learned during the previous school year. Visit <https://hub.lexile.com/summer-math-challenge> to register!

"Summer learning can be a very important part of student academic and social



development, and especially in the era of Covid19," said *Dr. Shaun McAlmont, President of Career Learning Solutions at Stride, Inc.* "The ability to create a learning bridge that supplements and strengthens student learning is necessary because of the challenges many students recently experienced. Moreover, we found that adding virtual elements like introduction to careers courses, coding and eSports competitions, and industry webinars, encouraged almost five times as many students than the prior year to participate."

- This summer, [Stride Skills Arcade](#) by [Stride, Inc](#) is FREE to all students in the state from May1 to July 31. Prevent "Summer Slide" with a cool blend of online math, reading, language arts, and science skills practice, spectacular video games for every student interest, and online peer competitions. Students may access the [Stride Skills Arcade](#) learning platform anytime, on tablets, PCs, and Macs.
- High-interest literature is critical to sparking a student's love for reading, especially in the formative years. With [Big Universe](#) by [Stride](#), students can access 18,000+ leveled eBooks and literacy tools available 24/7 on smartphones, tablets, and laptops. Powerful search functions help identify eBooks by genre and grade level. [Big Universe](#) will be FREE to all students in Alabama from May 1 to July 31. Register and login [here](#).

Additional resources are also available for K-12 students this summer!

Alabama Public Television (APT) is allowing students to discover their full potential through the *Learn at Home* educational program – <https://apt2.org/education/>

Parents can also make learning fun this summer by utilizing the great resources and events at Alabama's local libraries – <http://www.publiclibraries.com/alabama.htm>

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Alabama Summer Learning Challenge 2021 - Free Learning Resources for Students!

“As we close out what I consider to be one of the most challenging school years of my education career, it reminds me how critical summer *break* is for families and educators,” said *Assistant State Superintendent, Dr. Elisabeth Davis*. “Not only do we need time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate, but more importantly equip all of our families with high-quality instructional resources aligned to our state initiatives. Our schools and local districts have worked tirelessly over the last few months to plan quality summer learning opportunities for Alabama’s students. We are thrilled to officially announce the Summer Learning Challenge!”

There are many more learning resources highlighted on the 2021 Summer Learning webpage – Visit today to see the complete list of available learning resources:

<https://www.alsde.edu/sec/comm/Pages/summer-learning.aspx>

Important Press Event Information for Media Representatives

*Media Members, the official *Alabama Summer Learning Challenge Kickoff virtual press conference* will be held this Tuesday morning, starting at 10 a.m.

A copy of the *Press Conference Agenda* is available at the following weblink:

<https://www.alsde.edu/sec/comm/News%20Releases/OFFICIAL%20EVENT%20AGENDA%20-%202021%20Alabama%20Summer%20Learning%20Challenge%20Kickoff.pdf>

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