



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice  
State Superintendent of Education

May 11, 2015

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

**MEMORANDUM**

Governor  
Robert Bentley  
President

**TO:** City and County Superintendents

*Sherrill W. Parris*

Al Thompson  
District I

**FROM:** Sherrill W. Parris  
Deputy State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters  
District II

**RE:** Summer Learning Challenge — 2015

Stephanie Bell  
District III

Strong reading and math skills are essential to a student's success in school and life. It is important that we use all the resources available to help build improve our students' skills of these subjects. For Alabama's students, summer is a time of fun, but those months away from school can result in a loss of previously learned skills in both math and reading. To combat summer learning loss, the Alabama State Department of Education, along with local libraries and schools, is excited to partner with MetaMetrics®, developer of The Lexile® Framework for Reading and The Quantile® Framework for Mathematics, and LTS Education Systems to announce [The Summer Learning Challenge](#).

Yvette M.  
Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV



Ella B. Bell  
District V  
Vice President

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
District VI

Jeff Newman  
District VII  
President Pro Tem

[The Summer Learning Challenge](#) encourages students to pledge to read five to eight books selected from a personalized reading list and to actively engage in math practice every day for a portion of the summer. The Summer Learning Challenge also raises awareness of the summer loss epidemic, shares compelling research on the importance of personalized reading activities and provides access to a variety of free resources to support targeted reading and math practice.

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.  
District VIII

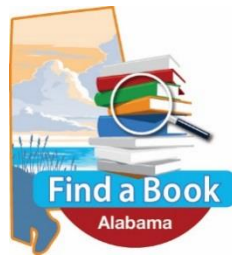
Teachers and parents can take the opportunity now before the summer begins to create personalized reading lists for all students and learn how to use the exciting math and reading exercises. Once the summer begins, all public libraries in the state can help find enjoyable and suitable books. Visit the custom Web page for flyers, bookmarks, certificates to print

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Secretary and  
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and share with your students. There is a reading log for students to take home and fill out over the summer as well. Click [here](#) to download the log.

Please share these FREE ways to keep students engaged and excited about education:

- The Lexile-based “[Find a Book, Alabama](#)” tool (Lexile.com/fab/Alabama) offers students over 160,000 books from which to choose. This book-search tool enables individuals to build custom reading lists based on their Lexile range and personal interests, and checks the availability of books at the local library. The search tool includes a growing collection of English literary and informational books.
- Children, parents and educators can also [pledge to read](#) using the “Find a Book, Alabama” tool starting today. We encourage all students to pledge to read.



- The Alabama Summer Learning Challenge also includes [a FREE e-mail-based math skills program](#) for children who have just completed Grades 2-6. Parents and other summer care-givers can begin registering for the program today. Starting Monday, June 22, parents will begin receiving daily e-mails with fun activities and resources to help their children retain math skills acquired during the previous school year. After the program ends on Friday, July 31, parents can print an award certificate to celebrate their children's summer accomplishment!
- This summer, [Stride Academy](#) is FREE to all students in the state from now to August 7. Register at [www.AlabamaSummerStride.com](http://www.AlabamaSummerStride.com), then login at <http://www.stridegroups.com/start/> to learn and play! Students who registered for Alabama Summer Stride in previous years will need to create an account for this summer.

Prevent "Summer Slide" with a cool blend of [online math, reading and science skills practice](#), spectacular video games and peer competitions to pass the lazy summer days. Students may access the Stride Academy learning platform online anytime, 24-7, on tablets, PCs and Macs. LTS Education Systems offers the Stride Academy game-based learning program, used in many Alabama school districts during and after school hours for fun and personalized learning.

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Students who have used Stride Academy during the 2014-15 school year do not have to register again and may continue to use their assigned log-in codes throughout the summer. LTS will provide a dedicated Parent Support Line for the Summer Learning Challenge. Parents can call 1-855-382-6528 for help with Stride Academy. **Teachers**, be sure to send those student log-in codes home with your students before the end of school!

**Resources:**

- ❖ **Summer Reading [Log](#) for Students**
- ❖ **Submit your Summer Reading Pledge beginning May 1:**  
<http://www.lexile.com/fab/alabama>
- ❖ **Print your own [Bookmark!](#)**
- ❖ **Print Posters and Flyers for your classroom and library!**
  - Summer [Math](#) Challenge 8.5x11 size
  - Summer [Math](#) Challenge 11x17 size
  - Summer Learning Challenge [Flyer](#)
- ❖ **Print the [FAQ Poster for Librarians](#)**
- ❖ **Print the [FAQ Poster for Parents](#)**
- ❖ **Print the [Alabama Summer Reading Program Certificate](#)**
- ❖ **Print the [Alabama Summer Math Challenge Certificate](#)**
- ❖ **Access all Alabama Public Libraries <http://www.publiclibraries.com/alabama.htm>.**  
Visit your public library for book lists and summer reading programs for kids of all ages.

We want all of our students to be successful in school and in future careers. The [Alabama Summer Learning Challenge](#) offers tools to help your students create a love of reading and math to help them be better prepared for a lifetime of success.



Please contact Meg Lowry ([mlowry@alsde.edu](mailto:mlowry@alsde.edu)) or Dede Coe ([dcoe1@alsde.edu](mailto:dcoe1@alsde.edu)) with questions on the reading elements of the Summer Learning Challenge or visit <http://alex.state.al.us/libmedia/>. Contact Malissa Valdes-Hubert at 334-242-9952 or [mvaldes@alsde.edu](mailto:mvaldes@alsde.edu) for questions regarding the online math exercises from Quantile or LTS.

SWP:MVH:DK

cc: LEA Librarians

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