



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Michael Sentance, J.D., LL.M.
State Superintendent of Education

May 1, 2017

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MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents
FROM: Michael Sentance *MS*
State Superintendent of Education
RE: Summer Learning Challenge – 2017

For Alabama’s students, the months away from school can result in a large loss of knowledge in reading, math, science, and other core subject matter. The Alabama Summer Learning Challenge raises awareness of the summer loss epidemic, shares research on the importance of personalized activities, and provides access to a variety of free resources to targeted summer learning.

In the short months before school ends, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) encourages all superintendents, principals, and educators to speak with students on the importance of learning during the summer months and to offer the free resources provided by Summer Learning Challenge partners.

This is the fifth year of the program, and we are happy to report a steady, increasing growth over the years. Thanks to our partners, Lexile and MetaMetrics, LTS Education, and Stride Academy, we can offer these FREE, exciting opportunities to students statewide all summer long!



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

- The Lexile-based “[Find a Book, Alabama](http://www.Lexile.com/fab/Alabama)” tool (www.Lexile.com/fab/Alabama) offers students over 260,000 books from which to choose. This book-search tool enables individuals to build custom reading lists based on their Lexile range and/or 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 May 1. We encourage all students to pledge to read.



- The Alabama Summer Learning Challenge also includes [a FREE email-based math skills program](#) for children who have completed 1st through 8th grades. Parents and other summer caregivers can begin registering for the program today. Starting Monday, June 19, 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 28, parents can print an award certificate to celebrate their child's summer accomplishment!
- This summer, [Stride](#) by [LTS Education Systems](#) is FREE to all students in the state from May 1 to July 30. 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 peer competitions to pass the lazy summer days. Students may access the [Stride](#) learning platform online anytime, 24-7, on tablets, PCs, and Macs.

Register and login at www.AlabamaSummerStride.com. LTS will provide a dedicated Parent Support Line for the Summer Learning Challenge. Parents can call in to 1-844-274-7474 for help with Stride.

We also encourage principals and teachers to inform students of reading opportunities and the ability to use computers at all Alabama public libraries. Locations and information can be found at <http://www.publiclibraries.com/alabama.htm>.

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Downloadable Materials for Students and Classrooms!

[Summer Reading Challenge Certificate](#)
[Summer Math Challenge Certificate](#)
[Summer Learning Challenge Bookmark](#)
[Summer Math Challenge Poster 8.5x11](#)
[Summer Math Challenge Poster 11x17](#)
[Parent Poster](#)
[Librarian Poster](#)

Please inform students of these summer learning opportunities as the year winds down so that they can register with their parents or caregivers and log on when summer kicks off! For more information, contact ALSDE Communications at 334-242-9950 or comm@alsde.edu.

MS:MVH:RS

cc: LEA Librarians

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