



Birmingham City Schools and Alagasco

Youth Leadership Academy

*A collaborative partnership between Alagasco and Birmingham City Schools
designed to develop, enhance, and expand high school students' leadership abilities*

Dr. Stan Mims

Superintendent
Birmingham City Schools
2015 Park Place
Birmingham, AL 35203

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**Birmingham City Schools
and
Alagasco**

**Youth Leadership Academy
Application Packet**

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Complete and Return by Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Send applications to:

*Dr. Elaine Hill, Executive Director
Birmingham City Schools
Department of Professional Development & Grants
Lane Professional Development Center*

Birmingham City Schools is committed to diversity. In that spirit, we strongly encourage the participation of students from ethnic minority group, and individuals with disabilities.



BIRMINGHAM
CITY-SCHOOLS

Department of Professional Development

Dr. Stan Mims
Superintendent

Elaine N. Hill, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Youth Leadership Academy

October 2006

TO: High School Freshman

FROM: Elaine N. Hill, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Professional Development & Grants

SUBJECT: **INVITATION TO APPLY FOR THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (YLA)**

Congratulations Class of 2010!

The Birmingham City Schools in partnership with Alagasco, have created an innovative program for ninth grade students who have demonstrated leadership capabilities in their communities and schools. You have the opportunity to be among the first group of students to participate in the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA). The four-year Academy will grow with you as you move through your high school career. Thirty-six students, four from each Birmingham City high school, will be selected to participate in the Academy.

Together you will develop skills to help you strengthen your leadership potential and identify your future goals. You will participate in multiple field trip experiences and travel throughout Birmingham and Alabama to visit and interact with community and state leaders. Weekend retreats and seminars will provide opportunities to explore current issues affecting Alabama, focus on leadership skills and team building, and view different forms of leadership.

Your parents will join you in this leadership opportunity by participating in similar seminars and interactive sessions twice a year. There is no cost to students or parents. All appropriate expenses will be paid by the Youth Leadership Academy, including lodging, food and materials.

All information in your application is strictly confidential and will only be shared with members of the YLA selection committee.

If you or your parents have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact Dr. Elaine Hill at 205-231-7641 or Mrs. Wendy Knight at 231-7645.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

STUDENT APPLICATION

Only ninth (9th) grade students eligible

Priority deadline for the application: December 5, 2006

- **Participants in the program are expected to commit to the program for the entire high school career.**
- **Be sure your application addresses the following criteria:**
 - Your leadership potential.
 - Your interest and/or involvement in community life.
 - Your ability to meet and work with new, diverse people.
 - GPA 2.5
- **Applications are weighted in these areas:**
 - Transcript 25%
 - View of ALABAMA (Part IV) and Essay (Part VIII) 55%
 - References 20%



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

STUDENT APPLICATION

Students in ninth grade during the 2006 – 2007 academic year.

Part I -- Student Information

Student's Name _____ *Ethnic Identity(optional)* _____

Home Address _____

City _____ *Zip* _____ *Circle one: Male / Female*

Home Phone _____ *Cell Phone* _____

Age _____ *Date of Birth (m/d/y)* _____

E-mail _____

Name of school _____ *School Phone* _____

Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Part II -- Current Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA on a 4.0 scale) _____

(Attach an **official** copy of your transcript)

Is this GPA weighted or unweighted? _____

(If you do not know, ask your counselor.)

Student Name: _____

Part III -- Your View of Alabama

Directions:

1. Beside each category, rank on a 4-point scale how you think Alabama is doing. (1 being low and 4 being high)
2. Write a short 1-2 sentence statement on why you rated the area as you did, and how you believe these areas could be improved in the future.
3. If you feel there was a category omitted, list it beside letter K.

a. Education 1 2 3 4 _____

b. Economy 1 2 3 4 _____

c. Physical environment 1 2 3 4 _____

d. Cultural environment 1 2 3 4 _____

e. Entertainment/recreation 1 2 3 4 _____

f. Health services 1 2 3 4 _____

g. Social services 1 2 3 4 _____

h. Safety 1 2 3 4 _____

i. Family 1 2 3 4 _____

j. Housing 1 2 3 4 _____

k. Other 1 2 3 4 _____

Part IV -- Essay

Write an essay of 300 words or less exploring as fully and as succinctly as possible the following governmental issue.

What does it mean to be an Alabamian?

- ✓ Your essay should include a **title page** consisting of **your name and school**.
- ✓ **Do not put your name on any pages of the essay.**
- ✓ Use a common typeface or font no smaller than **12 point**.
- ✓ Your essay will be rated using the following rubric.

Grading Criteria	Poor (1)	Below Average (2)	Average (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)
Clarity of Thought & Organization	The essay is unclear with no organization.	The main points of the essay are ambiguous.	Writing has minimal organization and a basic thesis statement.	Writing follows a logical organization, but sometimes drifts from the thesis.	Writing is clear, logical, and very organized around a developed thesis.
Support	The essay does not attempt to support a thesis.	The evidence provided does not support the thesis.	The use of evidence is minimal, but it does support the thesis.	There is evidence to support almost every point.	Every point is clearly supported by strong evidence.
Content Analysis	The essay does not attempt to explain how the content relates to the issue.	The analysis has not relation to the issue.	The analysis of the support stretches its meaning in an attempt to support the issue.	The analysis explains how the evidence supports the issue in most cases.	The analysis shows a strong relationship between the evidence and the issue.
Grammar/Punctuation	The essay has so many basic grammar errors and punctuation errors that the essay cannot be readily understood.	The essay has many basic grammar and punctuation errors but the meaning is somewhat clear.	The essay has a few major errors and multiple minor errors, but almost all sentences are clear and understandable.	The essay has few major errors. There may be multiple minor errors as long as they do not interfere with understanding	The essay has no major grammatical and punctuation errors and very few minor errors. Any minor errors do not interfere

For questions please contact:

*Dr. Elaine Hill
Executive Director
Professional Development
231-7641*

*Mrs. Wendy Knight
Program Specialist
Professional Development
231-7645*

Student Name: _____

Part V -- Adult Reference Form

Students: There are two pages to the reference form. Please be certain to copy both pages. Give the reference materials to two adults in your community who know you and can describe your capacity to serve as a participant in the Youth Leadership Academy. Have each adult return the reference form to you in a sealed envelope with your name printed on the front. Return your completed reference forms with your application.

Student name: _____

1. *Name of reference* _____

Title _____ *Phone (_____)* _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ *Zip* _____

E-mail _____

2. *How long and in what capacity have you known this applicant?*

3. *Please review the qualities listed below in relation to the nominated student. Could you document those qualities with examples, if asked? Please rate the student on those qualities, with 1 being low and 5 being high.*

Leadership Potential

<i>Independence of thought</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Initiative</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Ability to complete work independently</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Ability to persuade, guide others</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>

Continued on next page

Adult Reference Form - Continued

Student name: _____

Name of reference _____

Responsibility and maturity

<i>Plans well without direction</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Willing to take reasonable risks</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Sets own standards and sticks to them</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Responds well to pressure and stress</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Has a good sense of self; can view self as others see him or her, knows own strengths and weaknesses</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Demonstrates integrity</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Handles failure positively</i>	1	2	3	4	5

Organizational skills

<i>Able to create models for action</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Able to synthesize new and varied ideas</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Able to solve problems</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Can redirect plans to reduce barriers</i>	1	2	3	4	5

Interpersonal skills

<i>Communicates well orally and/or in writing (expressive/receptive/grammatically correct)</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Meets people easily</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Comfortable in large groups</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Comfortable in small groups</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Respects others</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Volunteers readily for long and short-term activities</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Deals successfully with conflict</i>	1	2	3	4	5

4. Please briefly describe what is unique about this student. How does this student stand out from other students?

Reference: Please return your reference form to the student in a sealed envelope with the student's name printed on the front.



Youth Leadership Academy

Commitment Agreement

The Leadership Academy involves a significant time commitment. You are expected to remain a participant in the academy throughout your entire high school career. You must attend all scheduled sessions and overnight retreats.

I would like to be considered for the Youth Leadership Academy for ninth grade high school students. I acknowledge receipt, understanding, and acceptance of the commitment agreement.

Signature of Applicant

Date

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend, if selected, the Youth Leadership Academy. I also assume responsibility for my son/daughter's conduct while participating in the leadership training activities. I acknowledge receipt, understanding, and acceptance of the commitment agreement. We support this application and believe he/she will fulfill the time commitment.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

FINAL CHECKLIST

Have you completed and enclosed each of the items listed below?

- Part I* *Student Information*
- Part II* *Include your school transcript* _____
Grades may be weighted in critical subjects (advanced English, social studies,
math, science, foreign language.) Find out if they are.
- Part III* *“Your View of Alabama”* _____
- Part IV* *Essay* _____
- Part V* *Two adult references from your school and/or community* _____
- Part VI* *Commitment Agreement* _____

*Please make **three copies** of all materials for submission.*

Please make sure that all necessary signatures are included.

*Thank you applying for the Birmingham City Schools and Alagasco
Youth Leadership Academy.*