### ESSA COMPONENTS PRESENT IN ALABAMA’S PLAN

#### Accountability Measures within School Quality/Success

- **Chronic absenteeism**: percent of students with 15 or more absences per year.

- **College and Career Readiness**: six indicators of college and career readiness currently utilized are achieving a benchmark score on the ACT, scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on an Advanced Placement exam/scoring a 4, 5, 6 or 7 on an International Baccalaureate exam, scoring silver level or above on ACT Work Keys, earning a transcripted college credit while still in high school, earning an Industry Credential, or being accepted for enlistment into any branch of the military.

#### School Improvement

Alabama created the Office of School Improvement and Turnaround (OSIT) in the Division of Teaching and Learning. The structure will allow for differentiated and tiered support and intervention for every school receiving Title I, Part A funds within the state based on multiple performance levels beginning 2018-2019. (pg. 27).

Title I public schools with a graduation rate 10% below the state average will be identified as comprehensive support school. The OSIT has identified a number of evidence-based practices to increase graduation rate. Those related to health and wellness include:

- Focus on attendance data.
- Create a culture in high schools where every adult embraces and shares a collective responsibility for the academic success of all students, not just their individual students.
- Foster supportive relationships to ease the transition from middle grades to high school.
- Assess and refine disciplinary practices. (pg. 28).

To address school culture, student behavior and discipline in fractions, Alabama will address the following goals (selection):

- Design and implement alternatives to in-school and out-of-school suspensions.
  - Create restorative justice practices.
  - Project Creating Effective School Climates and Cultures (CESCC)-work with LEAs and Parent and Information Centers to provide professional development to general and special education teachers and staff who work with students with disabilities.
  - Train LEAs on Positive Behavior Supports philosophy (PBIS)
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<th>ESSA COMPONENTS</th>
<th>PRESENT IN ALABAMA’S PLAN</th>
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| School Improvement (cont.) | - Identify and promote activities to address bullying and other negative behaviors. Provide a safe and secure school structure that facilitates learning.  
  - Improve attendance and reduce truancies:  
    - Participate in School Attendance Awareness Month; National effort conducted by Attendance Works.  
    - Discover the latest research on chronic absences  
    - Glean strategies and tools to address chronic absences.  
    - Identify opportunities to implement what is learned.  
    - Reduce the number of students ranking as chronically absent or truant. |
| Professional Development | The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will use Title II, Part A state-level activities funds to support the continuous improvement of world class educators. Activities directed for usage with Title II funds will support building capacity and sustainability to improve student achievement by providing resources that focus on delivering high-quality professional learning to educators across the state. (pg. 41).  
  Alabama does not intend to use Title II, Part A state-level funds to improve equitable access to effective teachers; however Alabama promotes equitable access to effective teachers, principals and leaders through the leveraging of other Federal, State, and local funding. (pg. 44). |
| Well-Rounded Education | The ALSDE will use Title IV, Part A, Subpart 1 state-level funds to support activities to address behaviors identified through the ALSDE’s data collection sources such as Attendance Reports, School Safety Reports, Student Health Reports and Students Incident Reports (discipline). Examples of state activities include (but are not limited to):  
  - Promoting parent and community involvement.  
  - Providing school-based mental health services and counseling.  
  - Promoting supportive school climates to reduce the use of exclusionary discipline and promoting supportive school discipline.  
  - Identifying and utilizing strategies to address chronic absenteeism.  
  - Implementing programs that support a healthy, active lifestyle (nutritional and physical education).  
  - Implementing systems and practices to prevent bullying and harassment.  
  - Developing relationship-building skills to help improve safety through the recognition and prevention of coercion, violence, or abuse.  
  - Establishing community partnerships. (pg. 51).  
  The SEA reserves 5% for administration and state-level activities. State-level activity funds will be used for the Auburn University Truman-Pierce Institute contract. The state-level activity funds will also be used for salaries and benefits for four Technical Advisors who provide statewide technical assistance to grantees. (pg. 51). |
**Reasons to Cheer!**

- Promoting healthy and safe students is included in the long-term goal for improved academic achievement.
- The plan to address chronic absenteeism includes investigating the most current research and best practices around attendance, and participating in national events through Attendance Works.
- Most of the state level activities listed for use under Title IV, Part A are consistent with best practices to support the whole child, including supports for health (physical and emotional), school climate and partnership.

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**Opportunities for Improvement**

- The state activities listed under Title IV Part A could be strategically organized within the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model. The WSCC Model offers one framework to connect a wide array of policies, processes and programs to support education of the whole child.¹

- Include high-quality professional development for all educators, including health, physical education, school nurses, counselors and psychologists as a part of Title II.

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**Alabama Education Website**

Public input is closed.

For technical assistance/support contact Dr. Kymm Ballard, a proud partner with Cairn Guidance on this project ncpe4kids@gmail.com

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