

We support the Local Control School Flexibility Act!

Joint Statement on House Bill 84 and Senate Bill 54 | February 2013

A broad coalition, which includes the Alabama Association of School Boards, Alabama Association of School Business Officials, Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools, School Superintendents of Alabama, A+ Education Partnership and the Business Council of Alabama, along with State Superintendent Dr. Tommy Bice, supports a policy environment that recognizes and rewards innovation and creativity to strategically meet the diverse needs of Alabama's public school students. Meeting all students' diverse educational needs is important to strengthening economic opportunity for Alabama's workforce.

The Local Control School Flexibility Act (House Bill 84 and Senate Bill 54) is building upon the State Board of Education's exciting Plan 2020 that is underway in Alabama's K-12 schools. The State Board allows local schools to request relief from rules and regulations through its innovative schools program. This Act is a natural extension allowing local school systems to request relief from certain state statutes in exchange for greater accountability.

The Act specifically safeguards employees' protections earned under tenure, the minimum state salary schedule, civil rights, and health and safety regulations. For any local innovation plan proposal, the bill requires public scrutiny through a strict approval process. A local superintendent must recommend, and a local school board must approve, a flexibility proposal. The proposal process requires an opportunity for extensive community input. And, proposals must include identified student performance goals and increased accountability measures to justify waiving specific statutes or regulations. Proposals must be submitted to the State Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education. The flexibility proposals must include annual accountability measures and five-year performance targets. Additionally, the flexibility contracts are subject to periodic review and revocation by the State Department of Education.

The Local Control School Flexibility Act is a critical step in furthering Alabama's momentum in education and advancing achievement for all students.

Alabama Association of School Boards

Sally Howell, J.D.
Executive Director
800-562-0601

School Superintendents of Alabama

Dr. Eric Mackey
Executive Director
334-262-0014

Alabama Association of School Business Officials

David Smith
Executive Director
256-585-1511

A+ Education Partnership

Caroline Novak
President
334-279-1886

Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools

L. Earl Franks, CAE
Executive Director
800-239-3616

Business Council of Alabama

William J. Canary
President and CEO
334-585-1511

Alabama State Superintendent

Dr. Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent
334-242-9700

