



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Larry E. Craven, J.D.
 Interim State Superintendent of
 Education

October 6, 2011

Alabama
 State Board
 of Education

Governor
 Robert Bentley
 President

Randy McKinney, J.D.
 District I
 Vice President

Betty Peters
 District II

Stephanie Bell
 District III

Yvette M.
 Richardson, Ed.D.
 District IV

Ella B. Bell
 District V

Charles E. Elliott, M.D.
 District VI

Gary Warren
 District VII
 President Pro Tem

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
 District VIII

Larry E. Craven, J.D.
 Interim Secretary and
 Executive Officer

Dear Students and Parents:

Confusion and fear have spread through communities regarding Section 28 of Alabama's new immigration law. We want you to know that Alabama's public schools welcome all children regardless of their race or ethnic background, birthplace, or birthplace of parents, and we are committed to all students and parents to provide a safe and civil environment in which students can pursue their education.

The law requires that all students enrolling in Alabama public schools on or after September 29, 2011, present an original or certified copy of their birth certificate in order to complete the enrollment process. Regardless of whether the enrolling student has an original or certified copy of his or her birth certificate, the student will be enrolled and receive full participation in all programs offered by your school. The information that we are required to collect under the act will not be used to individually identify anyone. The information will be used to report statistical data to the Alabama Legislature.

This new law does not apply to any student enrolled in an Alabama public school before September 29, 2011. Once a student is enrolled in any school district in Alabama, he or she is always enrolled unless he or she moves out of state or withdraws. We would like to remind all parents and students that according to the mandatory attendance law of Alabama, all students between the ages of 7 and 17 must be enrolled in school. We encourage all students to stay enrolled and attend school. We are committed to a quality education for all.

Larry E. Craven, J.D.
 Interim State Superintendent of Education