



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

April 24, 2019


Governor Kay Ivey
President

MEMORANDUM

Jackie Zeigler
District I

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Tracie West
District II

FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education

Stephanie Bell
District III

RE: 2019 FOCUS Rally Events

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pleased to announce the opportunity for middle and high school students to participate in one of two FOCUS rallies in 2019. FOCUS is a youth-led program seeking to promote community and school involvement in the planning of prevention of high-risk behaviors.

Ella B. Bell
District V

The ALSDE, in collaboration with FOCUS and selected community partners, will hold two rallies this year. The first rally will be held on September 10, 2019, at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The second rally will be held on September 18, 2019, at the Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, Alabama.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI
Vice President

The FOCUS Rallies will feature a keynote address by a nationally known youth speaker. In addition to breakout sessions for Grades 9-12, there will be middle school breakout sessions for age-appropriate presentations by outstanding high school peer helpers and adults. Key breakout session topics will address the importance of building relationships, vaping, underage drinking, opiate epidemic, common mental health issues among adolescents, HIV/STIs, Internet safety, Homeland Security's "See Something Say Something," and teen pregnancy.

Jeff Newman
District VII
President Pro Tem

Further details regarding the agenda, presenters, and registration are located online at www.thefocusprogram.com. Educators may receive professional development credit by registering at <https://pdweb.alsde.edu>. The PD Title Number is **SDECT0191** for both rallies. Social Work CEUs will be provided by the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners.

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

Questions regarding these events may be directed to Mrs. Sue Jones, FOCUS Director, by telephone at 256-453-0655 or by email at sjones@thefocusprogram.com or Mrs. Wanda Langley, Education Specialist, by telephone at 334-694-4877 or by email at wlangley@alsde.edu.

EGM/SJS/LTE

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