

Governor's Commission on Quality Teaching Mission, Vision, and Goals

Mission

The Governor's Commission on Quality Teaching commenced work on January 17, 2006 to examine, recommend, and work to implement laws, policies, and practices affecting teachers and teaching effectiveness to ensure student success in Alabama's public schools. The Commission shall promote the aggressive recruitment, preparation, support, retention, and growth of quality teachers in order to raise student achievement in Alabama.

The Governor's Commission on Quality Teaching will pave new professional pathways for Alabama's teachers. The Commission will set the highest standards as it conducts the challenging work of establishing bold, yet achievable, recommendations and will work toward their implementation over a five-year period. Transforming an entire profession requires a vision that creates common focus and energizes all stakeholder groups to work diligently toward its realization.

Vision

In carrying out its mission, the Commission envisions a system of public education where every student in every community across the state actively engages in learning led by highly qualified teachers who meet the Alabama Quality Teaching Standards;

We envision a profession whose members are committed to the learning and achievement of all students and to their own continuous learning and improvement;

We envision a profession defined by a research-based body of knowledge about teaching and learning, an identifiable set of skills and exemplary practices, and a clear set of ethical standards that guide the clinical practice of teaching and the interaction of teachers with students, parents, colleagues, and members of the broader community;

We envision a profession in which there is close cooperation between institutions of higher education and K-12 schools in the aggressive recruitment, selection, and preparation of promising candidates for admission;

We envision a profession in which universities are held accountable for offering exemplary preparation programs that provide teaching candidates with a deep understanding of subject matter content and pedagogy and in which field experiences in a variety of partner schools afford rich opportunities for further development of knowledge, skills, and dispositions under high quality clinical supervision;

We envision a profession in which colleges of education and K-12 schools collaborate in the selection and preparation of highly skilled, master teachers who hold appropriate

appointments in the college of education and who partner with university faculty in the supervision of teacher candidates;

We envision a profession in which there is widespread confidence in tiered certification that recognizes increasing levels of both expertise and effectiveness and that holds teachers to the highest levels of preparation and practice, while providing multiple avenues of access to all capable candidates;

We envision a profession in which each new teacher engages in a well-designed induction experience led by master teachers who provide intensive support and assistance;

We envision a profession that promotes the continuous professional development of its teachers along a pathway of increasing opportunity, expertise, and responsibility after they enter the classroom and that nurtures collaborative and job-embedded learning driven by analysis of student data;

We envision a profession where teachers are compensated fairly and where professional advancement is based on increasing competence and effective practice rather than only upon seniority;

We envision a profession that nurtures and sustains its members' service over a long-term career by providing safe and state-of-the-art working conditions, a healthy and stimulating work culture, and intrinsic and extrinsic rewards that increase over time; and finally,

We envision a profession in which teachers are held to the highest ethical standards of professional practice in meeting the unique needs of every student.

Commission Goals for Alabama

1. To improve the academic achievement of all students in the public schools by aligning teacher practice and professional learning with the *Alabama Quality Teaching Standards*.
2. To provide highly-effective teachers through aggressive recruitment and experientially-based preparation.
3. To retain and reward high-quality teachers by creating professional pathways with incentives for continuous professional learning and career advancement along multiple routes.