

**ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
2008 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
THE ALABAMA COLLEGE SYSTEM**

The Alabama State Board of Education is the body charged by the *Constitution* of the State of Alabama to exercise governance, authority, direction, and control over the Alabama College System. The Alabama State Board of Education is responsible to the citizens of the state to ensure, through the Alabama College System, accessible quality educational opportunities, economic growth, and an enhanced quality of life. To these ends, the State Board of Education is responsible for developing and promoting a legislative program addressing certain issues which relate to its responsibilities as a governing board, to its efforts to ensure access and quality in postsecondary education, to economic growth, and to the enhancement of the quality of life for Alabama's citizens. Consequently, the Alabama State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Legislative Committee of the Alabama College System Presidents' Association and the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, submits the following items as the collective components of its legislative program for the Alabama College System and as the expressed intent and stated legislative purpose of the Board for the 2008 Legislative Session.

- (I) ***Budget Request for the Alabama College System.*** The proposed budget for The Alabama College System includes community and technical colleges, Athens State University, the Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute, Alabama Technology Network, the CITY Program, Adult Education and the Department of Postsecondary Education. The State Board of Education adopts the budget requests annually, and these are submitted to the State Finance Department, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, and the Legislature. The Budget Request adopted by the Board for the 2008-2009 fiscal year on December 13, 2007 requests Education Trust Fund dollars of \$517.7 million for System operations, \$30.1 million for capital needs and \$6.6 million for deferred maintenance.
- (II) ***Private School Licensure.*** Code Section 16-46-1 through 10 assigns the licensure of postsecondary private schools to the Department of Postsecondary Education. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education has indicated that it may be the more appropriate agency to consider these license requests. Reassignment of the administration for the licensure of these schools to ACHE would remove conflicts of interest with many instructional programs offered in the Alabama College System.
- (III) ***Separation from Alabama Fire College.*** Under existing law, the employment of an executive director, assistants to the executive director, and clerical assistants for the Alabama Fire College is subject to final approval of the president of Shelton State Community College. This bill would establish that the Alabama Fire College is under the general supervision and control of the Alabama Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission and not subject to oversight by the Department of Postsecondary Education or the State Board of Education.