



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Michael Sentance, J.D., LL.M.
State Superintendent of Education

September 8, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Michael Sentance *MS*
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA) Annual Conference

The Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA) Annual Conference will be held in Mobile at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, the Renaissance Battle House Hotel and Mobile Convention Center on November 15-17, 2017. As always, the ALCA annual conference will provide professional development for school counselors and offer information on current counseling issues. New counselors may attend the ALCA conference to meet the training requirement expected as part of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Counselor Academy.

The theme of this year's conference is "Back to Life." The keynote speaker is Joe Sanok, a licensed professional counselor, consultant, and podcaster. He will deliver his insights on "How to Create 'AHA' Moments That Inspire You and Your Clients." Dr. Mary Fukuyama, counselor, supervisor, teacher, and trainer at the University of Florida's Counseling and Wellness Center, will guide our members as she speaks on "Counselor Know Thyself," and noted author, inspirational speaker, and consultant, Craig Boykin, will speak regarding "Making Life Count GED to Ph.D." In addition, there will be approximately 100 content sessions on topics of concerns and needs of your counselors plus numerous networking opportunities.

The ALCA is mailing registration packets to counselors who are members of the association. Others may obtain packets by going to www.alabamacounseling.org and clicking on "Annual Conference" or by contacting Dr. Chip Wood with the ALCA at 1-888-655-5460, 205-652-1712, or alca@alabamacounseling.org.

We must always be prudent with our time and resources. However, I encourage you to support the attendance of your counseling coordinators, counselors, and other school-based mental health professionals. The conference is inexpensive and will provide an excellent opportunity for professional development activities for your counselors and will assist counseling coordinators to re-conceptualize their local comprehensive counseling and guidance program.

MS:SS

- cc: City and County Counseling Coordinators
School Counselors
School Principals
School Social Workers
School Psychologists
Dr. Barbara J. Cooper
Mrs. Shanthia Washington
Mr. Sean J. Stevens
Mrs. Crystal Richardson
Dr. Marilyn Lewis

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