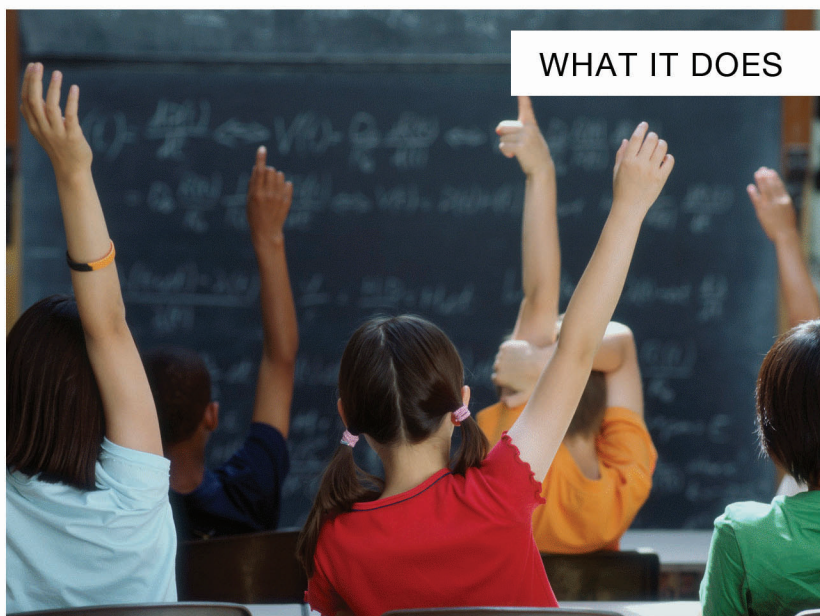
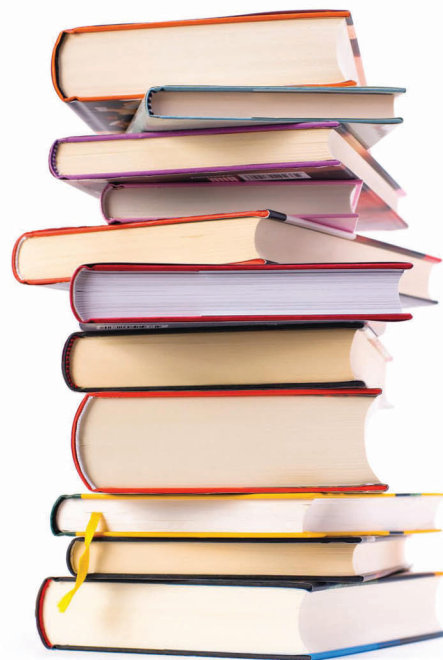


Alabama Accountability Act 2013

On Thursday, February 28, Republicans in the Alabama House and Senate passed historic education reform that will help ensure every child in Alabama, no matter their zip code or station in life, has access to a quality education.

The Alabama Accountability Act of 2013 gives true local control to school systems and provides the opportunity to implement reforms and innovations that are needed to improve education for their students. Not only will schools and school systems have the opportunity to innovate and make the best possible decisions for their students, parents now have the ability to make the decision on how to best educate their children.



WHAT IT DOES

Local Control

Allows schools and school districts to enter into flexibility contracts with the State Board of Education.

Parental Choice

Gives families with students in a failing school the opportunity to receive an income tax credit to offset the cost of transferring a student to a non-failing public school or private school.

Scholarships for those in need

Provides tax credits to individuals or businesses who donate to nonprofit scholarship programs so low-income families can send their students to a non-failing school.

DEFINITION OF A FAILING SCHOOL

A failing school in Alabama falls into one of the following five categories:

- Labeled as “persistently low-performing” on Alabama’s School Improvement Grant Application
- In the lowest 10% on the state standardized reading and math assessment
- Received 3 consecutive “D” grades on the statewide school grading scale
- Received an “F” grade on the statewide school grading scale
- Designated as failing by the State Superintendent of Education

DO I QUALIFY?

Any parent whose child is in a failing school has the opportunity to receive an income tax credit to help their child get a better education.

The tax credit will be capped at the lesser of the actual cost of attending the chosen school or 80% of the average annual state cost of attendance for a public school.

Families whose income does not exceed 150% of the median household income are eligible for a scholarship.

Businesses who donate will get an income tax credit equal to 50% of their donation, up to 50% of their tax liability. Individual donors will get an income tax credit equal to 100% of their donation, up to 50% of their tax liability.



WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

The Heritage Foundation calls the Alabama Accountability Act a “Historic School Choice Plan”

“With enactment of the Alabama Accountability Act, Alabama has made a large and vitally important step in improving the lives and educations of its young men and women in failing schools.”

– **Alabama Policy Institute**

AL.com calls the legislation “the most radical education reform in decades”

“Alabama’s scholarship tax credit program will expand educational options for those most in need.”

– **CATO Institute**

For more information on the Alabama Accountability Act, please visit

alhousegop.com/accountability