

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<b>Advanced Placement (AP)</b>	Yes	The number of students who take AP courses has increased in the past few years.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-achieving students</li> <li>• Low-income students</li> </ul>	Yes	Federal funds are used to provide fee waivers for exams; however, AP is mostly supported by local funds.
<b>Bridge Programs</b>	Yes	The University of Alabama at Birmingham bridge program focusing on science and medicine.	Yes	Racial and ethnic minority students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African American students</li> <li>• American Indian/Alaska and Native/Native Hawaiian students</li> <li>• Latino(a) students</li> </ul>	DK	No details known or available
<b>Career Academies</b>	Yes	9 career academies	Yes	Racial and ethnic minority students	Yes	State funding
<b>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</b>	Yes	Recognized way of awarding credit for academic transfer courses through Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), meaning mastery of course competencies through employment, training, and other experiences	Yes	CLEP exams are free for both National Guard members and their spouses.	No	Each college submits its policies, procedures, and other applicable materials for Chancellor's review and approval.
<b><u>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</u></b>	Yes	The Alabama Online High School (AOHS) is based at the University of Alabama.	Yes	Rural students	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Board regulation</li> <li>• Collaboration between Alabama Department of Education and Alabama Online High School</li> </ul>
<b>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</b>	Yes	Institutions within the Alabama College System are authorized to establish dual enrollment and dual credit programs with local boards of education in the college service area.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For students who have limited course offerings in their schools</li> <li>• Home schooled students</li> </ul>	Yes	State board regulations
<b>Early or Middle College High Schools</b>	No		No		No	

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<a href="#"><u>GED in College Settings</u></a>	Yes	The first state in the nation to offer online GED preparation via the Internet with the program GED Integrated Online Solutions	Yes	Low-achieving students	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State policy</li> <li>• The Chancellor, Department of Postsecondary Education may award a State of Alabama High School Equivalency Diploma</li> </ul>
<b>International Baccalaureate (IB)</b>	Yes	5 high schools participating	DK	No details known or available	No	
<a href="#"><u>Tech Prep</u></a>	Yes	Helps high school students earn college credit through content enhanced articulated courses and dual credit	Yes	Racial and ethnic minority students	Yes	Federal Perkins funds

### Summary of academic pathways:

Alabama has placed priority on providing access to dual credit courses through distance learning to make sure that geographical barriers do not keep students from progressing academically. The state reports 58.1% of students in Alabama's class of 2004 enrolled in colleges compared to the national average of 56.8%.

### Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- Career academies that focus on fine arts, math and science
- Career-technical education (CTE) curriculum partnerships

### Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Efforts are largely directed to increasing the availability of college level courses via distance learning to students who do not have access to these opportunities. Plus, Alabama participates in a national program to increase the number of low-income and racial minority students taking AP courses and exams.

### Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

State Board regulations are in place to provide direction for dual credit and distance learning initiatives.



## ALABAMA

## State Profile

### Lessons learned by state officials:

- Dual credit/dual enrollment may be helping more students to enter college.
- High levels of cooperation are required for academic pathways to succeed, especially for career-technical education (CTE) programs.
- It is challenging to maintain high quality while also meeting state standards.

### Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Career Technical Pathways	Alabama Dept. of Education	Nancy Bigg	--	(334) 242-9111
Distance Learning/Virtual School	University of Alabama	Melinda Mattox	--	205-348-2647

### State official's contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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(Prepared by Elisabeth Barnett and Eunyoung Kim/ Updated December, 2004 / \*State official reviewed this state profile.)