

2018 Prayer Guide

Pray Alabama

21 Days of Prayer for Alabama Schools

WEEK 2: ACADEMICS & CHARACTER - Excelling in Studies and Growing in Values

(Monday, August 20 – Sunday, August 26)

Day 8 – Excelling in Academics 2018

Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her ...

*I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.
With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity...*
(Prov. 8: 10-12)

Unfortunately, Alabama's graduation rate of 80% is well below the national average of 84%. One study estimates that only 60% of Alabama students finish high school and will cost the state \$6.7 billion over their lifetime.

Prayer: Father, thank you for every step of progress in our schools and for those who work tirelessly towards improving them. **We pray Proverbs 8:1-21 over our students.**

We pray for every student in our public, private, and home schools and we ask that **You would pour out a love of learning and a hunger for knowledge and ignite their drive for academic success. Give them a deep desire to seek godly wisdom and its blessings.**

We ask that our students would treasure learning above silver or gold, as Your Word says; let them value their education and **be so motivated that they would let nothing stand in their way of graduating!** May they be lifelong learners who excel in their respective fields.

We pray our classrooms would come alive with an excitement for learning, and that apathy, disinterest, discouragement, and all disruptions be removed, in Jesus' name.

Proverbs 8:18 says that with wisdom comes "*riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity*" and we know the economic growth of Alabama is directly tied to a well-educated workforce.

We ask for fresh, innovative solutions from heaven at both the state and local level in how to raise our graduation rates! Please do an undeniable miracle: turn a state ranked near the bottom into one that leads the way for the nation. May Alabama indeed be the "brightest star in the union" in education, in Jesus' name!

Day 9 – Struggling Students, Struggling Schools 2018

*Say no to wrong. Learn to do good. Work for justice. **Help the down-and-out.**
Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless. (Isaiah 1:17 Message)*

God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. (2 Cor 9:8 Message)

While Alabama is home to many schools ranked in the U.S. News' Best High Schools report, many other schools are overwhelmed with helping students who lag behind and require a tremendous amount of help due to their home circumstances, such as poverty or being refugees from different parts of the world. A large percentage of these students have never been in a school and are illiterate in their own languages.

According to the 2014 data by the US Census, **Alabama, has the fourth highest level of households living at or below poverty level.**

Despite challenges, there are examples of dramatic turnarounds, such as the Winterboro High School in Alpine that went from a 63% graduation rate in the 2008 to 90% in 2014!

"Vision is the #1 predictor of success in school. It's much more predictive than test scores."
-John Huppenthal

Prayer: Your Word tells us that without a vision people perish (Prov 29:18). Lord, we pray for VISION for administrators, principals, teachers, parents and students! **Give them Your vision of what their schools can become** and stir their faith and hope to action. Let them see that NOTHING is impossible with God, no matter how bad the situation!

Father of Light, we ask You to plant a **vision within our students to see academic success** as a real possibility in their lives. Give them a vision to overcome the challenges they live with.

We pray for **mentors and tutors** to come alongside each one who is struggling and give them the educational support and vital encouragement needed to finish their schooling.

Please **open the windows of heaven over our struggling schools:** for finances and good staff, that they would receive a blessing they can't contain! Lord, we ask that You would be glorified when their needs are supernaturally met.

Help our students who are struggling – whether with **learning disabilities or with troubled families** or anything else that would hinder them. We pray that You would **restore their confidence and motivation**, that failures and setbacks would not discourage them. And we ask that You would release the specialized teachers these students need.

Encourage all who feel like giving up to press through to victory, we pray, in Jesus' name.

Day 10 – Creativity in the Arts & Innovation in Technology 2018

“See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. (Exodus 31:2 -5)

*I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out **knowledge of ingenious inventions.***
(Prov. 8:12 Webster’s Bible Translation)

Prayer: Thank you that all true creativity comes from You... and that the first mention of being “filled with the Spirit” in the Bible is for the purpose of a supernatural gifting in the arts!

May a new spirit of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship come upon the young people of Alabama. We pray for our young artists, dancers, musicians, actors, graphic designers, filmmakers, and writers. We bless their creativity in Jesus’ name and we ask that You would cause these gifts to flourish during this crucial time in their lives.

Father, we are praying that You would **do something extraordinary in Alabama among our young artists and performers!** We are believing that in this coming year we will hear of students from our state winning national and international awards and competitions and being given a place on the world’s stage through their films, books, performances, and art!

May new sources of funding for the arts in our schools and universities be released this year and would You **raise up Christians with a love for the arts who would invest in the next generation in Alabama** – both financially and also as coaches, professors and teachers.

We fervently pray over **the performing and visual art departments in our schools and universities.** For those that may have become magnets for darkness by celebrating and exploring the worst parts of culture and the human psyche, we ask that You would cleanse and restore our art departments to be centers of life, creativity, healing and beauty.

We pray for **our young engineers and those with a passion for technology.** We claim and agree with Your prophetic promise that Alabama is going to be blessed with intellectual property and that this will be a gateway to prosperity!

We lift up **those who are involved in pioneering research in our universities,** give them cutting edge breakthroughs in their work, we pray. Let Alabama become known as a new hub of innovation excellence with a **deep pool of scientific and technical talent that attracts high-tech companies with high paying jobs to our state.**

We pray for more Christian students with a vision to glorify You in the arts, technology, and research. We pray that **You would give them dreams and visions with fresh, creative ideas and breakthrough solutions** – and may Your favor cause them to be promoted to **places of influence within their spheres!**

Day 11 – Homeschools & Private Christian Schools 2018

God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. (Daniel 1:17, NLT)

Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, ... For he was wiser than all men... (1 Kings 4:29-31)

You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim 3:15, NLT)

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for every private Christian school, college, preschool, and every godly homeschool in Alabama. **Thank you for the parents, teachers, and families who are hard at work educating the next generation** in excellence and with a biblical worldview.

As You did for Solomon or for Daniel, give our Christian students maturity beyond their years and a **supernatural ability to learn and to excel academically**, above and beyond the norm.

We invite Your Manifest Presence to come to these classrooms and homes and ask for a great move of God among these students, parents, and teachers! May true revival come to our Christian schools with a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit that would impact every family.

We ask for a great financial blessing to come to each of these and pray that You would reward and bless them for their commitment and sacrifice: whether it's a significantly smaller paycheck as a teacher in a Christian school, or paying tuition fees as a student, or the loss of income from the parent who stays home to teach.

Many of our Christian schools and colleges face financial challenges and we ask for dramatic financial breakthroughs for each of them! **Protect these institutions from anti-Christian lawsuits and negative press designed to pressure them into compromising their stand** for the gospel and righteousness. We pray for their governing boards to make decisions in the fear of the Lord and with great wisdom and that You would guide them in the days ahead.

Father, we fervently cry out to You for every Christian student in Alabama, no matter their school or age! We ask that even our youngest Christian children would be **taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood**, as Your Word says; that our young people would have a deep understanding of the Bible. Send them teachers and pastors who can **impart a coherent and intelligent biblical worldview to them** and disciple them into mature believers.

We pray for a great turnaround in the statistic that 70-75% of Christian youth leave the church after high school! Please would You intervene in our young people's lives and break this cycle; bring the answers to parents, churches and Christian schools! In Jesus' name.

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. (John 17: 15)

Day 12 – Student Health: Physical, Emotional and Spiritual 2018

Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. (3 John 1:2)

*Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit... **honor God with your bodies.** (1 Cor 6:19-20)*

The youth of Alabama face a health crisis of epic proportions:

Obesity: the obesity rate in our state has doubled over the last 15 years. Obesity can create a host of lifelong diseases, including Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, among others.

Drugs: Alabama high-schoolers rank the third highest in the nation of students claiming to have used heroin at 5.3% and the third highest of students claiming to use of meth at 6.2%!

Alcohol: About 1 in 7 teens binge drinks, yet only 1 in 100 believe their child binge drinks.

Sex and STDs: One study of U.S. high school students found that 33.7% had sex during the previous 3 months. A report from the Alabama Department of Public Health reported 12,095 cases of STDs in the 10–19 year old age group (2014).

Teen Pregnancy: While Alabama has thankfully seen a decrease in teen pregnancy over the past five years, we are still the 15th highest in the nation.

Violence: Violence is prevalent with fighting breaking out daily in some schools. One out of every four students report being bullied during the school year. 64% don't report.

Depression: 34% of Alabama students (9-12th grade) exhibit signs of sadness or hopelessness.

Prayer: Father, we pray for the physical health, well-being, and safety of Alabama's students! Most of these problems have a moral and spiritual root cause. Raise up those who can effectively disciple our youth in godly lifestyles and practical wisdom. Parents are the front line of defense and we ask that You would touch the families of Alabama. Transform the health of entire households, starting with the parents and filtering down to the students!

Please inspire a real change in eating and exercise habits; give wisdom to those who run school meal programs and help our students be nourished with wholesome food, we pray.

We pray for an end to the pervasive drug culture in our schools. Please protect our children and young people from getting involved in gangs, drugs, sex and other destructive activities. We ask that You would reveal the dealers, and dry up supply and we pray for Your deliverance for those students struggling with depression, alcohol, drugs, or pornography. **We declare that by the power of Jesus Christ our campuses are a suicide, drug, and promiscuity free zone!** Spirits of death, depression, oppression, and hopelessness have no place on this campus, in Jesus' Name.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. (Col 1:13).

Day 13 – Positive Classrooms & Godly Values: Peace, Safety, and Respect 2018

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them" (Eccl. 12:1)

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.** (Philippians 2:3)*

***For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit** (Rom 14:17)*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we invite You to every classroom in Alabama and **ask for a spirit of peace, respect, and excellence to prevail in both students and teachers.** We pray that students will have the desire and discipline to learn; and we ask for an environment that is conducive to learning and creativity, inquiry and critical thinking.

We declare these powerful scriptures over our schools – **and ask for You to literally shift the atmosphere to one that reflects Your Kingdom, with righteousness, peace and joy!**

We cry out to You, Lord, to **guard our students from any harm;** physical, mental or spiritual. We speak boldly against thoughts, plans and intents to harm our children on our campuses, as they travel to and from school, and during all of their classroom and extracurricular activities.

Father, we pray for our **police and school security** to be specially anointed to guard our schools. Give them eyes to see anything that is wrong and warn them of any plan of the enemy.

We declare that there will be no shootings, no bombings, and no harassing threats against our students and our schools throughout this school year!

We pray against bullying in all forms, declaring this domineering, vindictive, mocking, and accusing evil practice and the spirit behind it be **banished from our schools,** in Jesus' name!

We pray that there would be a change in the culture that feeds this maliciousness. **As part of that culture-change, we ask that You would make Your people shine!** Let Christians be known as courageous student champions who defend victims and can bring healing and peace into a situation.

We also pray that You would defend Christian students and teachers from those who would seek to bully, intimidate or silence them. We ask that You would raise up many who are not ashamed of the gospel and who will exercise their rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion with boldness and graciousness.

Raise up strong and godly leadership among Christian groups and campus clubs we pray and help them minister effectively to those around them. **As the gospel advances on campuses, may the culture shift to one of love, respect, joy and peace, we pray.**

Day 14 – Excellence and Truth in Curricula 2018

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. (Rom 1:16)

Be careful not to let anyone rob you of this faith through a shallow and misleading philosophy. Such a person follows human traditions and the world's way of doing things rather than following Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

“The education of youth should be watched with the most scrupulous attention. . . [It] lays the foundations on which both law and gospel rest for success.”

-Noah Webster, well-known American educator

Prayer: Lord, shine your light upon our school and drive out all darkness, spiritual blindness, perversion of truth, and hostility toward You and Your truth, we pray.

From our universities to our preschools, we pray for excellent curricula and programs that would make our students competitive in their career field and prepare them for life. We pray that in every subject that truth would be the foundation of what is taught.

We pray that all attempts to use curricula in our schools as a way to disciple our young people in humanism and other godless ideologies would be stopped.

Please would You **raise up godly men and women to be on textbook selection committees** for every school district in Alabama.

We ask for teachers and school boards to select curriculum that preserves our godly heritage as a nation. We pray for the **selection of textbooks that present biblically-based values to students** that will help guide them down a path that leads to blessings.

Father, we ask that You lead and guide those in positions of decision-making in our schools to set fair policies that **protect the rights of our teachers and students to openly present their biblical points of view** in an open, fair and non-threatening manner.

Lord Jesus, when teachers and students are confronted with subject matter that goes against their biblical worldview, we call upon You to give them the right words to speak with wisdom, strength and gentleness of heart.

Please root out the anti-American bias and historical revisionism that has crept into so many classrooms and replace it with good citizenship and Judeo-Christian values. **Raise up watchmen and gatekeepers for truth** and excellence in our schools who would guard over what is taught to our young people! Amen.

Coming in Week 3: Student's Support System (Available August 26)

Please encourage other watchmen by sharing your prayers and comments on our [FaceBook page](#). Email photos to info@prayalabama.org.

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