

2018 Prayer Guide

Pray Alabama

21 Days of Prayer for Alabama Schools

WEEK 3: STUDENT'S SUPPORT SYSTEM (Families, Teachers, Mentors, Administrators)

(Monday, August 27 – Sunday, September 2)

Day 15 – School Boards: A Powerful Influence That Shapes Our Schools 2018

Studies show that local school boards play a critical role in the success of their district's schools. They have tremendous authority to make decisions at a local level including:

- Planning for the schools in their community, setting goals, and establishing policies
- **Approving curriculum materials**
- Being accountable to the community to make sure schools are well run
- Hiring and evaluating the district superintendent
- Overseeing the budget, salaries for employees, and approving purchases

The role of school board members is one of the most important and influential in our community!

In the November general elections, **Alabama will be voting for 26 school board members in districts across the state.**

School boards not only have a lasting impact on local education, they are typically the first step for anyone seeking higher public office as a mayor, state representative, or congressman.

School boards are the launching pad for political careers.

If more Christians were involved in their local school boards, it would not only be a blessing to our schools, but also produce a strong pool of Christian candidates who go on to win other local and state races!

Of course this highlights **the importance of Christians being informed and VOTING in these critical elections!**

“Social conservatives are not in trouble because of the actions of government. They are in trouble because social conservatives are not speaking out -and are not voting in large numbers.”

--Gov. Mike Huckabee

Gov. Huckabee estimates that **out of the 80 million Evangelicals, only half of them are even registered to vote**, and of those, only 20 million actually vote in a presidential year!

*If just 10 percent more Evangelicals came out to vote, it would **tip** an election.*

In one case study in Austin, TX, for example, **only 2.5 percent of registered voters showed up to the polls for the last school board election!**

The study went on to say, *“Voters often do not know their elected school board member's name or responsibilities...”*

Even if you are not a board member, as a concerned parent, property taxpayer, and a prayerful watchman, **you can still attend school board meetings in your local area, get to know your board members, pray for them, and share your encouragement, ideas, or concerns.**

*The wisdom that comes from God is first utterly pure, then peace-loving, gentle, approachable, **full of tolerant thoughts and kindly actions, with no breath of favoritism or hint of hypocrisy.** And the wise are peace-makers who go on quietly sowing for a harvest of righteousness—in other people and in themselves. (James 3:17-18)*

Prayer: Father we thank You for every Alabama governing board member willing to serve our schools and communities! We ask that You would give them stamina, courage, and the wisdom from above to overcome challenges in their districts.

We ask that Your plans and purposes for each school would be reflected in their long-term strategic planning and we invite Your Spirit to be present in every school board meeting across our state!

Lord we pray for **Your answers to the obstacles that often confront our school boards:** the lack of unified vision, little urgency to implement needed reforms, resistance to change, frequent member turnover making it difficult to follow through on long-term strategies, financial shortfalls, community apathy, disunity, and a lack of stable leadership.

We pray that You would bring order, peace, and clarity in these situations and that You would raise up those gifted leaders who would champion the education of the next generation.

We fervently cry out to You to **ACTIVATE Your Church to be involved in the governance of our schools**, by voting, attending board meetings, and serving as board members!

Help us be salt and light in our local communities and not neglect our schools, in Jesus' name.

Day 16 – Quality Teachers: The Critical Factor in Our Students’ Success 2018

The quality of the teacher has a HUGE impact on how much students learn. One [study](#) found that *“good teachers have an extraordinarily powerful impact on the future lives of their students. Symmetrically, the researchers show the lasting damage that poor teachers have on the lives of their students.”*

Furthermore, students who get the best teachers learn a lot – and students who get the worst teachers fall behind. This study found that **teachers matter most in producing educational results**; more than class size, the curriculum, or the amount of money spent per student.

The best teachers get three times as much learning out of their students as the worst teachers, according to this research!

For a long time, almost no one was talking about “teacher quality.” The debate about teachers focused on qualifications: are they certified? Do they have master's degrees? Yet it turns out that teachers who have such credentials aren't necessarily better than teachers who don't.

What educators, researchers and policymakers focus on now is teacher “effectiveness,” by looking at how much students learn with each teacher by tracking test scores.

- There are huge variations in teacher effectiveness. Some teachers are really good at getting their students to learn, and others are not.
- **Teacher quality matters so much that a student is likely better off in a bad school with a good teacher than in a good school with a bad teacher.**
- You can find ineffective teachers in good schools and effective teachers in bad schools. But **struggling schools tend to have more ineffective and inexperienced teachers.**
- **Students of the most effective teachers make excellent academic progress regardless of their prior achievement levels,** while students in the classrooms of the least effective teachers do not progress well.
- As the level of teacher effectiveness increases, the lowest-achieving students are the first to benefit.
- **Having a high-quality teacher throughout elementary school can substantially offset or even eliminate the disadvantage of low socio-economic background.** If poor children consistently got great teachers, the achievement gap could disappear.
- **The effects of bad teaching are lasting. Even if a student eventually gets great teachers, those who had ineffective teachers in the past continue to lag behind their peers, even as much as two years later.**

*Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know
that we who teach will be judged more strictly* (James 3:1)

*A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach,
and be patient with difficult people.* (2 Tim 2:24)

NOTE: If you know teachers, please pray for them by name.

Prayer: Lord, we are deeply grateful for the school teachers of Alabama! Thank you for their willingness to serve the next generation and for the personal sacrifice so many make as they go above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of their students.

We bless our teachers in the name of the Lord and ask for divine health and Your abundant blessing on their families and finances and **most of all that they would know and serve You!**

Holy Spirit, You are the ultimate Teacher, we invite You into our classrooms to lead students and teachers alike *"into all truth."* Father, we pray for every teacher with a true calling from You to be an educator. **We cry out for a fresh anointing for our teachers** – that they would **be supernaturally empowered to achieve results far beyond their natural skills!**

Father we pray over the most important factor in our students' success: the quality and effectiveness of our teachers.

We ask for teachers who are extraordinarily gifted and effective, with a passion for teaching in our school system. And for those teachers who are not bearing fruit and would be better suited to other careers, move them on to those.

We pray for any teacher who is **exhausted from the day-to-day job stress and has lost vision and enthusiasm**. Would You *"fully satisfy the needs of those who are weary and fully refresh the souls of those who are faint."* (Jer 31:25). We ask that You would refresh and encourage those teachers who may be so discouraged that they are on the verge of leaving.

Please **streamline the workload of our teachers and remove bureaucratic, time-wasting activities** that take them away from teaching. Increase the productivity and effectiveness of every Alabama teacher we pray! Father, we ask for **the teaching materials that our teachers need** and for the financial provision for every need to be met this school year, in Jesus name!

May those who oversee the education of our children do so in the fear of the Lord!

Remind them daily of how serious it is to cause a child who believes in Christ to stumble (Matthew 18:8) and that those who teach are judged more strictly (James 3:1).

We call upon You to **instill a spirit of peace, cooperation, and mutual respect** among students, teachers and administration. May brotherly kindness be the hallmark of every school in Alabama and let teaching be a source of joy and fulfillment for our precious teachers!

Day 17 – Parents and Home Life 2018

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, **bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.** (Eph 6:4)*

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. (Ps 34:11)

***He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.** (Mal 4:6)*

Alabama has seen [improvement](#) in 11 of the 16 indicators used to measure child well-being in the last five years, including improved fourth grade reading, fewer teens who abuse alcohol or drugs, and fewer babies born to teen moms.

Unfortunately, many families in our state are under immense pressure: we [rank](#) in the bottom 5 states nationally for children in poverty (27%), children in single-parent households (34%), households where the parents don't have stable jobs (34%) and homes where teens are not in school and not working (9.7%).

Parents and families play a decisive role in children's academic success and their spiritual experience; **over 80% of those who accept Christ, do so before their 18th birthday.**

*Prayer: **Father we are grateful for every improvement in the well-being of our children** over the past five years and we thank you for what You are doing in the families of Alabama.*

We bring before You every family struggling and in pain, whether from divorce, poverty, unemployment, drug or alcohol abuse, or domestic violence. **Please would You bring healing, comfort, and provision for these broken homes and we pray for a dramatic transformation of the economy in Alabama,** according to Your prophetic promises!

We lift up to You **students who are homeless in our schools and are staying at shelters, on the street, or living in cars.** Your Fathers' heart is for the destitute and vulnerable and we ask that You would help these students and their families in powerful ways only You can.

According to Your Word in Malachi 4:6 **we cry out that the hearts of the fathers be turned to their children** and the hearts of the children be turned to their fathers in Alabama! We pray for those parents who simply lack the motivation, sense of responsibility or the parenting skills to raise their children well. Break off apathy or helplessness and show them where these parents can find help. **Please bring good parenting role models into the lives of young parents or teen moms** who may not have had them while growing up.

Raise up effective spiritual fathers and mothers, we pray! **Please would You turn the tide of young people leaving the Church, as 6 out of 10 who grew up as Christians walk away from their faith in their twenties.** Bring another Great Awakening to the youth and families of Alabama. We pray, in Jesus' name!

Day 18 – Education Leadership: Superintendents, Principals & Administrators 2018

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and **all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.** (1Tim 2-4)*

*The wisdom that comes from God is first utterly pure, then **peace-loving, gentle, approachable, full of tolerant thoughts and kindly actions, with no breath of favoritism or hint of hypocrisy. And the wise are peace-makers** who go on quietly sowing for a harvest of righteousness—in other people and in themselves. (James 3:17-18)*

Prayer: Father, we pray for those in authority over our schools. As tax payers, voters, and parents we bring before You our Alabama educational system. We pray for the **Alabama State Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and our 67 County Education Agencies** and ask that You would bless all who work there.

May Your wisdom direct them and may a fresh wind of Your Spirit blow into our state educational system at the highest levels!

Where there is turmoil, we pray for peacemakers who can bring a fair and righteous outcome in a spirit of humility.



Eric Mackey
AL State Superintendent

We pray for the **Alabama State Superintendent, Eric Mackey.** We ask for the wisdom that is from above to be given to him; favor, strategy and the ability to bring about consensus, cooperation, and reconciliation at the highest levels in our state.

We pray for district superintendents and school principals across Alabama. Help them in their day-to-day responsibilities; let them function in a spirit of peace and bring peace and order into situations. Expand their leadership and executive abilities we pray and help them to implement innovative solutions and to bring unity and productivity to their schools.

We pray for positive and happy work environments and for healthy professional regard and respect among all faculty, administration, and staff.

We stand in faith and boldly **declare that our state will embrace biblical values and operate on the principles of our constitution** and protect the rights of the weak and the “least of these” and that our rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion will be upheld and protected in our classrooms this year.

We declare that Alabama staff and faculty will not be antagonistic toward any Christian students or teachers and their values, but that You would change the hearts and minds of those who are offended by the gospel; transform hostility into sincere inquiry and dialog.

May the hearts of all in leadership always put the good of our students first. In Jesus’ name.

Day 19 – Financial Breakthroughs and Community Support 2018

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matt 5:16)

I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Act 20:35)

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen... **to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?** (Isa 58:7)*

Prayer: **Heavenly Father, we pray for abundant funding to be released over Alabama schools and for the prospering of students and teachers.** We ask for a new level of generosity and faith as churches step up to provide food, clothing, and supplies for students. Give these churches creative wisdom and strategies as they approach schools and distribute the resources that You're providing.

Inspire pastors and leaders to build relationships with the schools in their areas, stepping in with finances and volunteers from their church! Bless the many churches that are taking initiative in their community through Adopt-A-School programs.

Thank you for the positive responses from schools which are already being blessed by the work of Your Church. We ask for boldness and love as churches reach out to principals and faculty. **Open the door for schools to receive the help of these churches!**

Lord, impart vision to the business community and to the elected representatives of the community as they partner with their districts. **We pray that local businesses would be moved to donate and support long-term programs in struggling schools.**

May You release godly volunteers, mentors, tutors, and coaches to come alongside students, teachers, and their families. We pray that more churches would be led to partner with schools, becoming a financial support and a spiritual covering over the teachers and students.

Raise up Your Church to partner with local schools in caring for the needs of every student and their families. **May Your Church shine brightly and glorify God in our schools through unprecedented acts of love, service, and kindness,** in Jesus' name. Amen.

- [A pastor becomes a school board member with tremendous results](#)
- [Churches having a noticeable impact on poor urban schools through serving](#)

Day 20 – Alabama Universities and Colleges 2018

Alabama is home to over 61 colleges, universities, and technical schools. A number of top colleges and universities are located throughout the state including University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa – with more than 37,000 undergraduate students and Auburn University – with more than 21,000 undergraduate students

Sixteen universities are listed as Christian: Samford University and University of Mobile, being the two largest.

Many Alabama students need encouragement to continue their education past high school. Alabama fell below the national average for residents who attained at least a bachelor's degree, according to data from 2009 to 2013. The United States census bureau found that 23.1 percent of Alabama residents aged 25 years and older attained bachelor's degrees, compared to 28.8 percent at the national level.

While institutions of higher learning offer students a great place to grow academically and prepare for careers, they also can be places that draw our young adults away from their Christian faith.

“When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?” Psalm 11:3

Many people are surprised when they learn that Christian pastors and churches founded the majority of our nation's colleges and universities. In contrast, many of today's universities and colleges are citadels of moral relativism in which the notion of absolute right and wrong is nonexistent and **where research shows that 70 percent of students from “Christian” homes deny their faith before graduation.**

Our college and university campuses need our prayers!

Prayer: **Father, we pray today for our Alabama colleges and universities, that they would be filled with the tangible presence of God.** We pray that each student will have the opportunity to grow and develop spiritually as well as intellectually.

May the campuses be free from barriers and prejudices against faith-based organizations and may these organizations thrive and grow and bring many into a mature understanding of You.

We thank you for the new freedoms that campus life gives to students, but we also pray for protection from the problems caused by using freedom to develop personal and moral habits that are unhealthy. We thank you for those who are courageously living their faith and displaying their faith on campus. Give our Christian students courage to live out their faith in an atmosphere, which is often skeptical of faith.

We pray that many more graduating high school seniors would continue their education in

institutions of higher learning. **May Alabama colleges and universities produce influential godly leaders who will bring the Kingdom values of righteousness and justice into every sphere of culture.**

Lord, we lift up the professors, deans, and presidents of our colleges. May they not only be wise in their area of specialty, but also give them spiritual wisdom. **We pray that the Holy Spirit will use Christian professors and faculty as a mighty force for truth** and that a new standard of righteousness would be raised up on our campuses.

We pray that our colleges and universities might become centers for revival rather than for the tearing down of the faith of our young adults. We ask You to work through Christian groups and churches on campuses to bring thousands of young men and women to faith in Jesus Christ.

We pray that our Christian universities would equip our young people with a biblical worldview – that will cause them to thrive in their faith through their entire college experience.

May your mighty hand move and may the Holy Spirit be felt with unmistakable power in a way that changes many lives today as well as many future careers and future marriages tomorrow.

In Jesus name, AMEN.

Day 21 – The Glory of God in Our Schools! 2018

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea. (Hab 2:14)

*Lift up your heads, O gates, And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
That the King of glory may come in! (Ps 24:7)*

*Let them give thanks to the LORD for His loving kindness,
and for His wonders to the sons of men! (Ps 107:21)*

***Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!"
And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you,
and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you;
and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious,
and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."*** (Ex 33:18-19)

Prayer: Father, would You bless the students in the preschools, home schools, private, charter, and public schools and the colleges and universities of Alabama with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Yourself.

We praise You that You have heard every prayer over these past 21 days as we have cried out to You on behalf of our schools.

Now we ask that You would be glorified, that You would be exalted over our schools and over every power and principality that would seek to influence and infiltrate with the purpose to deceive and destroy the next generation.

We declare it is time for our Christian students and teachers to ARISE AND SHINE as Your glory rises upon them and that nations will come to the brightness of their rising. (Isa 60:1, 3)

We stand in faith on Your many prophetic promises that Your glory is going to be revealed in Alabama in a dramatic and unprecedented way.

Thank you that when You revealed Your glory to Moses, it was Your *goodness* that passed in front of him! **Likewise, we remain confident knowing that we will surely see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (schools)!** (Ps 27:13)

Please reveal Yourself and Your ways in undeniable and sovereign acts.

May our schools fulfill their sovereign purpose according to the highest plans of God, in Jesus' name.

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