



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

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Governor Kay Ivey  
President

**Five Alabama High School Students Named National Cyber Scholars**  
*30,000 Students Across U.S. Competed for 2021 National Cybersecurity Honor*

Jackie Zeigler  
District I  
Vice President

Tracie West  
District II

Stephanie Bell  
District III



**Montgomery Ala.** – Our state received some exciting news this week. It has been officially announced that five Alabama high school students have been named *National Cyber Scholars* by the National Cyber Scholarship Foundation (NCSF). These top performing students are:

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV  
President Pro Tem

- **Alex King** – James Clemens High School – *Madison City School System*
- **Casper Casey** – Sparkman High School – *Madison County School System*
- **Hunter Goffinett** – Sparkman High School – *Madison County School System*
- **William Grice** – Alabama Homeschooled Student
- **Austin Perry** – Alabama Homeschooled Student

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.  
District V

According to the [National Cyber Scholarship Foundation](https://www.nationalcyberscholarship.org), these five top Alabama high school students have earned the coveted title of “National Cyber Scholar” after winning a rigorous 48-hour competition designed to evaluate aptitude in combating cyber threats.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
District VI

See the list of national award winners at <https://www.nationalcyberscholarship.org/winners-2021>

Belinda McRae  
District VII

“Our state congratulates these students for being named 2021 National Cyber Scholars,” said State Superintendent, Dr. Eric G. Mackey. “Cybersecurity and all technology-based career areas are essential to our state’s continued growth and prosperity. We commend each of these students, their parents, and local communities.”

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.  
District VIII

More than 30,000 high school students from across the country sought to qualify for this year’s competition, and only 5,000 advanced to the first round. Of those students, only 600 nationwide performed well enough to earn the title *National Cyber Scholars*.

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

Each student has also been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship and an invitation to participate in the Cyber Foundations Academy, a multi-week skill-building and certification course.

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*ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NAMED 2021 NATIONAL CYBER SCHOLARS*

Cybersecurity is a critical area, which will continue to have a great impact on our national defense, state resources, and local infrastructure.

According to recent studies, in order to continue properly defending our national infrastructure in the future, we will need to prepare more than 3 million new cybersecurity professionals. The National Cyber Scholars initiative and competition were designed to inform more young people about the great opportunities available in this career field.

“This scholarship recognizes high school students who have demonstrated exceptional cybersecurity talent,” noted David Brown, executive director, National Cyber Scholarship Foundation. “The NCSF mission is to help close the critical cybersecurity skills gap by identifying and developing the next generation of cyber professionals. Each and every student who participated in this competition has the potential to develop their skills and build a successful career in cybersecurity.”

There are several qualification pathways for the National Cyber Scholarship Competition including [CyberStart America](#), a free online program that helps students discover their talents in cybersecurity. To learn more visit: [National Cyber Scholarship Foundation](#).

The *National Cyber Scholarship Foundation* (NCSF) is a national nonprofit whose mission is to identify, nurture and empower the next generation of cybersecurity experts; and eliminate the cybersecurity skills gap in the United States.

Also, to learn more about our state’s K-12 learning opportunities for Alabama middle and high school students interested in technology-focused careers, contact the ALSDE Career and Technical Education (CTE) Section at 334-694-4876.

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