



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Governor Kay Ivey  
President

**Alabama State Department of Education Announces  
College Counts First Grade Folder Program Event  
“Having a Plan Starts Now!”**

Jackie Zeigler  
District I



Tracie West  
District II

*Enterprise, AL* — The Alabama State Department of Education is pleased to announce the **College Counts First Grade Folder program** event, sponsored by Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent of Education, and Treasurer Young Boozer.

Stephanie Bell  
District III

This event will take place at the **Brookwood Elementary School** media center, located at 6500 Boll Weevil Circle, Enterprise, Alabama, **at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 29, 2024.**

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV

The College Counts First Grade Folder program is a vital initiative aimed at encouraging early college planning among young students and their families. The program provides first-grade students with folders filled with resources and information about the importance of saving for college and understanding the value of higher education. This event will mark a significant step in promoting educational awareness and future planning from a young age.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.  
District V  
Vice President

Dr. Eric Mackey and State Treasurer Young Boozer will be present to discuss the goals and benefits of the College Counts First Grade Folder program. They will also highlight the importance of early college savings and the role of the College Counts 529 Fund in helping Alabama families invest in their children's futures.

Marie Manning  
District VI  
President Pro Tem

“We believe that starting conversations about college savings early can make a significant difference in the educational trajectories of our students,” said Dr. Eric Mackey. “This program is designed to support families in understanding their options and planning for their children's educational futures.”

Belinda McRae  
District VII

Treasurer Young Boozer added, “By introducing the College Counts First Grade Folder program, we are taking a proactive approach to ensure that Alabama's students are well-prepared for their educational journeys. The sooner families start saving, the more options and opportunities their children will have.”

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.  
District VIII

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

*College Counts First Grade Folder Program*

Members of the media and the community are invited to attend this event to learn more about the College Counts First Grade Folder program and its impact on Alabama's education landscape.

**Event Details:**

- **What:** College Counts First Grade Folder Program Event
- **Who:** Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent of Education, and Alabama Treasurer, Young Boozer
- **When:** 10:30 a.m., Thursday, August 29
- **Where:** Brookwood Elementary School Media Center, 6500 Boll Weevil Circle, Enterprise, Alabama

For more information about the College Counts First Grade Folder program or to arrange interviews, please contact the Alabama State Department of Education's Office of Communications.

**Contact:** Dr. Michael Sibley  
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This event is part of the Alabama State Department of Education's ongoing commitment to enhancing educational opportunities and outcomes for students across the state.

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