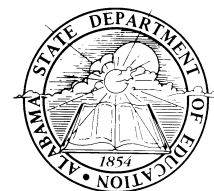




STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



Joseph B. Morton  
 State Superintendent  
 of Education

**NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**  
**January 20, 2011**

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Alabama  
 State Board  
 of Education

**STATE HOST NEW ONLINE CAREER PLANNING PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS**  
*Alabama’s Department of Education and Kuder, Inc, Partner to Advance Student Preparation*

Governor  
 Robert J. Bentley  
 President

**Montgomery, Ala.** – Starting in February, Alabama’s parents and teachers will have access to another valuable resource to help students prepare for a lifetime of success, postsecondary learning, and for their future career opportunities. The Alabama Department of Education’s Career and Technical Education Section, in partnership with Kuder, Inc., has created a new *online career planning system*, for students in grades nine through 12.

Randy McKinney  
 District I  
 Vice President

“Virtually everything that students need to explore their career interests will be available online at this site,” says Alabama Career and Technical Education Director Sherry Key. “This new program features interactive tools to really make career planning fun, engaging, and relevant for Alabama’s middle school and high school students.”

Betty Peters  
 District II

This new resource uses Kuder’s nationally recognized *Navigator* system. Kuder has customized this program to include Alabama-specific employment information, student-based career portfolios, and a Student Education Plan (SEP). Guided by built-in career planning timelines, each student using this program will learn more about themselves and their long term interest. Also, this system includes resources for parents and teachers to use – **to help students make wise decisions about their futures.**

Stephanie W. Bell  
 District III

Yvette M.  
 Richardson, Ed.D.  
 District IV

This Alabama Career Information Network (ACIN) site, which is accessible at [www.alcareerinfo.org](http://www.alcareerinfo.org), will go “live” during the first week of February.

Ella B. Bell  
 District V

**Highlights of Alabama’s Navigator Program:**

Charles E. Elliott, M.D.  
 District VI

- Delivers simple, age-appropriate content customized by student level
- Helps students navigate through career options and make connections between coursework and the *real world* of work
- Introduces students to lifelong portfolio development
- Provides guided exploration using interactive planning and timelines
- Allows parents to play an active role in their child’s planning process, with planning tools tailored specifically to the unique needs of each grade level

Gary Warren  
 District VII

Mary Scott Hunter  
 District VIII

*Kuder*, founded in 1997, offers innovative online products for career planners worldwide. Each year, millions of students and adults use customized career planning systems developed by this organization. Some of the other states across the country that have used their systems are Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Joseph B.  
 Morton, Ph.D.  
 Secretary and  
 Executive Officer

“We are particularly excited to develop a system that will support and enhance the Alabama Department of Education’s vision to promote Alabamians’ planning and preparation for educational and career success,” said Kuder President Phil Harrington.

– more –

**Partnership Advances Student Achievement**  
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Alabama's new Navigator system will also allow students to explore postsecondary education options, create their own education plans, take notes on their career exploration activities, build resumes, and also find financial aid resources and national scholarship opportunities.

Students will also be able to share their individual assessment results with their parents, guardians, and other family members (including them in the student's overall college and career planning process).

Currently, *two out of every three high school students* in Alabama participates in a career and technical education program. These students explore career options in more than 300 courses, earn advanced diplomas, and receive college credit.

To learn more about this initiative, contact Meg Smith, Alabama Career and Technical Education Administrator at (334) 353-4346, or Scott Vandever, Kuder Vice President of National Sales, at 800-314-8972, or visit [www.kuder.com](http://www.kuder.com).

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