



ALABAMA

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

ANNUAL TRAINING REPORT

2024-2025

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*Empowering Every Child, Elevating Every Future:
High-Quality Charter Schools for All.*

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About APCSC

"Empowering Every Child, Elevating Every Future: High-Quality Charter Schools for All."

VISION:

The APCSC envisions a portfolio of high-quality charter schools that provide every child, regardless of background, with the opportunity to succeed. We support school autonomy, prioritize parental involvement, and encourage inspired educators to create empowering learning environments for all students.

MISSION:

Cultivate an environment in communities across the state in which high quality public charter schools can take root and thrive.

Authorize and oversee a portfolio of high-quality public charter schools across the state that ensure that students have multiple pathways to success.

Leverage partnerships and build internal capacity to ensure that APCSC schools have timely support and accountability.

Ensure transparency in student outcomes and school organizational performance to enable families and stakeholders to make informed choices.



SUMMARY OF REPORT

We are pleased to submit the second annual report on the training of the Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) for your review. The Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act was amended in 2023 to require an annual report from the Commission to each appointing authority regarding the implementation and effectiveness of the training programs. This report fulfills our statutory obligation to provide the legislature with an annual report.



APCSC TRAINING

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS (JULY 2025)

The APCSC are members of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. In July, the commissioners attended a convention in Orlando, Florida, where educators, advocates, and leaders in the charter school community connected with resources to foster innovation, learning, and professional development. Nationally recognized experts were available, and the attendees had access to the best learning and networking opportunities available.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SEMINAR (SEPTEMBER 2025)

On September 14-16, 2025, the APCSC held a professional learning seminar for all commissioners in Point Clear, Alabama. The topics included Application Review, with APCSC Staff; Using Data to Drive Decision Making, with guest speaker, Dr. Tony Thackerand Leadership for Policy and Planning, Open Meetings and Ethics Laws with guest speaker, Mrs. Sally Smith.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS CONFERENCE (OCTOBER 2025)

The APCSC are members of the National Association of Charter Schools Authorizers (NACSA). On October 20-23, 2025, the commission and staff attended a four-day conference in Houston, Texas. The conference was for leadership in authorizing. There was a wide variety of high-quality sessions to include, Collaboration Isn't Optional: How Authorizers, Charter Associations, and Education Leaders Can Work Together; A New, New School Application: Implementing NACSA's Updated Guidance; Beyond the Numbers: Using Data to Tell a Story. The sessions were led by a diverse group of experts and provided numerous networking opportunities.

ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY SUMMIT (OCTOBER 2025)

On October 17, 2025, the APCSC attended the Alabama Opportunity Summit in Birmingham, Alabama, and sponsored a booth to share information regarding the APCSC. The summit was co-hosted by Teach for America Alabama and A+ Education Partnership. The Alabama Opportunity Summit is the premiere education and leadership event in Alabama. This event brings together educators, school leaders, students, parents, and other community stakeholders from across Alabama to build a broad coalition of EDUCATION CHAMPIONS that are inspired, committed, and prepared to build an Alabama where all children can achieve, lead, and thrive.

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY BOARDS (OCTOBER 2025)

On October 8, 2025, APCSC staff attended the annual conference for the Alabama Association of Regulatory Boards. The AARB is a consumer protection agency and is responsible for ensuring that companies and individuals who provide regulated services to people in Alabama have the necessary education and experience to provide those services in a safe, ethical, and competent manner. Agencies have the ability to take action, on behalf of consumers when people who hold licenses conduct business in unsafe or unethical ways. The AARB promotes cooperation among all state regulatory agencies, to improve the quality and knowledge of professional and occupational regulation in Alabama, to provide educational and professional development for employees of the member boards, to increase public awareness of the existence of state regulatory boards and to serve as a clearinghouse of information to improve the consistency of administrative regulatory practices.

FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION (NOVEMBER 2025)

On November 17-19, 2025, the APCSC was represented at the National Summit on Education in New Orleans, Louisiana. Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush developed the organization in 2008. Its mission is to promote and expand successful education policies across the United States, focusing on education reform and advocacy. The foundation provides resources such as model legislation, implementation strategies, and public outreach to support educational excellence.

APCSC Memberships

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS)

National Association of Charter Schools Authorizers (NACSA)

Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB)

Alabama Association of Regulatory Boards (AARB)

National School Public Relations Association

Alabama School Public Relations Association



NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR
**PUBLIC
CHARTER
SCHOOLS**



**SCHOOL
PUBLIC
RELATIONS
ASSOCIATION**



ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS

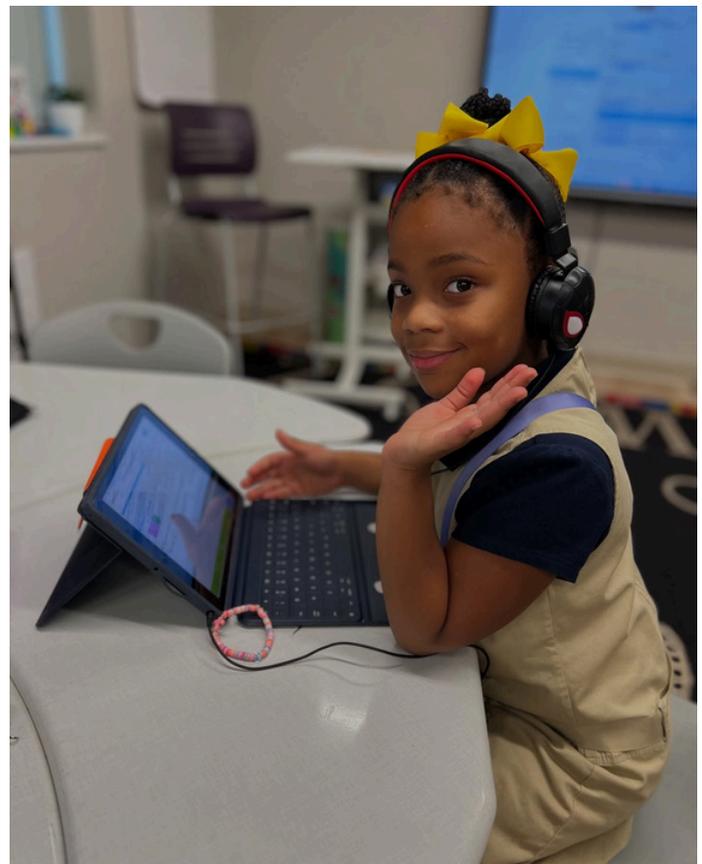
nacsa
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS



nspra
National School Public Relations Association

WHAT'S NEW

- **STRATEGIC PLAN:** A STRATEGIC PLAN WAS COMPLETED FOR THE ALABAMA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION. THE PLAN RUNS FROM 2024-2030.
- **NEW MISSION AND VISION:** THE APCSC HAS DEVELOPED A NEW VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT TO ALIGN WITH THE CHANGES IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL LAW HB363.
- **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING SPECIALIST:** THE APCSC WELCOMED A COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING SPECIALIST TO RECRUIT MORE QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS AND ELEVATE THE WORK OF THE APCSC.



WHAT'S NEXT

- **TWO CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN APPROVED:** IGNITE ACADEMY IN MOBILE, ALABAMA AND INVICTUS CAREER INSTITUTE IN BESSEMER, ALABAMA



IGNITE
ACADEMY

INVICTUS
Career Institute

- **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:** THE APCSC WAS AWARDED A \$29 MILLION (CSP) CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

GRANT WRITING

The APCSC has invested in grant writing, with a focus on innovation and sustainability. This year, the APCSC Corporation allocated \$100,000 towards grant-writing initiatives, which resulted in a \$29 million Charter School Program Grant to grow the APCSC and the charter school landscape for Alabama.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

With the CSP grant, the APCSC will be able to increase funding to expand opportunities for all students, particularly traditionally underserved students, to attend high-quality public charter schools and meet challenging State academic standards; provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools; increase the number of high-quality charter schools available to students; evaluate the impact of charter schools on student achievement, families, and communities; share best practices between charter schools and other public schools; and support efforts to strengthen the charter school authorizing process.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The APCSC has embraced a long-term plan to drive operational success and invested \$31,000 in developing a five-year strategic plan. The implementation of a strategic plan follows the recent transition from operating as a division within the ALSDE to an independent state entity.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

APCSC recognizes the importance of achieving operational excellence. This year, the APCSC worked together to create a plan to move the commission forward. The APCSC staff and commission reviewed legal frameworks, policies, bylaws, application templates, evaluation rubrics, standard contracts, academic frameworks, compliance tools, performance data, and financial planning documents. Stakeholder interviews were conducted with commissioners, charter school leaders, staff, advocacy groups, and state legislators to gather broad insight into the state's charter school oversight, operations, and outcomes to develop a plan with appropriate goals, steps, and leadership.



GOALS

We believe in a trajectory. The APCSC now has a five-year plan to direct the next steps.



PARTNERSHIPS

This year, APCSC has worked with aspiring charter school leaders to develop their schools and applications through workshops and one and one training.



GROWTH

As we move into the next year, APCSC remains focused on innovation, growth, and sustainability.

APCSC COMMISSIONERS

Deborah Alvis
Sheila Austin
Marla Green
Dorothy Huston
Faron Hollinger
Ryan Kendall
M. Javed Khan
Cynthia McCarty
Charles Knight
Julie Ann McCulley
Sharon Porterfield
Joslyn Reddick
LaKeisha Wheeler

APCSC Staff

Mrs. Logan Searcy, Executive Director
Mrs. Peggy Havard, (part-time)
Ms. Adoria Hughes, Communications and Marketing
Dr. Amanda Inabinett, ALSDE Liaison to the APCSC
Dr. Doug Riley, Financial Specialist
Dr. Tony Thacker, Academic Specialist (part-time)

Contact Us



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