

## **Shelby County Schools Move forward with the Unified and Comprehensive System of Learning Supports**

From District Profile –

<http://www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/accreditation/Documenting/14-15DistrictProfile.pdf>

Shelby County Schools was one of eleven districts in the state to participate in a Unified and Comprehensive System of Learning Supports for Alabama Students initiative. This framework encompasses the resources, strategies and practices that support the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development and well-being to enable all students to have an equal opportunity for success. This systematic approach encourages schools to partner with all stakeholder groups to give students, staff, and families the necessary support in six key focus areas: classroom approaches to learning, support for transitions, family engagement, community collaboration, crisis assistance and prevention, and student and family interventions.

Shelby County Schools provided system wide school-based mental health services, support for student transitions through the work of a transition counselor, and partnered with community agencies to provide additional support for our students and their families. For the 2013-2014 school year, Shelby County Schools selected two school communities in which to implement the program in depth; the Montevallo and Vincent school zones. Based on the learning support approaches implemented both at the district and local school levels, noted improvements were made regarding student attendance, behavior, and student performance. The five participating schools saw an increase in attendance rates, a decrease in overall student absences, as well as a decrease in student suspensions and alternative school placements. In addition to the system-wide supports previously mentioned, the pilot schools also implemented practices specific to the needs of their individual schools. Each of the five participating schools focused on strengthening their mentoring program and established a partnership with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. The Montevallo schools also partnered locally with the University of Montevallo to utilize college students as mentors. Both partnerships proved to be a valuable resource and were actually advantageous to both organizations.

The accomplishments that were achieved with our five pilot schools and with our district learning supports initiative have resulted in our school system launching the Learning Supports Model district-wide for the 2014-2015 school year. We believe by mapping our resources both at the district and local school level, identifying our continuum of interventions, and developing a unifying framework that brings instruction, management, and learning supports together will provide us with the framework and strategies to help remove the barriers to learning and support our students and staff as we continue our mission of every student a graduate and every graduate prepared.