# Do you want to make more courses available to your students?

Do you have students desiring or needing courses that you are having difficulty providing? ACCESS Distance Learning delivers courses directly to your local classroom.

Your school can now offer distance learning options so every student has access to the courses needed to get the diploma he or she desires.

"**ACCESS** is meeting a need. I don't know what would happen now with funding cuts with schools that can't meet these needs."
— South Alabama High School Teacher

LEARN MORE AT

## http://accessdl.state.al.us

**ACCESS Distance Learning**
Technology Initiatives
5351 Gordon Persons Building
P.O. Box 302101
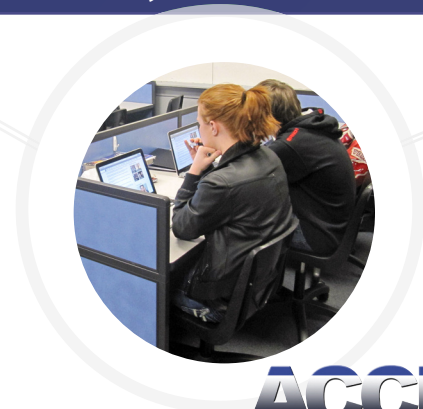Montgomery, AL 36130-2101
334-242-9594

"Having the ACCESS program has made me talk to students differently about college, because before it we didn't have much to offer them to challenge them and prepare them to go straight to a 4-year college. Now I don't take any excuses."
— School Counselor

# ACCESS Distance Learning:

Wanting more options and variety in courses offered?

## What is ACCESS Distance Learning?

ACCESS Distance Learning (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide), an education initiative of the Alabama Department of Education, provides opportunities and options for Alabama high school students to engage in Advanced Placement (AP), elective, and other courses to which they may not otherwise have access.

**ACCESS**
Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, & Students Statewide
**DISTANCE LEARNING**

**A GUIDE FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

# WHAT

## What is expected of a distance learning student?

Students are expected to participate in daily learning activities such as discussions, projects, labs, group work, and writing workshops. Sound familiar? Distance learning instructors guide students through content-approved courses that are primarily Web-based or VCI-based but which incorporate a blend of the two course delivery methods.

**ACCESS DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES** are provided at no cost to students* under state rules established to govern the program through Alabama's ACCESS Distance Learning funds. It will be the responsibility of the local school/school system to provide computers, Internet connections, software, and AP textbooks (if required).

*Course fees for non-public school students

## What are the advantages of ACCESS Distance Learning?

- Instant expansion of course offerings
- Advanced-level courses in areas such as foreign languages, electives, and higher mathematics
- Advanced Placement and/or dual credit courses
- State-approved curricula using the latest interactive instructional models
- Alabama certified teachers as e-teachers at delivery schools for students who are supported by facilitators at each receiving school
- High-quality, interactive Internet-delivered asynchronous instruction for Web-based courses
- Synchronous (real-time) instruction utilizing multipoint videoconferencing equipment for VCI (videoconferencing instruction) and blended courses
- Equal access to high-quality instruction

# WHAT

## What are the course delivery methods?

- Some courses are primarily Web-based asynchronous courses that utilize a Web site portal, multimedia content, and an Alabama-certified, highly-qualified teacher. Schools provide onsite access to computers with reliable Internet connections.

- Some courses are primarily VCI synchronous courses that include real-time/synchronous (two-way audio/two-way video) instruction and an Alabama-certified, highly-qualified e-teacher. To participate, schools must provide a reliable Internet-connected computer and access to a VCI equipped, H.323 standard school lab. Student schedules must also be compatible with those of delivery sites.

- Blended courses utilize a combination of Web-based and VCI-based instruction. All ACCESS courses now utilize the blended model.

## What courses are offered and how should courses be requested?

For a complete and updated list of courses, visit the ACCESS Distance Learning Web site.
Guidance Counselors can request courses online at http://accessdl.state.al.us.

# HOW

## How to know if a student is an ACCESS Distance Learning candidate:

In general, students and educators rapidly adapt to the distance learning format. Many higher education institutions already have standard distance learning courses. The following are some of the characteristics of more successful Web-based learners:

- Independent learners
- Computer literate individuals
- Effective written communicators
- Open communicators (willing to ask for help and share problems and/or concerns)
- Interested online learners

## ACCESS Distance Learning Support Center Regions

**Madison City Schools Support Center Region**
256-464-8370

**The University of Alabama Support Center Region**
205-348-2647

**Troy University Support Center Region**
334-670-5878

### ACCESS
Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, & Students Statewide
**DISTANCE LEARNING**