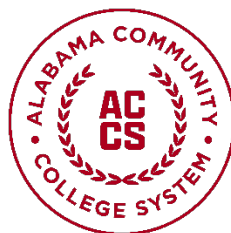


Alabama Community College System Ability to Benefit State-Defined Process Application

Submitted by: Alabama's Ability to Benefit State Team

**Application Point of Contact: Taylor Hilyer, Director of Student Life, ACCS
Office: 334.293.4609, Email: taylor.hilyer@accs.edu**



Alabama Ability to Benefit State-Defined Process

Executive Summary

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) has developed a robust and unified framework for data reporting, institutional accountability, and student success tracking through its OneACCS system.

This system integration ensures all Alabama community colleges operate under a consistent, transparent, and data-driven structure for managing student information; particularly, for students entering through the Ability to Benefit (ATB) pathway. By leveraging Ellucian Banner, Alabama Adult Education System for Accountability and Performance (AAESAP), and the ACCS Data Access Exchange (DAX). The ACCS guarantees secure and accurate data collection, analysis, and reporting. This supports continuous improvement and compliance with federal and state regulations.

Participation in the ATB state-approved plan will require institutions to sign an MOU committing to strict compliance, ongoing data reporting, and adherence to eligibility requirements for eligible career pathway programs. Institutions must demonstrate that all ATB students are concurrently enrolled in Adult Education, workforce preparation, and postsecondary coursework aligned with labor market needs.

To ensure accountability, the ACCS will conduct annual compliance monitoring, require corrective action plans for non-compliant institutions, and enforce termination policies for repeated violations. Furthermore, the ACCS will provide training and technical assistance to promote data integrity and institutional improvement.

For ATB students, the plan offers a clear, structured pathway toward educational attainment and career readiness through Adult Education and Career & Technical Education. The ATB framework expands access to higher education for adults who have not earned a high school diploma or GED. This strengthens Alabama's workforce pipeline through coordinated, data-informed educational strategies.

Who We Are

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) is the statewide postsecondary entity responsible for delivering accessible, workforce-aligned education and training across Alabama. ACCS oversees 24 community and technical colleges, as well as the Alabama Training Network (ATN). Within each of the colleges, various workforce development and adult education initiatives are underway. The system serves more than 160,000 students annually and operates under the governance of the ACCS Board of Trustees.

ACCS is designed to support Alabama's economic mobility and statewide talent development by providing:

- Associate degrees (transfer and applied)
- Certificates
- Customized workforce training for business and industry
- Adult education (literacy, GED preparation, ELA, IELCE, Workforce Preparation, and Integrated Education and Training)
- Dual-enrollment opportunities for high school students.

The system emphasizes workforce relevance, affordability, and seamless transfer pathways to the state's four-year universities.

The ACCS Chancellor, Jimmy H. Baker, provides executive leadership for the system, while each college's president is responsible for the institutions' operations. The Board of Trustees sets policy, approves budgets, and ensures alignment with Alabama's statewide economic and education goals.

As a primary driver of the state's talent pipeline, the system partners extensively with employers, chambers of commerce, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), and state agencies to advance statewide competitiveness.

Process Overview

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) modernized its data reporting structure through the OneACCS initiative, which unified its community colleges under a single, standardized system. Using Ellucian Banner, Alabama Adult Education System for Accountability and Performance (AAESAP), and the ACCS Data Access Exchange (DAX), the ACCS ensures secure, accurate, and consistent data collection and reporting across institutions. Under a state approved plan, each student is assigned a unique identifier in Ellucian Banner and AAESAP, enabling precise tracking of student activity, outcomes, and institutional performance.

Institutions participating in an ATB state-approved plan must sign an ACCS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), documenting their commitment to federal and state requirements. Colleges must verify all Eligible Career Pathway Programs (ECPPs) meet federal criteria and track participation in Ellucian Banner and AAESAP to ensure students are co-enrolled in adult education, workforce preparation, and postsecondary coursework.

To maintain accountability, the ACCS requires institutions to participate in professional development, compliance training, and annual MOU updates. The ACCS will conduct annual monitoring in alignment with 34 CFR 668.156, identify non-compliance, and require corrective action plans outlining remediation steps when needed. Colleges that fail to meet compliance standards will be terminated for at least five years.

Adult Learner Admission and Enrollment Standards

Under a state-approved plan, students without a high school diploma or GED may be admitted if they:

- Complete 12 hours of adult education attendance.
- Complete an Alabama Career Essentials (ACE) and a Mobilizing Alabama Pathways (MAPs) course.
- Achieve a WorkKeys Silver Certificate or complete an Integrated Education and Training (IET) program.

To remain in good standing, students must maintain weekly attendance in both Adult Education and an ECPP and hold a minimum 2.5 GPA. Each semester, Adult Education Directors will submit enrollment verification forms to their college's admissions office.

Data Reporting Standards

In 2018, the ACCS implemented a comprehensive overhaul of its student management and data reporting processes. This initiative, known as OneACCS, unified all Alabama community colleges to ensure consistency, accuracy, and efficiency in data reporting.

The ACCS utilizes Ellucian Banner, AAESAP, and DAX as its primary systems for data storage and reporting. These secure, centralized platforms allow authorized users to input, retain, and retrieve data, as well as generate analytical reports. The resulting data can be used to monitor institutional performance, assess outcomes, and support continuous improvement efforts. Under a state-approved plan, all required data will be collected to calculate and evaluate student success rates at participating institutions. Each student admitted under an ATB plan will be assigned a unique identification code for tracking and reporting purposes.

In addition, the ACCS will ensure that the total number of students who enroll through the state-approved plan during the initial implementation period does not exceed the greater of 25 students or 1% of total enrollment at each participating institution. If an institution exceeds this threshold, the ACCS will require the institution to reduce the number of students enrolled through the state-approved plan accordingly. Failure to comply will result in termination of the institution's participation in the state-approved plan, and the ACCS will notify the relevant regional office and the ATB State Process mailbox of the termination.

List of Participating Institutions

1. Bishop State Community College
2. Bevill State Community College
3. Central Alabama Community College
4. John C. Calhoun Community College
5. Coastal Alabama Community College
6. Chattahoochee Valley Community College
7. J. F. Drake Community and Technical College
8. Enterprise State Community College
9. Gadsden State Community College
10. Jefferson State Community College
11. T. A. Lawson State Community College
12. Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
13. Marion Military Institute
14. Northeast Alabama Community College
15. Northwest-Shoals Community College
16. Reid State Community College
17. Snead State Community College
18. Shelton State Community College
19. Southern Union State Community College
20. H. Councill Trenholm State Community College
21. George C. Wallace Community College (Dothan)
22. George Corley Wallace State Community College (Selma)
23. Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)

In compliance with 34 CFR 668.156(a)(2)(v), for the institutions listed above, not more than 33 percent of the participating institution's regular undergraduate students withdrew from the institution during the institution's latest completed award year.

Enrollment and Withdrawals by ACCS College			
Academic Year 2024-25			
	Enrollment	Withdrawals	Withdrawal Rate
Bishop State Community College	5,431	758	14.0%
Bevill State Community College	5,859	515	8.8%
Central Alabama Community College	3,050	252	8.3%
John C. Calhoun Community College	14,160	1,235	8.7%
Coastal Alabama Community College	10,382	1,335	12.9%
Chattahoochee Valley Community College	2,422	256	10.6%

J. F. Drake Community and Technical College	1,609	207	12.9%
Enterprise State Community College	3,591	716	19.9%
Gadsden State Community College	6,946	699	10.1%
Jefferson State Community College	13,513	920	6.8%
T. A. Lawson State Community College	5,035	485	9.6%
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College	2,822	228	8.1%
Marion Military Institute	343	29	8.5%
Northeast Alabama Community College	4,413	415	9.4%
Northwest-Shoals Community College	6,328	314	5.0%
Reid State Community College	818	76	9.3%
Snead State Community College	8,477	406	4.8%
Shelton State Community College	7,797	706	9.1%
Southern Union State Community College	7,029	566	8.1%
H. Councill Trenholm State Community College	2,948	278	9.4%
George C. Wallace Community College (Dothan)	5,543	571	10.3%
George Corley Wallace State Community College (Selma)	2,975	199	6.7%
Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)	8,424	659	7.8%
ACCS Total	129,915	11,825	9.1%

Participation, Monitoring & Compliance for Institutions

In acknowledgement of the program requirements, including the expected performance measures and related monitoring and compliance, the ACCS has developed an ATB Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that must be signed by a college administrator for students at the institution to participate in the state-approved plan. By agreeing to the MOU, ACCS institutions will confirm their commitment to comply with all requirements and agree to provide the following to the ACCS:

- A list of the institution's approved eligible career pathway(s) programs (ECPPs).
- Documentation that each ECPP submitted meets the definition of an "eligible career pathway program" as defined in 34 CFR 668.2 and as documented pursuant to 34 CFR 668.157.
- An explanation of the institutional process for identifying students who may benefit from ATB, as well as how the institution intends to recruit and educate them about ATB before they commit to participation.
- An acknowledgement that the institution will track student participation in ATB and code ATB participants as required by the ACCS for state success rate performance analysis.
- An explanation of how the institution will monitor and ensure all students participating in ATB:
 - Are simultaneously enrolled in:
 - an eligible career pathway program (ECPP),

- adult education and literacy activities supporting high school completion, and workforce preparation activities.
- Are enrolled in an ECPP that:
 - aligns with State or regional labor-market needs,
 - connects program coursework and credentials to identified skill needs,
 - delivers adult education and workforce preparation concurrently and in the same context as postsecondary coursework,
 - leads to a valid high school diploma or GED, and
 - offers academic and career counseling services.

The ACCS will review the submitted information to confirm the institution demonstrates commitment in complying with the state-approved plan. If approved, the institution will be required to participate in the following activities to support the ACCS monitoring of institutional compliance:

- professional development training,
- calls and/or webinars to discuss requirements and strategies in scaling ATB for eligible students,
- training regarding monitoring and compliance with coding and tracking ATB participants.

The ACCS and participating institutions acknowledge and have established measures to ensure that any student who enrolls under the state-approved plan and receives Title IV funds is enrolled in an eligible career pathway program as defined in 34 CFR 668.2 and as documented pursuant to 34 CFR 668.157.

Each year, the ACCS will monitor participating institutions for compliance with the ACCS state-approved plan requirements, including the success rate per 34 CFR 668.156 (f). The ACCS will identify corrective action(s) if an institution is found to be non-compliant. The ACCS may terminate an institution's participation, if the institution does not meet the goals established by the corrective action(s) as per 34 CFR 668.156 (c).

Admission of Ability to Benefit Students

In keeping with the mission of the ACCS, applicants with less than a high school diploma or GED may be admitted to an approved ECPP, provided they meet all criteria listed below:

- **Students must be co-enrolled in the Adult Education Program and an ECPP.**
Students will agree to maintain co-enrollment status with Adult Education by attending a minimum of 6 hours per week through in-person and/or online instruction. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in losing co-enrollment status and will restrict the student's ability to enroll in the next semester. Furthermore, failure to comply with the agreement will jeopardize any financial aid provided through Adult Education, FAFSA, or WIOA.

To register and obtain Title IV aid, the students must complete the following:

- 12 hours of attendance in the Adult Education Program, and
- Complete Alabama Career Essentials (ACE) and a related Mobilizing Alabama Pathways Course (MAPs), and
- WorkKeys Certificate of Silver or higher, or successful completion of an approved Integrated Education and Training (IET).

At the start of each semester, the ATB registration/verification form for each student enrolled through the state-approved plan will be submitted by the Director of Adult Education to the local institution's admissions office and the ACCS to confirm enrollment and/or continued eligibility. To remain in good standing and continue enrollment, the student must maintain at least six hours of attendance per week in the Adult Education Program and enrollment in an ECPP (while maintaining a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA).

Corrective Action

Each approved ACCS institution will be held accountable for maintaining compliance with the state-approved plan. Institutions that fail to meet compliance requirements must submit a corrective action plan that outlines the specific steps the institution will take to address any areas of non-compliance. The ACCS will collaborate with any institution identified as non-compliant to establish additional monitoring measures and corrective actions.

Termination of Participation

The ACCS and participating institutions recognize that strict compliance requirements apply to participation in the ATB state-approved plan. Any participating institution that refuses or fails to comply with any component of the state-approved plan, or that remains non-compliant following the implementation of a corrective action plan, will be deemed ineligible to participate in the state-approved plan for a minimum of five years.

State Process Application Point of Contact

Taylor Hilyer
Director of Student Life
Alabama Community College System
Office: 334-293-4609
Email: taylor.hilyer@accs.edu