



Kay Ivey
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw
COMMISSIONER

May 29, 2018

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rick Couch
(334) 293-7046

Students with disabilities to tour Capitol as part of Governor's Youth Leadership Forum

MONTGOMERY – More than 25 students with disabilities will descend upon the state Capitol on June 6 as part of the 20th annual Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum (YLF).

The group will spend the morning touring the Capitol building and visiting with state officials and lawmakers at the Alabama State House. They will participate in a mock vote and learn how the legislative process works, said YLF Coordinator Karen Jenkins.

The five-day forum, being held June 3-7, is sponsored by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) and held on the campus of Troy University.

Following their tour of the Capitol complex, YLF delegates will attend the Angeline Pinckard Mentor Luncheon at the RSA Activity Center, where they will interact with and receive advice from successful adults with disabilities.

The guest speaker for this year's luncheon is Chris Moore, who has worked as an educator in Alabama for more than 30 years. His area of expertise is helping students of all ages with learning disabilities.

Moore, who has dyslexia, will discuss the emotional highs and lows of trying to get through school with a learning disability and the people who assisted him along the way. He will share specific strategies and motivations that helped him eventually

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earn a bachelor's as well as a master's degree.

YLF delegates are chosen through a statewide competition that seeks students with disabilities who have leadership potential. The group reflects the state's demographic makeup in terms of geography, gender, ethnicity, and types of disabilities.

To be eligible to participate in the forum, students must have a disability, be a junior or senior in high school, and be between 17 and 21 years of age.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

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