

"A CLINIC ON CLINICS ON CLINICS"  
(a state clinic on district clinics on local clinics)

This blueprint for increased involvement of members was developed by representatives of the Alabama Education Association and the Alabama State Teachers Association at the New Orleans Political Clinic. In order to allow each state association sufficient leeway in the development of its activities, these plans are general in nature. Each state association will structure its program in keeping with the particular needs of its membership.

I. Statement of Purpose

Through the involvement of their total memberships, the Alabama Education Association and the Alabama State Teachers Association will coordinate their efforts to achieve educational goals which are mutually desirable to all the teachers in Alabama.

II. Reasons for Initiating the Project

- A. Alabama ranks low in per pupil expenditure.
- B. Pupil-teacher ratio needs to be lowered.
- C. Teachers need "time to teach", (freedom from clerical tasks).
- D. Local governing bodies lack autonomy.
- E. There is a lack of financial support for an expanded educational enterprise.
- F. Teachers lack the know-how to convey the needs of education to the lay public.
- G. Inadequate salaries make it difficult to attract and hold competent personnel.
- H. Members of AEA and ASTA want to provide quality education for all Alabama youth.

III. Analysis of the Problem

A. Assets

- 1. Qualified teaching personnel
- 2. Strong professional organizations at the state, district and local levels
- 3. Increasing awareness, on the part of teachers and lay citizens, of the needs of education in Alabama

4. Recognition of the importance of education in developing the state's economy
5. Human and natural resources

#### B. Liabilities

1. History of inadequate financial support in Alabama
2. Disinterested teachers and community members
3. Apathy on the part of teachers toward becoming involved in political concerns of the community, state and nation
4. Failure of teachers to compete favorably with special interest groups in achieving state support for education
5. Reluctance, on the part of teachers, to openly advocate change which will benefit education
6. Lack of incentive for teachers to improve their professional skills

#### IV. Plan of Action

In order to promote teacher involvement in government, the Alabama Education Association and the Alabama State Teachers Association are planning political clinics in each of the organizations at the state, district and local levels. These clinics will be designed to develop positive attitudes, to motivate teachers toward becoming actively involved, to develop know-how, and to design ways to attack and solve specific problems.

##### A. State Political Clinic

1. Purposes
  - a. Provide information
  - b. Interpret information
  - c. Involve teachers from each local and district association
  - d. Improve skills of communication
2. Scheduled dates - April 5-7
3. Proposed action as a result of state clinic
  - a. State level participants to serve as district and local leaders in follow-up clinics
  - b. Continuous dissemination of information to participants to assure on-going programs of communication
  - c. Recommendations for programs and activities by professional associations

## B. District Clinics

### 1. Purposes

- a. Provide information
- b. Interpret information
- c. Involve teachers from each local association
- d. Improve skills of communication

### 2. Scheduled dates - April 15 through 26

### 3. Proposed action as a result of district clinics

- a. District level participants to serve as leaders in local clinics
- b. Continuous dissemination of information to participants to assure on-going programs of communication.
- c. Recommendations for continuous programs by the district associations

## C. Local Clinics

### 1. Purposes

- a. Provide information
- b. Interpret information
- c. Involve all teachers in the betterment of education in Alabama
- d. Improve skills of communications
  - 1. More effective contacts with colleagues
  - 2. Techniques for working with legislators
  - 3. Effective means for working with lay groups

### 2. Scheduled dates - Following state and district clinics

### 3. Proposed action as a result of local clinics

- a. Involvement of teachers in all phases of society affecting education
- b. Continuous dissemination of information to teachers to assure on-going programs of communication
- c. Improved school legislation as a result of teacher involvement