

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please *do not* file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Richard (RJ) Martin
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: Apr 2 2024 Return: Apr 4 2024
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington DC Destination: BHM/MGM, AL. Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Aspen Institute
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Site visits about education policy
7. Attached to this form are *each* of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:*
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor *prior* to the trip, *including all* attachments *and* the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; *and*
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 4/15/2024

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Virginia Foxx Date: 4/15/2024

Signature of Supervising Member: 

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: _____

2. Travel Destination(s): _____

3. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): _____

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler				
Accompanying Family Member				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Richard (RJ) Martin

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Committee on Education + Workforce (majority)
(Chairwoman Virginia Foxx)

Office Address: 2176 Rayburn

Telephone Number: 202-225-4527

Email Address of Contact Person: rj.martin@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Richard (RJ) Martin
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Aspen Institute
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Birmingham / Montgomery AL
4. a. Date of Departure: April 2 2024 Date of Return: April 4 2024
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? *note: I am not accepting return transportation from the sponsor
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
 - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
 - (3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:**

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
I am a professional staff member for K12 policy and the trip is intended to examine federal-state partnerships and school-level site visits on the science of reading.
9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: Virginia Foxe Date: 2/28/2024

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip: _____

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**

b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**

c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

7. a. City of departure: _____

b. Destination(s): _____

c. City of return: _____

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**

b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**

c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____
-

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
 - b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip *and* its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
- b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee			
For each Accompanying Family Member			

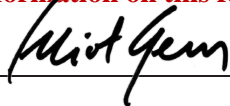
	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

March 28, 2024

Mr. Richard Martin
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Martin:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Montgomery, Alabama, scheduled for April 2 to 4, 2024, sponsored by Aspen Institute, Inc., and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. We note that you will not be accepting return transportation from the sponsor on this trip.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:tn



February 9, 2024

Dear House Colleague,

We are writing to invite you to participate in an upcoming site visit– ***“Alabama's Educational Leadership: Insights and Innovations in Math, Reading and Workforce Readiness”*** – for the Aspen Senior Congressional Education Staff Network from **11:00 AM Tuesday, April 2, 2024**, to **10:45 AM Thursday, April 4, 2024** in Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama.

The site visit offers a comprehensive exploration of Alabama's educational system, focusing on integrating the Science of Reading, the impact of recent math legislation, and the strategic use of ESSER funds. It will include school visits in both Birmingham and Montgomery, including the innovative Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School. Participants will engage in meaningful discussions with educators, policymakers, and special guests, such as key state leaders from the executive and legislative branches, and representatives from the Alabama State Department of Education. The agenda is thoughtfully structured to provide insights into federal and state educational policies, their implementation at the local level, and how these are shaping student outcomes. On this site visit, staffers will:

1. Gain deeper insights into how the Science of Reading is integrated within Alabama's education system, focusing on its effectiveness, teacher training, and student literacy outcomes.
2. Examine the development and implementation of Alabama's recent math legislation. Assess its early outcomes, including improvements in student proficiency and teacher preparedness in mathematics.
3. Engage in discussions about the federal government's role in shaping education in Alabama, with a specific focus on equity implications, policy impacts, and the balancing of state and federal priorities.
4. Understand how Alabama has strategically utilized Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds in enhancing its reading and math programs, and evaluate their overall impact on educational reforms and student achievement.
5. Investigate how local schools in Alabama are designing educational programs and school infrastructures in alignment with local workforce and industry demands

We are committed to working with you and the House Ethics Committee to ensure compliance with the House rules regarding privately-funded sponsored travel. Enclosed you will find all the forms necessary for filing the trip with the Ethics Committee:

- A detailed agenda listing discussion sessions
- A completed Primary Trip Sponsor Form
- A signed Additional Trip Sponsor Form

- A list of invited House staffers
- A Traveler Form [must be filled out by Staffer]
- Completed Grantmaking Organization Additional Trio Sponsor Form from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

You must complete the Traveler Form and submit it with the enclosed agenda, list of invited staffers, and Primary Trip Sponsor Form directly to the House Ethics Committee (1015 Longworth) no later than Friday, March 1, 2023. After receiving the completed travel package, the Ethics Committee will review and issue an approval to you or your sponsoring Member. After the trip, you will need to complete a post-travel form that we will email to you after the site visit.

Attendance is by invitation only, with no outside observers or federal lobbyists. Funding is provided solely by grants from established foundations – no government, individual, foreign, corporate, or special interest money is accepted. The Network is supported by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Aspen Education & Society Program maintains autonomy over invitations, materials, and the agenda for the retreat.

The site visit promises to be productive and informative. We look forward to seeing you there.

Warm regards,

The image shows four handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right, they appear to be: Ross Wiener (a stylized 'RW'), Megan Bennett (a cursive signature), Aisha Zaman (written in a clear, blocky font), and Lorén Cox (a stylized signature).

Ross Wiener Megan Bennett Aisha Zaman Lorén Cox



Aspen Senior Congressional Education Staff Network
*Alabama's Educational Leadership: Insights and Innovations in
Reading, Mathematics and Workforce Readiness*
Birmingham and Montgomery Alabama
April 2-4, 2024

House Congressional Staff

Ilana Brunner

General Counsel
*House Committee on
Education and the Workforce*

Rashage Green

Education Policy Director
*House Committee on
Education and the Workforce*

RJ Martin

Professional Staff Member
*House Committee on
Education and the Workforce*

AGENDA

Alabama's Educational Leadership: Insights and Innovations in Reading, Mathematics, and Workforce Readiness

Site Visit Goals:

- Gain insight into how the Science of Reading is being implemented across Alabama's education system, focusing on fidelity of implementation, how effectiveness is being measured, teacher training, student literacy outcomes, and opportunities for improvement.
- Examine the development and implementation of Alabama's recent math legislation, the Alabama Numeracy Act. Assess its initial roll-out, including the availability of relevant research, experts and supporting staff, as well as the overall receptivity of Alabama's education system, particularly in context of the ongoing efforts to implement Science of Reading.
- Engage in discussions about the federal government's role in shaping education in Alabama, with a specific focus on equity implications, policy impacts, and the balancing of state and federal priorities.
- Understand how Alabama has strategically utilized Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds in enhancing its reading and math programs, and evaluate the overall impact on educational reforms and student achievement.
- Investigate how local schools in Alabama are designing educational programs and school models to address identified needs in the local workforce and industry trends.

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

- 10:23 AM** **Arrival in Birmingham Airport**
All flights arriving by 10:23 AM from DCA to BHM (Illana Brunner, Rashage Green and RJ Martin are all on the flight that lands at 10:23)
- 11:30 AM** **Airport Transport to Site Visit at Birmingham City Schools**
Transportation via chartered bus from the airport to Birmingham City Schools, a public school district located at 2015 Park Place N. Birmingham, AL 35203

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Welcome & Lunch with Birmingham School District Leaders

Lunch to be served in TBD conference room at Birmingham City School building with discussion of the district's successes and challenges, with specific focus on Science of Reading implementation, initial work on the Alabama Numeracy Act (ANA), and student workforce readiness.

Dr. Ann McGough, Principal Academic Coach, Birmingham City Schools
Dr. Mark Sullivan, Superintendent, Birmingham City Schools
Dr. Spencer Horn, Chief of Staff, Birmingham City Schools
Dr. Pamela Williams, Interim Chief Academic and Accountability Officer, Birmingham City Schools

1:00 – 1:30 PM

Transportation to Charles A. Brown Elementary

Charles A. Brown is a Birmingham City Schools elementary school located at 4811 Court J, Birmingham, AL 35208

1:30 – 2:45 PM

[School Visit: Charles A. Brown Elementary](#)

1:30 - 2:00: School Tour

2:00 - 2:45: Roundtable discussion with Principal Dr. Janice Sanders Drake and leadership team. Additional invited guests: **Ruth Ann Moss**, Executive Director of Small Magic, a non-profit working to increase early literacy in Birmingham City Schools.

Guiding questions:

- *What does the day-to-day work of the school leadership team look like? Who else exercises leadership in the school and what do they do?*
- *How has the school implemented the Science of Reading and what results is it seeing?*
- *What implications has the implementation of the Science of Reading had for curriculum, professional development, human capital, resource allocation?*
- *Where does the school stand in implementing the Alabama Numeracy Act (ANA)? How does that align with, or complicate, the Science of Reading implementation?*
- *Have ESEA and ESSER investments supported the implementation of the Science of Reading or the ANA?*

2:45 – 3:00 PM

Transportation to Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School

The Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School is a public charter school located 1414 2nd Ave N, Bessemer, AL 35020

3:00 – 4:15 PM

[School Visit: Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School](#)

3:00 - 3:30: School Tour

3:30 - 4:15: Roundtable discussion with Founder/CEO Ruben Morris, leadership team, and students.

Guiding questions:

- *What does the day-to-day work of the school leadership team look like? Who else exercises leadership in the school and what do they do?*
- *What led to the creation of the Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School? Why was aerospace and aviation chosen as the focus of the school?*
- *How does the school prepare students for the workforce?*
- *What partnerships does the school leverage to provide educational and training experiences for students?*
- *Does the school address the Science of Reading and what results is it seeing?*
- *What challenges does the school face in realizing its mission, in education/preparing students, in finding staff, etc.?*
- *Have ESEA and ESSER investments supported the school's mission, goals, outcomes?*

4:15 - 6:00 PM

Transportation to Montgomery, AL via chartered bus

Staybridge Suites Montgomery
275 Lee St, Montgomery, AL 36104

During the trip, Aspen facilitators will use the time to connect the dots between the two schools visited in the morning. We will make connections between literacy, numeracy, and how they impact Alabama's workforce development.

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Break

7:00 - 7:15 PM

Walk to Dinner (7 min)

7:15 – 9:00 PM

[Working Dinner](#)

Dreamland BBQ
12 W. Jefferson St., Montgomery, AL 36104

Aspen facilitators will use this time to set the scene for the next two days, including an overview of the Equal Justice Initiative and an overview of the pre-reading materials. Staffers will be asked to share a reading they found compelling from the pre-reading materials, and to identify a question or pondering they would like answered in the next two days, and what they hope to learn or takeaway from this site visit.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

7:45 – 8:15 AM

Breakfast

Staybridge Suites Montgomery
275 Lee St, Montgomery, AL 36104

8:15 – 8:30 AM

Transportation to Alabama Capitol Building

8:45 – 9:45 AM

Session I: Education Advocacy in Alabama

Alabama State Capitol Building
600 Dexter Ave, Montgomery, AL 36130

This session will focus on past advocacy work in Alabama around the Science of Reading and the Alabama Numeracy Act (ANA), as well as efforts to increase students' workforce readiness. In addition, this session will discuss future advocacy work, such as the ongoing implementation of the Science of Reading, the new implementation of the ANA, and other topics.

Faculty:

- **Mark Dixon**, President, A+ Alabama
- **Corinn O'Brien**, VP of Policy, A+ Alabama

Guiding questions:

- *What is the historical context in Alabama, from Brown v. Board to the last 20 years, and how has this affected schools, students, staff, and families?*
- *What are the most pressing issues facing schools, students, staff, and families in Alabama? Is the same or different in Montgomery, Birmingham or other parts of Alabama?*
- *What are the greatest successes – and challenges – in the implementation of the Science of Reading? The Alabama Numeracy Act (ANA)?*
- *How can the state education system prepare students for post-secondary success, particularly in workforce readiness?*
- *What are the top priorities for education advocates in the next five years? The next ten?*

9:45 - 10:15 AM

Session II: Conversation with Lt. Gov. Ainsworth

Alabama State Capitol Building
600 Dexter Ave, Montgomery, AL 36130

This session will focus on the Governor's policy initiatives around the Science of Reading and the recent legislation, the Alabama Numeracy Act (ANA), as well as efforts to increase students' workforce readiness. In addition, this session will discuss the Governor's future policy goals.

Faculty:

- **Lt. Gov. Ainsworth**, Alabama
- **Nick Moore**, Education Policy Advisor & Coordinator Governor's Office of Education & Workforce Transformation, Office of Gov. Kay Ivey

Guiding questions:

- *What is the historical context in Alabama, from Brown v. Board to the last 20 years, and how has this affected schools, students, staff, and families?*

- *What are the most pressing issues facing schools, students, staff, and families in Alabama? Is the same across the different regions and cities in Alabama?*
- *How can the state education system prepare students for post-secondary success, particularly in workforce readiness?*
- *What are the top priorities for education policy and legislation in the next 1-2 years? Next 5-10?*
- *What is your view of ESSA and ESSER in supporting – or hindering – Alabama’s efforts to improve its education system for all students?*

10:15 – 10:30 AM Break

10:30 – 11:30 AM Session III: Policymaker Perspectives on the Science of Reading, the Alabama Numeracy Act, and Workforce Readiness

Alabama State Capitol Building
600 Dexter Ave, Montgomery, AL 36130

This session will focus on past policy initiatives around the Science of Reading and the recent legislation, the Alabama Numeracy Act, as well as efforts to increase students’ workforce readiness. In addition, this session will discuss future policy goals for the state.

Faculty:

- **State Representative Alan Baker**, Vice Chair, Education Policy Committee
- **State Representative Terri Collins**, Chair, House Education Policy Committee
- **State Representative Barbara Drummond**, Ranking Minority Member, Education Policy Committee
- **State Representative Danny Garrett**, Chair, House Ways and Means, Education Committee

Guiding questions:

- *What is the historical context in Alabama, from Brown v. Board to the last 20 years, and how has this affected schools, students, staff, and families?*
- *What are the most pressing issues facing schools, students, staff, and families in Alabama? Is the same across the different regions and cities in Alabama?*
- *How can the state education system prepare students for post-secondary success, particularly in workforce readiness?*
- *What are the top priorities for education policy and legislation in the next 1-2 years? Next 5-10?*
- *What is your view of ESSA and ESSER in supporting – or hindering – Alabama’s efforts to improve its education system for all students?*

11:30 – 11:45 AM Break

11:45 – 12:45 PM Lunch

During Lunch, Aspen Staff will set the stage for a discussion of the Federal Role in Equity in Education. Facilitators will clarify questions from the pre-readings on equity and civil rights in education and will set the state for the afternoon sessions.

12:45 – 1:45 PM

Session IV: Panel Discussion on the Federal Role in Equity and Education

This session will focus on the historical and contemporary efforts by the federal government to require equitable access to education for all students regardless of race, color or creed and to create the conditions for equitable opportunity for all through court cases, legislation, and policy.

Faculty:

- **Thomas Rains**, Executive Director, The Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Institute
- **Bryan Stevenson**, Founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (invited)
- **Stephanie Johnson Monore**, former Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education
- **Gini Pupo-Walker**, Executive Director, The Education Trust-Tennessee

Guiding questions:

- *How does the legacy of the Civil Rights movement, Brown v. Board, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and other federal civil rights legislation and jurisprudence still shape the context of providing education to Alabama's Black and minority students?*
- *What obstacles remain in realizing the promise of equal access and opportunity for Alabama's Black and minority students?*
- *Have subsequent reauthorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including the most recent – the Every Student Succeeds Act – helped to address the historic inequities in educational access and outcomes in Alabama?*
- *What more can and should be done to continue building on the legacy of the Civil Rights movement in addressing racism, inequity, and increasing opportunity for Alabama's Black and minority students?*

1:45 – 2:00 PM

Transfer from the State House to the Alabama State Department of Education

Alabama State Department of Education – 50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery AL 36130

2:00 – 2:45 PM

Session V: Meeting with Alabama State Department of Education

This session will focus on the implementation of policy initiatives, including the Science of Reading and the Alabama Numeracy Act (ANA), as well as efforts to increase students' workforce readiness. In addition, this session will discuss future policy goals for the education system in the state of Alabama.

Faculty:

- **Dr. Eric Mackey**, Alabama State Superintendent of Education
- **Angela Martin**, Deputy State Superintendent of Education
- **Bonnie Short**, Coordinator, Alabama Reading Initiative
- **Dr. Karen Anderson**, Director, Office of Mathematics Improvement
- **Dr. Jimmy Hull**, Assistant State Superintendent of Education, CTE/Workforce Development (invited)

Guiding questions:

- *What does the Alabama Reading Initiative do in support of the implementation of the Science of Reading? What are its successes and challenges?*
- *Describe the efforts of the Alabama State Department of Education to lead and support the implementation of the ANA.*
- *What are the most pressing issues facing schools, students, staff, and families in Alabama? Is the same across the different regions and cities in Alabama?*
- *How can the state education system prepare students for post-secondary success, particularly in workforce readiness?*
- *What are the top priorities for education policy in the next 1-2 years? Next 5-10?*
- *What is your view of ESSA and ESSER in supporting – or hindering – Alabama’s efforts to improve its education system for all students?*
- *Are there other federal laws, policies, supports, and research that could assist Alabama in achieving its goals and initiatives?*

2:45 – 3:00 PM

Transportation to the Legacy Museum

450 North Court Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

3:00 – 5:00 PM

Self-Guided Tour of the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum

450 North Court Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

This tour will directly tie in the role of federal policy in the work of state and local education in Alabama. The tour will help link the 12:45 Federal Policy Panel session with the work that is currently happening in Alabama. Congressional staff will be prompted with questions after the panel to consider while they engage with the content of the tour. While the tour is self-guided, the full group will stay together and Aspen facilitators will connect the learning from the museum with the role federal policy makes in education equity,

5:00 – 5:15 PM

Walk Back to Hotel (10 min) and Break

6:00 – 6:15 PM

Walk to Reception & Dinner (5 min)

Central: 129 Coosa St. Montgomery, AL 36104

6:15 – 8:00 PM

Reception & Dinner with faculty, local education leaders

Dinner will feature follow-up discussion with panelists from the earlier sessions, including Alabama A+ Staff, the State Legislators, the Lt. Governor, and the Federal Policy Panelists. Congressional Staffers will be

asked to draw from the tour at the Equal Justice Initiative and will be given the opportunity to ask additional questions from panelists to round out the learning for the day,

Thursday, April 4, 2024

8:00 – 8:30 AM

Breakfast

Staybridge Suites Montgomery
275 Lee St, Montgomery, AL 36104

8:30 – 8:45 AM

Transportation to Nixon Elementary School Visit

1000 Edgar D Nixon Ave, Montgomery, AL 36104

8:45 – 10:15 AM

[School Visit: Nixon Elementary School \(planned\)](#)

8:45 - 9:15: School Tour

9:15 – 10:15: Roundtable discussion with Principal and leadership team. Additional invited guests: Dr. Ann McGough.

Guiding questions:

- *What does the day-to-day work of the school leadership team look like? Who else exercises leadership in the school and what do they do?*
- *How has the school implemented the Science of Reading and what results is it seeing?*
- *What implications has the implementation of the Science of Reading had for curriculum, professional development, human capital, resource allocation?*
- *Where does the school stand in implementing the Alabama Numeracy Act (ANA)? How does that align with, or complicate, the Science of Reading implementation?*
- *Have ESEA and ESSER investments supported the implementation of the Science of Reading or the ANA?*

10:15 - 10:45 AM

Final Reflections

Nixon Elementary School

1000 Edgar D Nixon Ave, Montgomery, AL 36104

Guiding questions:

- *What strategies, tactics, and/or processes at the different districts and schools seem promising – or problematic?*
- *Is there alignment between the state policymakers' views, policies, and investments with what is happening on the ground in districts and schools? How would you characterize the relationship between the SEA and LEAs and schools?*

- *Is the state's educational system trying to do too much – or too little – and is it organized for and supporting a coherent approach to improving both reading and math?*
- *Is Alabama doing enough to prepare its students for postsecondary success?*
- *Does Alabama's implementation of its Science of Reading initiative hold lessons for other states? For future federal policy?*
- *Are there challenges that practitioners are anticipating that federal policy or investments can help address?*
- *Are there federal supports and research that could assist Alabama in achieving its goals and initiatives?*

10:45 – 11:00 AM Meeting Ends & Transportation to Montgomery Airport

12:30 - 6:15 PM Departures to Washington, DC

Latest Flight to DCA departs at 6:14 PM (this includes Senate Staff)

Note: For those who are on later flights, lunch will be provided, and there will be an optional opportunity to visit the EJI Peace Memorial (this is at no additional cost as it is included in the price of admission for the April 3 tour and is not considered part of official programming).

Reshage Green is departing at 12:09 PM

Illana Bruner is departing at 1:24 PM

RJ Martin is extending his stay at his own personal expense and Aspen will not be paying for his return travel,