



# First Teacher:

## Alabama's Home Visiting Program

### An introduction to First Teacher

The Department of Early Childhood Education (DECE) is **Alabama's designated lead agency for home visiting**, aligning it with the department's other early childhood system initiatives.

DECE provides grant funding for voluntary home visiting programs that focus on school readiness and family and child health and well-being as well as help families access resources in their communities. All DECE-funded programs **use an evidence-based home visiting model** that matches families with trained professionals to provide information and support. Programs may enroll pregnant women and continue to serve the family until the child enters kindergarten. While services may be received elsewhere, the home is the primary setting for service delivery.

### First Teacher availability and gaps

First Teacher Home Visiting programs **serve families in 66 of the 67 counties** across Alabama. Because of limited financial resources, even counties offering home visiting services may have families on waiting lists.

### First Teacher program delivers results



A **\$2 million incremental increase** in state funds would **allow DECE to add and support programs** to fortify home visiting services for families in 67 counties.