



**Felicia Simpson, Director
Alabama Expanded Learning Alliance (AELA)**

Felicia Simpson is the Director of Alabama Expanded Learning Alliance (AELA), promoting high quality afterschool programs across the state. Established with the support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Alabama Expanded Learning Alliance is one of the 50 national afterschool networks dedicated to informing policy, developing partnerships, and shaping practices to sustain and increase the quality of afterschool programs nationwide.

Throughout her career, Felicia Simpson has created, developed, directed, and evaluated afterschool and summer programs that have positively impacted Alabama children from Pre-K through graduation. Simpson has 28 years of public school and higher education experience in Alabama with much of her time devoted to establishing quality afterschool and summer programming.

During her 20 years working in local public schools, she was a teacher and administrator, while also securing more than \$ 21.5 million in grant funds to provide quality programs and support services to low-income children and families. Simpson has served as a teacher, administrator and director in Higher Education. She holds a bachelor of science degree in Elementary Education from Jacksonville State University, master of science in Educational Leadership/Administration and an education specialist degree from University of Alabama. Simpson completed her White Riley Peterson Fellowship at Furman University.

She has served as a Community Education Director, 21st CCLC Director, Federal Programs Compliance Monitor and coordinated numerous federal, state and local grants. She is the Alabama Community Education Association (ACEA) Past-President, Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) past District Coordinator, served on Governor Kay Ivey's STEM Advisory Committee, 2022-2023 Marshall County Leadership Board Chair, and serves on several local advisory boards.

“Doing what is best for children and families” was Simpson’s guiding principle; she led through action and example. With broad, bipartisan support from the Governor’s Office and the Alabama Legislature, in 2022, Simpson worked with state partners to secure a state investment of \$1.5 Million for afterschool and summer programming.

Under her direction, AELA piloted the first 5 Regional Hubs across the state to strengthen and support high-quality afterschool and summer learning experiences as part of Governor Ivey’s education initiative, Strong Start Strong Finish. Simpson is a fierce advocate for children and families and believes all children and families should have access to high quality afterschool and summer programming regardless of their zip code. She is married to Rusty and they reside in beautiful Lake Guntersville, AL.