

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
MARCH 14, 2024
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 10 a.m., in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Board in accordance with *Alabama Code* (1975), §16-3-7, as amended.

PRESIDING: GOVERNOR KAY IVEY, PRESIDENT

The invocation was done by Reverend Candice Frazer, Rector, Church of the Ascension, Montgomery, Alabama, and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag that was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present

Mrs. Stephanie Bell in person
Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person
Governor Kay Ivey in person
Mrs. Marie Manning in person
Mrs. Belinda McRae in person
Dr. Wayne Reynolds in person
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person
Mrs. Tracie West in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education, was also present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 8, 2024, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of February 8, 2024.

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCH 4-8, 2024, AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK” IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education has recognized since 1975, the National School Breakfast Program has contributed to the health and educational development of Alabama’s children by making nutritious meals available in Grades K-12 public schools; and

WHEREAS, every March, the School Nutrition Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture join together to celebrate the National School Breakfast Week; and

WHEREAS, the National School Breakfast Week 2024 (#NSBW24) theme is “Surf’s Up With School Breakfast,” which spotlights the wide variety of flavors, dishes, delivery options, and tastes that can be customized in today’s school breakfast; and

WHEREAS, research has indicated that students who eat breakfast have better attention and memory, and the quality of foods children eat impacts cognition, and poor nutrition is linked with absenteeism, health problems, hunger symptoms, and psychosocial problems; and

WHEREAS, scientifically based food and nutrition information contributes powerful education benefits to all elementary and secondary students; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Breakfast Program served over 43,855,787 million breakfast meals for the school year 2022-2023 to Alabama students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to the Alabama school nutrition professionals who make the local School Breakfast Program work in 1,272 school sites statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education designate March 4-8, 2024, as “National School Breakfast Week” in the public schools of Alabama and encourages local schools to participate in promoting National School Breakfast Week.

Done this 14th day of March 2024

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH 10-16, 2024, AS
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM WEEK IN ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) administered in Alabama by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Child Nutrition Section, reaffirms the vital role positive nutritional habits play in the healthy growth of children; and

WHEREAS, ALSDE recognizes the importance of nutritional education for the most vulnerable and youngest children, as well as adults, through CACFP care centers and homes across the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the CACFP provides daily meals and snacks to children and adults which increases the quality of care; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Alabama served 27.5 million meals through the CACFP to children and adults at more than 646 child and adult care centers; and

WHEREAS, the innovative approach to CACFP implementation, which pairs childcare homes and centers, adult day care centers, and after-school sites with ALSDE highlights a unique public-private partnership that supports working families and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the third week of March is annually recognized as “National CACFP Week” to raise awareness of the child and adult care food program and the nutritional benefits established by the USDA:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does designate March 10-16, 2024, as “National CACFP Week” in Alabama.

Done this 14th day of March 2024

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Alabama A & M University
(AAMU Teach)**

WHEREAS, Alabama A & M University received authorization from the Alabama State Board of Education on August 10, 2023, to develop four UTeach programs; and

WHEREAS, reviews of Alabama A & M University’s UTeach programs were conducted between December 2023 and January 2024 by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule 290-3-3-58; and

WHEREAS, all programs have been recommended for approval based upon compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules; and

WHEREAS, Alabama A & M University is accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) with a continuing visit scheduled for Fall 2024; and

WHEREAS, each UTeach program submitted included a clearly formulated statement of the knowledge and abilities necessary for certification as a teacher, the proposed curriculum, timeline, and a description of internship requirements; and

WHEREAS, Alabama A & M University officials have been made aware that contingent upon approval, they must submit a progress report at the end of two years and if any areas of concern are identified, a visit will be scheduled by the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of documents, the Alabama State Superintendent recommends approval of the following programs:

AAMUTeach Biology, Class B Program
AAMUTeach Chemistry, Class B Program
AAMUTeach Mathematics, Class B Program
AAMUTeach Physics, Class B Program

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the AAMUTeach educator preparation programs until June 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education will review these programs with all others at a site visit, and based upon this review will recommend all programs based upon findings and contingent upon CAEP continued accreditation.

Done this 14th day of March 2024

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Athens State University
(AthensStateTeach)

WHEREAS, Athens State University received authorization from the Alabama State Board of Education on August 10, 2023, to develop three UTeach programs; and

WHEREAS, reviews of Athens State University's UTeach programs were conducted between December 2023 and January 2024 by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule 290-3-3-58; and

WHEREAS, all programs have been recommended for approval based upon compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules; and

WHEREAS, Athens State University is accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) through June 30, 2029; and

WHEREAS, each UTeach program submitted included a clearly formulated statement of the knowledge and abilities necessary for certification as a teacher, the proposed curriculum, timeline, and a description of internship requirements; and

WHEREAS, Athens State University officials have been made aware that contingent upon approval, they must submit a progress report at the end of two years and if any areas of concern are identified, a visit will be scheduled by the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of documents, the Alabama State Superintendent recommends approval of the following programs:

AthensStateTeach Biology, Class B Program
AthensStateTeach Chemistry, Class B Program
AthensStateTeach Mathematics, Class B Program

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the AthensStateTeach educator preparation programs until June 30, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education will review these programs with all others at a site visit, and based upon this review will recommend all programs based upon findings.

Done this 14th day of March 2024

On motion by Mrs. Tracie West and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Auburn University
(AUTEACH)

WHEREAS, Auburn University received authorization from the Alabama State Board of Education on August 10, 2023, to develop four UTeach programs; and

WHEREAS, reviews of Auburn University’s UTeach programs were conducted between December 2023 and January 2024 by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule 290-3-3-58; and

WHEREAS, all programs have been recommended for approval based upon compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules; and

WHEREAS, Auburn University is accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) through June 30, 2029; and

WHEREAS, each UTeach program submitted included a clearly formulated statement of the knowledge and abilities necessary for certification as a teacher, the proposed curriculum, timeline, and a description of internship requirements; and

WHEREAS, Auburn University officials have been made aware that contingent upon approval, they must submit a progress report at the end of two years and if any areas of concern are identified, a visit will be scheduled by the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of documents, the Alabama State Superintendent recommends approval of the following programs:

AUTEACH Biology, Class B Program
Biomedical Sciences Track
Genetics Track
Organismal Biology Track

AUTEACH General Science, Class B Program
AUTEACH Chemistry, Class B Program
Chemistry Teaching Track 1
Chemistry Teaching Track 2

AUTEACH Physics, Class B Program

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the AUTEACH educator preparation programs until June 30, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education will review these programs with all others at a site visit, and based upon this review will recommend all programs based upon findings.

Done this 14th day of March 2024

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Auburn University at Montgomery
(AUMTeach)

WHEREAS, Auburn University at Montgomery received authorization from the Alabama State Board of Education on August 10, 2023, to develop five UTeach programs; and

WHEREAS, reviews of Auburn University at Montgomery's UTeach programs were conducted between December 2023 and January 2024 by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule 290-3-3-58; and

WHEREAS, all programs have been recommended for approval based upon compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules; and

WHEREAS, Auburn University at Montgomery is accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) through June 30, 2028; and

WHEREAS, each UTeach program submitted included a clearly formulated statement of the knowledge and abilities necessary for certification as a teacher, the proposed curriculum, timeline, and a description of internship requirements; and

WHEREAS, Auburn University at Montgomery officials have been made aware that contingent upon approval, they must submit a progress report at the end of two years and if any areas of concern are identified, a visit will be scheduled by the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of documents, the Alabama State Superintendent recommends approval of the following programs:

AUMTeach Biology (Pre-Health), Class B Program
Bachelor of Arts Track
Bachelor of Science Track

AUMTeach General Science (Chemistry), Class B Program

AUMTeach General Science (Biology), Class B Program
Bachelor of Arts Track
Bachelor of Science Track

AUMTeach Computer Science, Class B Program

AUMTeach Mathematics, Class B Program

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the AUMTeach educator preparation programs until June 30, 2028.

Done this 14th day of March 2024

On motion by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
University of South Alabama
(UTeach South)

WHEREAS, University of South Alabama received authorization from the Alabama State Board of Education on August 10, 2023, to develop five UTeach programs; and

WHEREAS, reviews of University of South Alabama's UTeach programs were conducted between December 2023 and January 2024 by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule 290-3-3-58; and

WHEREAS, all programs have been recommended for approval based upon compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules; and

WHEREAS, University of South Alabama is accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) through December 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, each UTeach program submitted included a clearly formulated statement of the knowledge and abilities necessary for certification as a teacher, the proposed curriculum, timeline, and a description of internship requirements; and

WHEREAS, University of South Alabama officials have been made aware that contingent upon approval, they must submit a progress report at the end of two years and if any areas of concern are identified, a visit will be scheduled by the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of documents, the Alabama State Superintendent recommends approval of the following programs:

UTeach South Biology, Class B Program

UTeach South General Science, Class B Program

- Biology Track
- Biomedical Sciences Track
- Chemical Engineering Track
- Chemistry Track
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental Science Track
- Geology Track
- Marine Science Track
- Mechanical Engineering Track
- Meteorology Track
- Physics Track

UTeach South Chemistry, Class B Program

UTeach South Physics, Class B Program

UTeach South Mathematics, Class B Program

- Civil Engineering Track
- Computer Science Track
- Mathematics Track

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the UTeach South educator preparation programs until June 30, 2028.

Done this 14th day of March 2024

On motion by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
University of West Alabama
(UWATeach)

WHEREAS, University of West Alabama received authorization from the Alabama State Board of Education on August 10, 2023, to develop seven UTeach programs; and

WHEREAS, reviews of University of West Alabama's UTeach programs were conducted between December 2023 and January 2024 by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule 290-3-3-58; and

WHEREAS, all programs have been recommended for approval based upon compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules; and

WHEREAS, University of West Alabama is accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) through June 30, 2029; and

WHEREAS, each UTeach program submitted included a clearly formulated statement of the knowledge and abilities necessary for certification as a teacher, the proposed curriculum, timeline, and a description of internship requirements; and

WHEREAS, University of West Alabama officials have been made aware that contingent upon approval, they must submit a progress report at the end of two years and if any areas of concern are identified, a visit will be scheduled by the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of documents, the Alabama State Superintendent recommends approval of the following programs:

UWATeach Biology, Class B Program
UWATeach General Science, Class B Program
UWATeach Computer Science, Class B Program
UWTeach Mathematics, Class B Program

UWATeach Biology, Alternative-A Program
UWATeach General Science, Alternative-A Program
UWTeach Mathematics, Alternative-A Program

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the UWATeach educator preparation programs until June 30, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education will review these programs with all others at a site visit, and based upon this review will recommend all programs based upon findings.

Done this 14th day of March 2024

On motion by Mrs. Tracie West and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted 4-0-5 for the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Dr. Tonya Chestnut, Dr. Wayne Reynolds, Dr. Yvette Richardson, and Mrs. Jackie Zeigler abstained, causing the motion not to carry.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION ORGANIZATION
#T.E.A.C.H.
Training Educators and Creating Hope**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted Rule 290-3-3-.60, Alternative Teacher Preparation Organization (ATPO) as a section within the Educator Preparation chapter of the *Alabama Administrative Code* on November 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to code regulation, #T.E.A.C.H. (Training Educators and Creating Hope) applied to operate within the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, #T.E.A.C.H. documented meeting the requirements for successful operation by submitting documentation verifying that they are within the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) approval process with a CAEP review scheduled during the Spring 2024 semester; and

WHEREAS, CAEP has confirmed that #T.E.A.C.H. will receive a decision after the October 2024 Accreditation Council meeting; and

WHEREAS, #T.E.A.C.H. has been made aware that they must submit an annual progress report detailing the number of program completers during the year and continued compliance with Rule 290-3-3-.60; and

WHEREAS, #T.E.A.C.H. has been made aware that Alabama's test requirements for certification must be met as prescribed; and

WHEREAS, #T.E.A.C.H. has been made aware that they will be required to submit data for the annual Educator Preparation Report Card; and

WHEREAS, #T.E.A.C.H. has been made aware that training with the Educator Certification Section of the Alabama Department of Education (ALSDE) is required to learn about the background review and certification process prior to preparing Alabama's educators; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of documents, the Alabama State Superintendent recommends approval of #T.E.A.C.H. to operate in Alabama for the following programs:

K-12 Teaching Fields		
Arabic	Italian	Music/Instrumental
Chinese	Japanese	Russian
English for Speakers of Other Languages	Korean	Spanish
French	Latin	Theatre
German	Music/Choral	Visual Arts

6-12 Teaching Fields			
Agriscience Education	Chemistry	General Science	History
Algebra I	Computer Science	General Social Science	Mathematics
Biology	English Language Arts	Geography	Physical Education
Business/Marketing Education	Family and Consumer Sciences	Health Education	Physics

4-8 Teaching Fields			
English Language Arts	General Social Science	General Science	Mathematics

K-6 Teaching Field	P-3 Teaching Field
Elementary Education	Early Childhood Education

Collaborative Special Education Teaching Field	
Collaborative Special Education Teacher Grades K-6	Collaborative Special Education Teacher Grades 6-12

WHEREAS, #T.E.A.C.H. has indicated how they will ensure individuals being prepared as a Collaborative Special Education Teacher will also participate in a program with intensive supervision and structured guidance, participate in high-quality professional development, and demonstrate progress toward full certification; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education reserves the right to require special reviews in response to the adoption of new laws, standards, significant changes to existing standards, or evidence of contributing factors:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants conditional approval of #T.E.A.C.H. to operate in Alabama as an ATPO contingent upon full CAEP approval until March 31, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon full CAEP accreditation, #T.E.A.C.H. will receive approval until March 31, 2027, pending all requirements are met annually in the progress report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education will review the annual reports and all necessary documentation to determine if #T.E.A.C.H. should be granted continued operations within Alabama.

Done this 14th day of March 2024

On motion by Mrs. Tracie West and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE, 290-3-3-.61, PERTAINING TO LITERACY COURSEWORK: SCIENCE OF READING (SOR)

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO REPEAL AND ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-4-3-.01, PERTAINING TO PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-4-3-.04, PERTAINING TO ALABAMA STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Mackey stated that there was no report necessary for the month of March.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey acknowledged Dr. Diana Virgil, National Counselor of the Year, who was in attendance. The Governor and Board Members allowed Dr. Virgil to offer brief comments about her journey. Dr. Mackey stated that Dr. Virgil was unable to attend last month's meeting due to other obligations as a national speaker. He asked Dr. Virgil to remain for portraits after the meeting.

Dr. Mackey reminded everyone that March is Arts Education Month. Dr. Mackey stated that Board Members were in attendance last night at the Alabama State Superintendent's Visual Arts (SSVA) Exhibit Awards Program that was held at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Elementary and high school students who won in the SSVA exhibit were recognized. The Arts festivities continues throughout the month including today at 11:10 a.m., with the Saraland Singers from Saraland High School located in the Saraland City School System, performing in the rotunda of the Gordon Persons Building.

Dr. Mackey stated that as an old Science teacher, he would like to wish everyone a Happy Pi Day!

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer