RESOLUTION COMMENDING WEST POINT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, UPON BEING NAMED A 2026 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS (NAESP) NATIONAL GOLD STAR SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education is pleased to recognize and commend West Point Intermediate School in the Cullman County School System upon its selection as a 2026 NAESP National Gold Star School by the National Association of Elementary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, the NAESP National Gold Star School Program recognizes outstanding elementary and middle-level schools whose learning communities collaborate to foster growth and demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement, with schools evaluated according to three pillars of effective schools: Established Culture, Empowered People, and Optimal Systems; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Principal Mike Jones, West Point Intermediate School has cultivated a culture grounded in its mission to relentlessly pursue academic excellence and a positive culture through impactful relationships and intentional instructional practices, reflected in a 97.3 percent annual staff retention rate, strong family and community engagement, and a commitment to ensuring every student feels known, valued, and connected; and

WHEREAS, West Point Intermediate School empowers students and educators through rigorous and engaging instruction, collaborative leadership, and comprehensive support for student and staff well-being, including data-informed differentiated instruction and intervention, teacher leadership and professional learning, and student leadership opportunities through programs such as iLead and Student Ambassadors; and

WHEREAS, the school has developed optimal systems that strategically align staffing, instructional practices, data analysis, professional learning, and district collaboration to advance student achievement, as evidenced by a fully licensed teaching staff, 88 percent of whom hold graduate-level degrees, weekly collaborative planning, comprehensive progress monitoring, and close alignment with the priorities of the Cullman County Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of these efforts is demonstrated by West Point Intermediate School's improvement from an 88 to a system-high score of 94 on the Alabama State Report Card and a perfect score of 100 for ACAP student growth, as well as recognition as a two-time Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School and the recognition of its school counseling program as an Alabama School Counselor Association Program of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, West Point Intermediate School's selection as one of only 57 schools nationwide and one of only two Alabama schools named a 2026 NAESP National Gold Star School reflects the extraordinary commitment of its students, faculty, staff, families, community partners, and school leadership to creating a learning environment in which all students can thrive:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby congratulates West Point Intermediate School, Principal Mike Jones, its faculty and staff, students, families, community partners, and the Cullman County School System, upon this distinguished national recognition and expresses its appreciation for their exemplary leadership, dedication to academic excellence, and steadfast commitment to continuous improvement and student success.

Done this 12th day of November 2026