

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ALABAMA’S “GROW OUR OWN” INITIATIVE AND “FUTURE TEACHERS OF ALABAMA” ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Education Association have formed a partnership dedicated to encouraging Alabama’s students to pursue a career in the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, research shows there will be an even greater demand for highly qualified teachers in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the Future Teachers of Alabama organization and the TEACH Alabama program are innovative approaches focused on attracting more talented students to careers in the field of education; and

WHEREAS, the Future Teachers of Alabama organization and the TEACH Alabama program are rigorous, progressive, and vital parts of Alabama’s total education system; and

WHEREAS, these programs are committed to providing students with opportunities to gain valuable hands-on experiences through internships, classroom observations, and project-based learning; and

WHEREAS, the Future Teachers of Alabama organization and the TEACH Alabama program launched the “Grow Our Own” initiative to give local school systems expanded opportunities to promote teaching as a career, highlight the importance of America’s educators, and encourage students to consider entering the education profession.; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Education Association and the Alabama State Department of Education also wish to recognize and honor the service, dedication, and professionalism of Alabama’s educators; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education hereby recognizes and commends the following Future Teachers of Alabama students as shared first-place recipients of the 2026 Alabama “Grow Our Own” Initiative Notebook and Display Competition: Elizabeth Hensley, Riley Cosby, Elizabeth Fisher of Allen Thornton Career Center, and Lillian McCord of Elmore County Technical Education Center; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education hereby recognizes and commends Laniah Trammell, Kensley Jones, and Maleah Trammell of White Plains High School as the first-place winners of the 2026 Alabama “Grow Our Own” Initiative Video and Lesson Plan Competition:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages local boards of education and all educational organizations statewide to support these special programs through activities that demonstrate the true importance of the teaching profession and the opportunities it provides for students to achieve personal and professional success.

Done this 14th day of May 2026