

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MRS. HEATHER RENEE BARDWELL
PRINCIPAL, MOUNTAIN GAP MIDDLE SCHOOL
HUNTSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS THE 2025-2026 ALABAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell, Principal of Mountain Gap Middle School in the Huntsville City School System, has been selected as the 2025–2026 Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP); and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year Program recognizes outstanding school leaders who exemplify excellence in instructional leadership, student achievement, school culture, and service to their school communities, and Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell has distinguished herself through exemplary leadership in each of these areas; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell brings 26 years of distinguished service in education, including 22 years in administrative leadership across multiple schools and grade levels. She has served as principal of Mountain Gap Middle School since 2019, following successful leadership as principal of Mountain Gap P–8 and Weatherly Heights Elementary School and as assistant principal of Whitesburg Middle School; and

WHEREAS, her longstanding commitment to the Mountain Gap community has enabled her to cultivate meaningful relationships with students, educators, families, and community partners, fostering a culture built upon trust, collaboration, and shared purpose; and

WHEREAS, throughout her 15 years as a principal, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell has remained steadfast in her commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and academically rigorous learning environment where every student is valued, supported, challenged, and empowered to succeed; and

WHEREAS, under Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell's leadership, Mountain Gap Middle School has experienced significant improvements in academic performance, attendance, school climate, and overall student success, including an increase the school's state report card grade from a low B to an A, a nearly 50 percent reduction in chronic absenteeism, fewer discipline referrals, and increased student engagement and achievement across all student groups; and

WHEREAS, a hallmark of Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell's leadership is the implementation of the school's comprehensive advisory program, which features weekly 30-minute advisory sessions and monthly Town Hall meetings that promote goal setting, reflection on student achievement data, recognition of accomplishments, and meaningful connections between students and educators; and

WHEREAS, the advisory program is closely integrated with Mountain Gap Middle School's House System, a defining feature of the school's culture that fosters belonging, accountability, collaboration, leadership, and school pride through friendly competitions, service opportunities, and shared celebrations across grade levels; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell has further strengthened the school's positive culture by integrating the advisory program with the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework, including initiatives such as the Golden Bucket Awards and School Resource Officer Challenge Coins, which recognize positive behavior, leadership, citizenship, and service while reinforcing high expectations for all students; and

WHEREAS, through her commitment to transparency, collaborative leadership, and family engagement, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell has strengthened partnerships with parents and the community while advancing Mountain Gap Middle School's mission to *"Learn. Grow. Achieve. Ready for the Future,"* creating a unified school community dedicated to continuous improvement and student success; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell's exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication to educational excellence, and commitment to serving students and families have brought great distinction to Mountain Gap Middle School, the Huntsville City School System, and the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognize and congratulates Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell on being named the 2025-2026 Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year and commends her exemplary instructional leadership, commitment to student success, and outstanding contributions to public education in Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell's distinguished service to the students, educators, families, and community she serves and extends its best wishes for her continued success as a leader in advancing excellence in Alabama's public schools.

Done this 8th day of October 2026