

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MRS. KATHERINE "KELLI" FISCHER PRINCIPAL, OPELIKA HIGH SCHOOL, OPELIKA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM AS THE 2025-2026 ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer, Principal of Opelika High School in the Opelika City School System, has been selected as the 2025–2026 Alabama High School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP); and

WHEREAS, the Alabama High School Principal of the Year Program recognizes exceptional school leaders who demonstrate excellence in instructional leadership, school culture, innovation, and student achievement, and Mrs. Fischer has exemplified each of these qualities through her outstanding service to the students, faculty, families, and community of Opelika; and

WHEREAS, with 15 years of service in education, including ten years in administrative leadership, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer has demonstrated visionary leadership at Opelika High School through meaningful relationships, strategic, system-level improvements, and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that every student feels valued, supported, and prepared for future success; and

WHEREAS, following the tragic events of 2023 when members of the Opelika High School community were impacted by the Dadeville mass shooting, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer led with extraordinary courage, compassion, and resilience, helping the school community heal while fostering an environment centered on belonging, hope, purpose, and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, under Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer's leadership, Opelika High School has cultivated a culture in which high expectations are balanced with genuine care and support for students, exemplified by the inspiring return of two students injured in the tragedy who proudly crossed the graduation stage with the Class of 2024; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer transformed her vision into action by establishing Dawg Impact Groups (DIG), a daily advisory program that connects every student with a consistent adult mentor and peer group, strengthening relationships, fostering accountability, and providing timely academic and social-emotional support; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer implemented Dedicated Dawgs, a schoolwide recognition program that celebrates excellence in attendance, academic achievement, behavior, and personal responsibility, reinforcing positive habits while strengthening school pride and student engagement; and

WHEREAS, these innovative initiatives have produced measurable improvements, including reductions in chronic absenteeism and student behavior referrals, increased engagement in school, and stronger student-reported feelings of belonging, connectedness, and purpose; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer's exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to students, and dedication to educational excellence have brought great distinction to Opelika High School, the Opelika 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. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer on being named the 2025–2026 Alabama High School Principal of the Year and commends her exemplary instructional leadership, compassionate service, and extraordinary contributions to public education in Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer's steadfast commitment to the success and well-being of Alabama's students and educators and extends its best wishes for her continued success as a leader in education and an advocate for excellence in public education.

Done this 8th day of October 2026