

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 12-16, 2026
AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK” IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education has annually acknowledge the National School Lunch Program for its vital role in supporting the health and educational development of Alabama’s children by providing nutritious meals to students in public and private schools, as well as Residential Child Care Institutions participating in the program; and

WHEREAS, each October, the School Nutrition Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture jointly celebrate the National School Lunch Week—established in 1962 to highlight the importance of healthy school meals and the impact of balanced nutrition on student achievement both inside and outside the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the theme for National School Lunch Week 2026 (#NSLW26) is “*Cafeteria Circus: Where Nutrition Takes Center Stage!*”; and

WHEREAS, research shows that participation in school lunch programs supports obesity prevention, improves overall student health, enhances dietary quality, and helps reduce food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, during the 2025-2026 school year, the School Lunch Program served more than 86,137,379 lunches to Alabama students—an increase of 1,160,178 meals over the previous year:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation to the dedicated school nutrition professionals whose efforts ensure the success of the School Lunch Program across 1,454 school sites statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages all Alabama schools to participate in National School Lunch Week activities and hereby designates October 12-16, 2026, as “**National School Lunch Week**” in Alabama public schools.

Done this 10th day of September 2026