

## **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

**WHEREAS**, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been detected in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, the appearance of COVID-19 in the state poses the potential of widespread exposure to an infectious agent that poses significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Health has designated COVID-19 to be a disease of epidemic potential, a threat to the health and welfare of the public, or otherwise of public health importance; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, on recommendation of the State Health Officer, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, declared that a state public health emergency exists in the state of Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 19, 20, and 27, 2020, the State Health Officer, in response to a rapidly growing number of cases of COVID-19, issued orders suspending certain public gatherings, requiring social distancing, prohibiting in-person instruction at all schools, and other measures as necessary to be implemented on a statewide basis to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's P-12 schools have not been providing educational opportunities in traditional school settings since March 18, 2020, or earlier based on local education agency decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's institutions of higher education are providing online instruction, primarily to students who are no longer on campus; and

**WHEREAS**, closure of P-12 schools had a direct impact on candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs, many of whom were enrolled in internships or other P-12 school-based experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, some approaches to earning a subsequent Alabama educator certificate, or meeting requirements for admission to an advanced program, require documentation of a full year of full-time employment in a P-12 school; and

**WHEREAS**, extending certain deadlines will provide assistance to P-12 teachers and administrators; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education supports the actions taken to date and to be announced via this resolution:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby endorses the flexibilities communicated via a memorandum dated March 26, 2020, to Alabama's educator preparation institutions outlining flexibilities including those related to internship and edTPA, and made part of this resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That individuals who hold the First Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field for the 2019-2020 school year will not be required to meet

edTPA requirements as they progress toward meeting requirements to earn a Professional Educator Certificate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves extending the deadline for required surveys from new teachers and their employers to June 1, 2020; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves extending the deadline for educator certification continuation requirements and other requirements to October 1, 2020.

Done this 9th day of April 2020

