

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. JAMES A. THACKER,
ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, UPON THE
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker, Assistant State Superintendent, Office of Evaluation, Accountability, and Support, has announced his intent to retire from the Alabama State Department of Education effective on April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker graduated with honors from Troy University, Dothan with a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Biology, a Master of Arts Degree in Education, and was named the Distinguished Graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker earned an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Law after being the first candidate to successfully defend his dissertation in Alabama State University's new doctoral program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker was a Middle School Teacher of the Year, athletic director, and principal while with the Daleville City School System; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker joined the Alabama State Department of Education in 2004 as an Education Specialist for the Prevention and Support Services Section; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker also served in the Alabama Leadership Academy as the Coordinator of the Governor's Commission on Quality Teaching for Governor Bob Riley, and as the Coordinator of Research and Development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker has been a member of the Editorial Board for *The Professional Educator*, College of Education, Auburn University; State Council Member for AdvancED of Alabama; Regional Advisory Board Member, Southeast Comprehensive Center; Governing Board Member, Regional Education Laboratory Southeast; and Regional Advisory Committee Member for the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker is the co-author of three books, *From At-Risk to Academic Excellence*, *What Successful Leaders Do*; *Creating School Cultures That Embrace Learning*; and *Schools Where Teachers Lead*, in addition to numerous other peer reviewed articles; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker is described by his coworkers as a dynamic individual who serves as an inspiration to all who know him because he genuinely cares about others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker, while exhibiting intelligence, integrity, work ethic, and professionalism in everything he does, is truly characterized by his compassion, grace, poise, and southern charm, thereby making him a true and genuine leader; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Dr. James A. Thacker for his years of service to the students in Alabama's public schools and does hereby wish him a very happy, healthy, and long retirement.

Done this 12th day of March 2020