

## **RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE TUSCALOOSA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM – ALABAMA’S 2021 NOMINEE FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Education annually recognizes top school systems nationwide who are successfully creating eco-friendly and sustainable school environments; and

**WHEREAS**, only our nation’s most efficient school districts and institutions can earn the prestigious *Green Ribbon School Award*; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, the Tuscaloosa City School System has been nominated for this highly respected award for its innovative strategic planning and commitment to constructing energy-efficient facilities throughout its local school system and community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education proudly recognizes the Tuscaloosa City School System for its long-standing commitment to preserving Alabama’s natural resources by lowering its energy use, reducing its carbon footprint, and creating an eco-friendly school environment for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, this school system provides service to nearly 11,000 students each day; and

**WHEREAS**, this school system has created a highly respected green culture throughout its community, where students flourish and local residents support energy conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, this school system started renovating all school facilities to increase systemwide energy efficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tuscaloosa City School System’s eco-plan has allowed five local schools to be completely rebuilt using environmentally friendly materials and construction methods; and

**WHEREAS**, 11 additional Tuscaloosa City Schools have also been completely renovated and now utilize cutting-edge energy saving equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, several of the system’s school campuses incorporate special outdoor spaces and gardens to encourage students and families to explore the great outdoors; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuscaloosa City School System is also a leader in alternative fuel use – this school system has converted a majority of its fleet to propane-fueled transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tuscaloosa City School System has been invited many times to provide national and regional “Listen and Learn” tours on its environmental energy saving efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tuscaloosa City School System has decreased water waste by installing new efficient water fountains and bathroom fixtures in all schools; and

**WHEREAS**, its schools actively participate in cardboard and paper product recycling; and

**WHEREAS**, to increase air quality and reduce student asthma triggers, the Tuscaloosa City School System has installed updated air purifier systems and HEPA filters in high-traffic school building areas, gymnasiums, libraries, and administrative offices; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuscaloosa City School System's students and families are provided access to health services throughout the academic year, including free flu shots provided in partnership with the *Health Heroes* organization; and

**WHEREAS**, this school system also fosters wellness for all students by partnering with programs, such as Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) to prevent child neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, this innovative school system also developed *Tuscaloosa CAN!* to help eliminate food insecurity in West Alabama – more than 80,000 pounds of food has already been distributed throughout the community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the Tuscaloosa City School System for its long-standing commitment to environmental excellence, and does hereby express heartfelt congratulations to all students, parents, and educators in this top performing school district.

Done this 13th day of May 2021

