RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 12-16, 2020, AS "SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK" IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education has recognized for nearly 50 years, the School Lunch Program has contributed to the health and educational development of Alabama's children by making nutritious meals available in Grades K-12 public schools; and

WHEREAS, every October, the School Nutrition Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture join together to celebrate the National School Lunch Week; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Week 2020 (#NSLW20) theme is "Now Playing: School Lunch," which spotlights the wide variety of flavors, dishes, delivery options, and tastes that can be customized in today's school lunch; and

WHEREAS, research has indicated that students who eat lunch have better attention and memory, and the quality of foods children eat impacts cognition, and poor nutrition is linked with absenteeism, health problems, hunger symptoms, and psychosocial problems; and

WHEREAS, scientifically based food and nutrition information contributes powerful education benefits to all elementary and secondary students; and

WHEREAS, the School Lunch Program served over 63 million lunch meals for the school year 2019-2020 to Alabama students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to school nutrition professionals who make the local School Lunch Program work in 1,475 school sites statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages Alabama schools to participate in promoting National School Lunch Week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does designate October 12-16, 2020, as "School Lunch Week" in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 8th day of October 2020