

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRATULATING THE ALABAMA MICROSOFT IMAGINE ACADEMY ON EXCEEDING 100,000 CERTIFICATIONS

WHEREAS, in 2012, Alabama launched the Microsoft IT Academy Statewide deployment (renamed Microsoft Imagine Academy); only third in the nation to initiate this worldwide program for high school students; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's Microsoft Imagine Academy offers digital access to instructional curriculum and certifications that enable high school students to learn software applications such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, as well as skills necessary in Computer Science, IT Infrastructure and Data Science; and

WHEREAS, more than 223 school sites are registered as Microsoft exam test centers through Certiport to assist high school students with earning recognized credentials for job attainment and college and career success; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 Alabama students are enrolled in Career and Technical Education courses specifically tailored to incorporate the Microsoft Imagine Academy curriculum and certification exams; and

WHEREAS, over 200 CTE teachers annually have received professional development training to fully utilize the benefits of the Microsoft Imagine Academy; and

WHEREAS, students earning industry-recognized certification such as offered through Microsoft, prepares them for college and career readiness and enables them to possess 21st Century Skills needed for success after high school; and

WHEREAS, since 2012, Alabama students and teachers have gained valuable career skills and more than 100,000 professional certifications earned through the Microsoft Imagine Academy for an annual state cost savings of more than \$150,000.00 (in certification costs); and

WHEREAS, in June of 2019, Alabama achieved worldwide recognition as high school student, Seth Maddox from Geraldine High School (DeKalb County), took the stage in New York City as the 2019 Microsoft Office Specialist World Champion in Microsoft PowerPoint 2016 surpassing competitors from countries such as China, Czech Republic, and Romania; and

WHEREAS, Alabama students have an impressive track record in these competitions as six students (two top scorers from each application: Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel) have been invited to compete in the 2020 National Competition in Dallas, TX.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognize Alabama's Microsoft Imagine Academy for empowering teachers and students to gain valuable career skills by earning more than 100,000 professional certifications.

Done this 13th day of February 2020