RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2019
AS ALABAMA ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, our local school systems are working hard to advance student success by reducing chronic school absences; and

WHEREAS, consistent school attendance ensures all students are better prepared for success – after high school graduation, during postsecondary learning opportunities, and in their future careers; and

WHEREAS, current research indicates that more than eight million students in the United States each year are chronically absent from school; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism places students at great academic risk and is defined in Alabama as missing at least 15 or more days of school annually; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that chronic absences and suspensions are a leading cause of higher student dropout rates and lower classroom reading proficiency; and

WHEREAS, barriers in transportation, health issues, poor nutrition, and mental health matters are factors, which often impact student attendance; and

WHEREAS, we are increasing awareness by providing support and resources to parents, which provide information on best practices to reduce chronic absences; and

WHEREAS, we must continue to effectively monitor attendance data and provide positive outreach to parents and Alabama’s local communities to address the primary causes of chronic student absences; and

WHEREAS, school attendance is essential to academic achievement:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does encourage all local communities, school districts, and civic organizations to join in this laudable effort to reduce chronic student absenteeism, and does hereby encourage all Alabamians to participate in activities recognizing September 2019 as “Attendance Awareness Month.”

Done this 12th day of September 2019