

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF KELSEY COOPER,
DISCOVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL, MADISON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2021-2022 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD**

WHEREAS, Kelsey Cooper, an eighth-grade mathematics teacher at Discovery Middle School in the Madison City School System is described as a phenomenal teacher and one who differentiates learning in her classroom to meet the needs of every level of learning while maintaining high expectations and dignity for her students; and

WHEREAS, Kelsey Cooper began her educational journey as a student teacher who was naturally gifted in mathematics and one who always requested to tutor others after class, she received academic honors for earning all A's; and

WHEREAS, Kelsey Cooper earned her Bachelor's Degree in 2015 from Athens State University and is currently working on a Master's Degree in instructional leadership from the University of West Alabama. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and currently serves as a mentor to teachers who are completing the process; and

WHEREAS, Kelsey Cooper's classroom is described as Grand Central Station with a beehive of productive activity that is organized, informative, and supportive; learning goals and expectations are evident throughout the classroom that display lessons, real-world activities, and problems to be solved; and

WHEREAS, Kelsey Cooper played an integral role in collaborating and leading her department to become instructionally paced when the students were quarantined. Her knowledge of technology and devotion to the well-being of her students made her invaluable with the school moving to virtual, hybrid, and in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year, and she was credited with not only helping her students in mathematics but also helping with social-emotional needs; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2022, during a surprise assembly at Discovery Middle School, Kelsey Cooper was awarded a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award for her excellence and innovation in education; and

WHEREAS, the Milken Educator Awards recognizes the teaching profession and provides an unrestricted financial award of \$25,000 to exceptional elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and specialists who further excellence in the nation's schools; and

WHEREAS, Kelsey Cooper is one of two honorees in Alabama and among more than 60 to receive the Milken Family Foundation recognition during the 2021-2022 school year, along with the \$25,000 financial prize. The Milken Educator Awards recipients join the National Milken Educator Network that consists of more than 2,800 exemplary teachers, principals, and specialists; and

WHEREAS, the Milken Family Foundation presented the first Milken Educator Awards in 1987, and since Alabama joined the program in 1998, 39 recipients have been awarded a total of \$975,000:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Kelsey Cooper, Discovery Middle School, Madison City School System, upon the honor of being selected as one of two educators in the state of Alabama to receive this prestigious award.

Done this 12th day of July 2022