

**RESOLUTION HONORING SHADES MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS 2023 NOMINEE FOR ALABAMA GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes the importance of saving energy, reducing costs, creating environmentally sustainable learning spaces, protecting health, and fostering wellness for Alabama students and educators; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education annually recognizes those schools in the nation that are striving to achieve an energy-efficient and healthy school environment with the Green Ribbon School Award; and

WHEREAS, Shades Mountain Elementary School, located in the Hoover City School System is awarded the Alabama Green Ribbon School Award by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for its commitment to improving its overall environmental impact, energy efficiency, and environmental education efforts; and

WHEREAS, Shades Mountain Elementary School encouraged students to take an active role locally to support the environment through Alabama Mathematics, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) experiences, both indoors and in outdoor learning spaces, through *EcoSchools* program where students were led to request an energy audit conducted by Alabama Power, which resulted in efficiency methods being implemented and the improvement of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system working in coordination with a local HVAC specialist; and

WHEREAS, Shades Mountain Elementary School's parent group volunteered to help design an outdoor space to include nature trails, a butterfly garden, rain barrel collection area, and raised vegetable beds accessible to students of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, Shades Mountain Elementary School improved water quality by installing a backflow device in line with Shades Mountain's water main, vacuum breakers to avoid cross contamination, auto stop water faucets in restrooms, and Brita filling stations from a grant; and

WHEREAS, Shades Mountain Elementary School has a no-idling policy for all vehicles and has equipped new buses with diesel particulate filters, and only load and unload at least 25 feet from building air intakes, doors, and windows; and

WHEREAS, classroom units are equipped with outside air dampers to maintain American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) fresh-air standards and in compliance with all state and local building codes; and

WHEREAS, Shades Mountain Elementary School partners with local and state affiliates to provide a comprehensive environmental program through its annual Arbor Day event, its school weather station that is part of the Community Collaborative for Rain, Hail, and Snow network, and ADS, a professional organization specializing in water, wastewater, and the effects of rainfall on these systems; and

WHEREAS, the STEM experience at Shades Mountain Elementary School uses AMSTI standards embedded projects with easily observable outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Shades Mountain Elementary School students think globally and take an active role locally to support our state's environment and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, female students also are inspired by their teachers to engage in STEAM learning opportunities, through the Girls Engaged in Math and Science initiative:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Shades Mountain Elementary School located in the Hoover City School System for its commitment to environmental education and does hereby express its sincere congratulations.

Done this 11th day of May 2023