

RESOLUTION RELATED TO INTERVENTION INTO THE SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama vest the Alabama State Board of Education and Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education, with the authority to exercise general control and supervision over the State's public schools; and

WHEREAS, Alabama law further authorizes the State Superintendent to (1) review actions and orders of boards and superintendents of education related to matters that seriously affect financial and/or education interests, (2) enforce the education laws and regulations on behalf of the Board, and (3) implement the Board's educational policies; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education perform a State function at a local level and function as an arm of the State, subject to the general supervision of the State Board; and

WHEREAS, Alabama law, including the *Educational Accountability and Intervention Act of 2013* (§§ 16-6E-1 through -7, Ala. Code 1975) authorizes the State Superintendent to intervene in local school boards under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Education received information of deficiencies in the Sumter County School System and, as a result, conducted a site visit at the Sumter County schools on June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the site visit revealed that the Sumter County Board of Education (SCBOE) has extreme challenges related to facilities, personnel, and finances; and

WHEREAS, after receiving the information from the site visit, the State Superintendent issued a show-cause Notice on July 13, 2023, notifying the SCBOE that the site visit revealed significant deficiencies that warrant consideration of intervention in the Sumter County School System and instructed the SCBOE to submit a written response to the show-cause letter within 21 days or on or before August 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, instead of providing a written response, the SCBOE held a meeting on Thursday, August 3, 2023, and voted 4-0 to fully consent to the proposed intervention of the Sumter County School System as provided by law and thereby has received all required notices and information due; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the SCBOE meets the criteria for intervention set forth in the *Educational Accountability and Intervention Act of 2013* (§§ 16-6E-1 through -7, Ala. Code 1975):

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT IS RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does fully authorize the State Superintendent of Education to intervene in the Sumter County School System pursuant to the *Educational Accountability and Intervention Act of 2013* and that he be vested with any and all authority and power afforded to him under the Act, as well as any other authority Alabama law allows; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, pursuant to the State Superintendent's request, the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby appoint John Heard as Chief Administrative Officer with full power and authorization to exercise intervention authority under the Act, subject to the State Superintendent's supervision; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Superintendent shall maintain intervention in the Sumter County School System until such time the SCBOE becomes compliant with Chapter 13A, Title 16, Ala. Code 1975, and, in the State Superintendent's judgment, demonstrates suitable progress towards correcting the deficiencies that led to intervention, including but not limited to a written financial plan, a personnel hiring plan, and a facilities plan.

Done this the 10th day of August 2023