

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 9-13, 2023,
AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK” IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education has annually recognized the School Lunch Program has contributed to the health and educational development of Alabama’s children by making nutritious meals available in Grades K-12 public schools; and

WHEREAS, every October, the School Nutrition Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture joined together to celebrate the National School Lunch Week which was established in 1962; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Week 2023 theme is “Level Up with School Lunch,” which highlights the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child’s life and the impact it has inside and outside the classroom; and

WHEREAS, research has indicated that students who eat lunch have better attention and memory, and the quality of foods children eat impacts cognition, and poor nutrition is linked with absenteeism, health problems, hunger symptoms, and psychosocial problems; and

WHEREAS, scientifically based food and nutrition information contributes powerful education benefits to all elementary and secondary students; and

WHEREAS, the School Lunch Program served over 78,592,321 million lunch meals for the school year 2022-2023 to Alabama students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to school nutrition professionals who make the local School Lunch Program succeed in 1,462 school sites statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education designates October 9-13, 2023, as “School Lunch Week” in Alabama public schools and encourage Alabama schools to promote National School Lunch Week.

Done this 12th day of October 2023