

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF INCLUSION IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS DECEMBER 2, 2023

WHEREAS, Special Education Day is celebrated on December 2, 2023, to commemorate the signing of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) into law on this day in 1975; and

WHEREAS, IDEA granted access to children with disabilities to a free and quality public education; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is committed to ensuring all children with disabilities are provided with opportunities to be educated alongside their general education peers in the least restrictive environment; and

WHEREAS, it is with unity and dedication that resources and initiatives are in place, support is emphasized, and programs exist to bridge gaps in learning, while consistently providing fairness for all children with disabilities through a lens of inclusiveness; and

WHEREAS, it is with tireless effort and dedication that the educators in Alabama are ensuring that children with disabilities live, learn, work, and participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS, embracing this concept is not a solitary pledge, the ALSDE and the Alabama State Board of Education invite all stakeholders of Alabama to celebrate the commitment to children with disabilities and stand steadfast to providing equitable opportunities to Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to all school staff who foster an environment of respect and inclusion focused on high-quality learning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages Alabama schools to participate in promoting inclusion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does designate December 2, 2023, as a day to celebrate inclusion in Alabama public schools.

Done this 9th day of November 2023