

## **RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DECEMBER 4-10, 2023, AS “COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK” IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, Computer Science Education Week began in 2009 as an annual national call to action to inspire Alabama’s K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equitable access, and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and partners to the field that acknowledges the vital role computer science plays in transforming industry, creating new fields of commerce, driving innovation in all fields of science, and bolstering productivity in established economic sectors; and

**WHEREAS**, the field of computer science, including artificial intelligence underpins the information technology sector and all science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers, making it a foundational science for the technological era and a significant contributor to Alabama’s economic output through the research and development of new innovations; and

**WHEREAS**, the outlook for computer science jobs is bright with more than 4,610 computing positions projected to be needed in 2030 across the state of Alabama with the current average salary for a computing occupation paying \$123,215, which is significantly higher than the average salary in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, providing students the chance to participate in high-quality computer science courses and activities exposes them to the rich opportunities the field offers and provides critical thinking and computational skills that will serve them throughout their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, all students in Alabama deserve a thorough preparation in computer science education, including access to qualified teachers, technology, and age-appropriate curriculum needed to learn computer science at the elementary and secondary levels of education; and

**WHEREAS**, participating in an Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week can serve to demystify the field of computer science and encourage more students to take up further studies of computer science; and

**WHEREAS**, the field of computer science continues to address equity barriers including attracting more females and underrepresented minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the week of December 4, in honor of Grace Hopper's birthday, one of the first females in the field of computer science, engineered new programming languages and pioneered standards for computer systems which laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science is designated as national Computer Science Education Week by Code.org, the Computer Science for All Initiative, the National Center for Women in Information Technology, and other nationally recognized entities:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby designate December 4-10, 2023, as “Computer Science Education Week” in Alabama schools.

Done this 14th day of December 2023