

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
THE STATE OF ALABAMA  
DECEMBER 14, 2023  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 10 a.m., in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order by the Vice President of the Board in accordance with *Alabama Code* (1975), §16-3-7, as amended.

**PRESIDING: MRS. TRACIE WEST, VICE PRESIDENT**

The invocation was done by Father Manuel Williams, Pastor, Resurrection Catholic Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag that was done in unison.

The following members were present:

**Present**

Mrs. Stephanie Bell in person  
Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person  
Mrs. Marie Manning in person  
Mrs. Belinda McRae in person  
Dr. Wayne Reynolds in person  
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person  
Mrs. Tracie West in person

**Absent**

Governor Kay Ivey  
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler

Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education, was also present.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted 6-0-1 to approve the agenda. Dr. Wayne Reynolds abstained.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 9, 2023, MEETING**

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted 6-0-1 to approve the minutes for the meeting of November 9, 2023. Dr. Wayne Reynolds abstained.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF  
SCIENCE EDUCATION STATE COURSE OF STUDY**

At this time, Ms. Mona Domiguez with Alabama Water Watch at Auburn University, and Ms. Toni Bruner with the Legacy Partners in Environmental Education, who both registered to speak prior to the Alabama State Board of Education meeting on agenda item G.2.e (Resolution for Adoption of Science Education State Course of Study), did so in person. Their speeches can be viewed in full, as well as the complete Board meeting, at <https://www.alabamaachieves.org/state-board-of-education/meeting-videos>. The Board Members and State Superintendent thanked both speakers for providing input and sharing their views.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to adopt amended *Alabama Administrative Code* chapter 290-3-6, pertaining to charter schools.

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION HONORING ALABAMA EDUCATOR  
KORRI CUNNINGHAM, JOHN HERBERT PHILLIPS ACADEMY  
BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
RECIPIENT OF THE 2023 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD**

**WHEREAS**, Alabama joined the Milken Educator Awards Program in 1998, and 40 of our state's top educators have now earned this prestigious award; and

**WHEREAS**, since starting at John Herbert Phillips Academy in 2015 as an English Language Arts teacher, Alabama Milken Educator Korri Cunningham has excelled both in the classroom and as a valued member of the school's instructional leadership team; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama Milken Educator Korri Cunningham's unique skill set working with teachers and students, combined with her lasting commitment to achieving educational goals, has equipped her with the tools and resources necessary for success; and

**WHEREAS**, her remarkable leadership, resourcefulness, and ability to build solid relationships have truly made her a trusted education leader in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, Korri Cunningham earned an Associate of Arts in English from Lawson State Community College in 2011, a Bachelor of Science in secondary education English from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2015, and a Master of Education in instructional leadership from the University of West Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, as an instructional coach, Milken Educator Korri Cunningham is a role model to students and actively supports colleagues in lesson planning while also demonstrating innovative best practices through her lesson modeling and mentorship; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama Milken Educator Korri Cunningham is now a part of the national Journey to the 3,000<sup>th</sup> Milken Award recipient effort; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, the Milken Family Foundation will reach \$75 million in individual financial awards provided to educators nationwide since its inception; and

**WHEREAS**, this organization remains focused on empowering educators to "Celebrate, Elevate, and Activate" the K-12 profession; and

**WHEREAS**, National Milken Educator Award recipients are actively sought out while in their early to mid-career for the great potential they possess to reach true educational success in our nation's schools and classrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to have America's best and brightest in our local classrooms to help prepare our students for life after graduation and adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, it is evident that Alabama Milken Educator Korri Cunningham goes above and beyond to empower students in reaching their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, she has taken extra steps to further her own instructional knowledge by becoming a trained teacher consultant through the Red Mountain Writing Project, as well as completing International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum training and spearheading IB coordination in her community while also utilizing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) processes to further build a highly effective, positive, and motivating student-centered school culture:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Korri Cunningham upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2023 recipient of the Milken Educator Award.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF SARALAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
SARALAND CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM,  
NATIONAL *ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT* (ESEA) DISTINGUISHED  
SCHOOL**

**WHEREAS**, the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program is a project of the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators and provides an opportunity for Title I schools from every state to be recognized for their positive educational advances and the outstanding academic achievement of their students; and

**WHEREAS**, schools nominated for the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program have high levels of poverty, demonstrate high academic achievement, and meet or exceed state-determined accountability criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection process, Saraland Elementary School in the Saraland City School System was selected for Category 3 of the Distinguished Schools Program that is awarded for excellence in serving English learners; and

**WHEREAS**, Saraland Elementary School Principal, Dr. Stan Stokely, and select school staff will have the opportunity to represent Alabama at the National ESEA Conference in Portland, Oregon in February 2024:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Saraland Elementary School upon the honor of being selected to receive recognition as a National ESEA Distinguished School.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Mrs. Belinda McRae and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM,  
NATIONAL *ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT* (ESEA) DISTINGUISHED  
SCHOOL**

**WHEREAS**, the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program is a project of the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators and provides an opportunity for Title I schools from every state to be recognized for their positive educational advances and the outstanding academic achievement of their students; and

**WHEREAS**, schools nominated for the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program have high levels of poverty, demonstrate high academic achievement, and meet or exceed state-determined accountability criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection process, Vernon Elementary School in the Lamar County School System was selected for Category 1 of the Distinguished Schools Program that is awarded for exceptional student performance and academic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, Vernon Elementary School Principal, Ms. Tracey Walker, and select school staff will have the opportunity to represent Alabama at the National ESEA Conference in Portland, Oregon in February 2024:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Vernon Elementary School upon the honor of being selected to receive recognition as a National ESEA Distinguished School.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**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

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION  
SCIENCE EDUCATION  
STATE COURSE OF STUDY**

**WHEREAS**, Title 16, Chapter 35, Section 3 of the *Code of Alabama*, 1975, requires the State Courses of Study Committee to prepare the contents of the courses of study for each grade of the elementary and secondary schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the report of its recommendations with respect to the compulsory minimum content of courses of study and of recommended revisions of courses, materials, subject content, and treatment in specific courses in such areas are required; and

**WHEREAS**, said law requires that the reports be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education and to members of the State Textbook Committee for separate written recommendations to the Alabama State Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education has reviewed the State Course of Study Committee's report on Science Education and recommends its adoption:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the attached report by the State Course of Study Committee on Science Education is approved by the Alabama State Board of Education on December 14, 2023.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION  
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
STATE COURSE OF STUDY  
(Career Clusters: Arts, A-V Technology, and Communications;  
Health Science; and Human Services)**

**WHEREAS**, Title 16, Chapter 35, Section 3 of the *Code of Alabama*, 1975, requires the State Courses of Study Committee to prepare the contents of the courses of study for each grade of the elementary and secondary schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the report of its recommendations with respect to the compulsory minimum content of courses of study and of recommended revisions of courses, materials, subject content, and treatment in specific courses in such areas are required; and

**WHEREAS**, said law requires that the reports be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education and to members of the State Textbook Committee for separate written recommendations to the Alabama State Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education has reviewed the State Course of Study Committee's report on Career and Technical Education and recommends its adoption:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the attached report by the State Course of Study Committee on Career and Technical Education is approved by the Alabama State Board of Education on December 14, 2023.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE  
FOR ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
CLUSTERS  
(Cosmetology and Barbering; Education and Training; and Hospitality and Tourism)**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Textbook Law provides for the adoption of textbooks by the Alabama State Board of Education, the same to be adopted from recommendations made by the State Textbook Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Textbook Committee has made its recommendations in keeping with said law; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Textbook Committee has worked long and hard hours in making such recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with said law, the Alabama State Board of Education received the recommendations at its November 9, 2023, meeting and 30 days prior notice of the date of consideration by the Alabama State Board of Education was given to news media:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education extends thanks to the State Textbook Committee and to all those who have worked to prepare the attached recommendations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the attached recommendations for the adoption of textbooks for Career and Technical Education are approved.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO  
APPOINT THE FINE ARTS STATE COURSE OF STUDY COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, *Code of Alabama* (1975) §16-35-1 through 5 provides that the Alabama State Board of Education shall constitute Courses of Study Committees for the purposes and functions as provided within the statute; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education appoints those persons listed on the attached as members of the Fine Arts State Course of Study Committee for a period of one year or until their successors are appointed.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

**2024 Fine Arts Education Course of Study Committee**

Committee Members			
Name	Congressional District	Board District	System
Quentin Lee	3	6	Talladega City School System
Cinamon Airhart	6	7	Jefferson County School System
Shelly Bailey	7	4	Jefferson County School System
Jeff Conway	3	2	Opelika City School System
Josh Feemster	5	8	Huntsville City School System
Marvin Griffin	7	4	Birmingham City School System
Brandon Howard	2	5	Montgomery Public School System
Paiton Lami	2	5	Montgomery Public School System
Amanda Knight	6	3	Pelham City School System
Faith Lenhart	6	3	Vestavia Hills City School System
Tyler Parker	5	8	Athens City School System
Anne-Marie Patrick	4	7	Florence City School System
Carrie Barber	7	3	Hoover City School System
Fharis Richter	4	6	Cullman City School System
Natalie Roig-McKnight	2	5	Montgomery County School System
Jeffrey Schultz	7	4	Tuscaloosa City School System
Benjamin Sisco	3	6	Talladega County School System
Girffin Hood	1	1	Baldwin County School System
Thomas Turner	1	1	Baldwin County School System
<b>Higher Education</b>			
Victoria Averett	2	2	Troy University
Shonda Devine	5	8	Alabama A & M University
Bryce Speed	7	4	University of Alabama

**Congressional District Representation**

**Congressional District Representation**

District	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
Committee	2	4	3	2	3	3	5

**Board District Representation**

District	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
Committee	2	2	3	4	3	3	2	3

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO  
APPOINT THE SOCIAL STUDIES  
STATE COURSE OF STUDY COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, *Code of Alabama* (1975) §16-35-1 through 5 provides that the Alabama State Board of Education shall constitute Courses of Study Committees for the purposes and functions as provided within the statute; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education appoints those persons listed on the attached as members of the Social Studies State Course of Study Committee for a period of one year or until their successors are appointed.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

**2024 Social Studies Education  
Course of Study Committee**

<b>Committee Members</b>			
Name	Congressional District	Board District	System
Mr. Ronald Snell	1	2	Geneva City School System
Connie Boutwell	7	5	Demopolis City School System
Jennifer Broadhead	7	4	Homewood City School System
Tammy Brown	5	8	Madison County School System
Leslie Clark	6	3	Hoover City School System
Erin Diver	4	7	Florence City School System
Ronnie Doughty	2	5	Montgomery County School System
Tracy Easterwood	7	4	Jefferson County School System
Leah Faris	5	8	Madison City School System
Phyllis Jackson	2	2	Pike County School System
Andrea Kohutek	1	1	Mobile County School System
Amanda Mathis	5	7	Lauderdale County School System
Shelley Minhinnette	1	1	Mobile County School System
Adam NeSmith	4	6	Blount County School System
Mitchell Pinkston	1	1	Baldwin County School System
Lisa Ramey	3	2	Lee County School System
Courtney Spencer	6	5	Autauga County School System
Harrow Strickland	3	2	Auburn City School System
Kathryn Woddail	2	3	Pike Road City School System
<b>Higher Education</b>			
Sara Demoiny	3	2	Auburn University
Russell Hammack	3	6	Jacksonville State University
Dan Puckett	2	2	Troy University

**Congressional District Representation**

**Congressional District Representation**

District	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<b>Committee</b>	4	4	4	2	3	2	3

**Board District Representation**

District	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<b>Committee</b>	3	6	2	2	3	2	2	2

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE APPROVAL OF  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
Alabama A & M University**

**WHEREAS**, the resolution done on July 12, 2022, approved Alabama A & M University's Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6), Elementary Education (K-6), and Early Childhood Education (P-3) programs contingent upon implementation of the recommendations presented from the Barksdale study by December 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama A & M University submitted progress documents in September 2023 (i.e. revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.); and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by Alabama A & M University and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team noted that the effort toward full implementation of the Science of Reading will continue to be a process as institutions are invested in the continuous improvement process:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants continuing approval of the following programs until June 30, 2026:

- Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3)
- Class B Collaborative Special Education (K-6)
- Class B Elementary Education (K-6)
- Alternative Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3)
- Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)
- Alternative Class A Elementary Education (K-6)

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE APPROVAL OF  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
Alabama State University**

**WHEREAS**, the resolution done on July 12, 2022, approved Alabama State University's Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6), Elementary Education (K-6), and Early Childhood Education (P-3) programs contingent upon implementation of the recommendations presented from the Barksdale study by December 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama State University submitted progress documents in September 2023 (i.e., revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.); and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by Alabama State University and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team noted that the effort toward full implementation of the Science of Reading will continue to be a process as institutions are invested in the continuous improvement process:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants continuing approval of the following programs until June 30, 2025:

- Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3)
- Class B Collaborative Special Education (K-6)
- Class B Elementary Education (K-6)
- Alternative Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3)
- Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)
- Alternative Class A Elementary Education (K-6)

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE APPROVAL OF  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
Athens State University**

**WHEREAS**, the resolution done on July 12, 2022, approved Athens State University's Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6), Elementary Education (K-6), and Early Childhood Education (P-3) programs contingent upon implementation of the recommendations presented from the Barksdale study by December 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Athens State University submitted progress documents in September 2023 (i.e., revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.); and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by Athens State University and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team noted that the effort toward full implementation of the Science of Reading will continue to be a process as institutions are invested in the continuous improvement process:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants continuing approval of the following programs until June 30, 2025:

Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Class B Collaborative Special Education (K-6)  
Class B Elementary Education (K-6)

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE APPROVAL OF  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
Auburn University**

**WHEREAS**, the resolution done on July 12, 2022, approved Auburn University's Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6), Elementary Education (K-6), and Early Childhood Education (P-3) programs contingent upon implementation of the recommendations presented from the Barksdale study by December 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Auburn University submitted progress documents in September 2023 (i.e., revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.); and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by Auburn University and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team noted that the effort toward full implementation of the Science of Reading will continue to be a process as institutions are invested in the continuous improvement process:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants continuing approval of the following programs until June 30, 2025:

Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Class B Collaborative Special Education (K-6)  
Class B Elementary Education (K-6)  
Alternative Class A Elementary Education (K-6)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants continuing approval of the following programs until June 30, 2028:

Alternative Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted 6-0-1 to approve the following: Dr. Yvette Richardson abstained due to conflicts of interest.

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE APPROVAL OF  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
Miles College**

**WHEREAS**, the resolution done on July 12, 2022, approved Miles College's Elementary Education (K-6) and Early Childhood Education (P-3) programs contingent upon implementation of the recommendations presented from the Barksdale study by December 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Miles College submitted progress documents in September 2023 (i.e., revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.); and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by Miles College and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team noted that the effort toward full implementation of the Science of Reading will continue to be a process as institutions are invested in the continuous improvement process:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants continuing approval of the following programs until June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2028, respectively:

Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Class B Elementary Education (K-6)

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE APPROVAL OF  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
University of Alabama at Birmingham**

**WHEREAS**, the resolution done on July 12, 2022, approved the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6), Elementary Education (K-6), and Early Childhood Education (P-3) programs contingent upon implementation of the recommendations presented from the Barksdale study by December 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Alabama at Birmingham submitted progress documents in September 2023 (i.e., revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.); and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by the University of Alabama at Birmingham and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team noted that the effort toward full implementation of the Science of Reading will continue to be a process as institutions are invested in the continuous improvement process:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants continuing approval of the following programs until June 30, 2028:

Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Class B Elementary Education (K-6)  
Alternative Class A Early Childhood (P-3)  
Alternative Class A Elementary Education (K-6)

**BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education grants continuing approval of the following program until June 30, 2025:

Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE APPROVAL OF  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
University of West Alabama**

**WHEREAS**, the resolution done on July 12, 2022, approved the University of West Alabama's Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6), Elementary Education (K-6), and Early Childhood Education (P-3) programs contingent upon implementation of the recommendations presented from the Barksdale study by December 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of West Alabama submitted progress documents in September 2023 (i.e. revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.); and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by the University of West Alabama and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team noted that the effort toward full implementation of the Science of Reading will continue to be a process as institutions are invested in the continuous improvement process:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants continuing approval of the following programs until June 30, 2025:

Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Class B Collaborative Special Education (K-6)  
Class B Elementary Education (K-6)  
Alternative Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)  
Alternative Class A Elementary Education (K-6)

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
Stillman College**

**WHEREAS**, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule 290-3-3-.59(3), allows a program leading to an Alabama Professional Educator Certificate to be approved through the Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP) program review process; and

**WHEREAS**, Stillman College submitted their Class B programs in (Collaborative Special Education (K-6); Elementary Education (K-6); English Language Arts (6-12); General Science (6-12); General Social Studies (6-12); Mathematics (6-12); Music, Choral (P-12); Music, Instrumental (P-12); and Visual Arts (P-12) for review in 2016 and were granted conditional approval through June 30, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Stillman College submitted their programs on January 1, 2023, for CIEP review; and

**WHEREAS**, the CIEP program approval review for Stillman College constituted both a document submission and a formal visit to the institution; and

**WHEREAS**, Stillman College documented compliance with all standards for the programs submitted; and

**WHEREAS**, Stillman College has made the necessary progress to seek Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation as outlined in the Alabama Literacy Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Stillman College was required to submit an application and a self-study for accreditation to CAEP; and

**WHEREAS**, Stillman College submitted a CAEP self-study report, and has an accreditation visit scheduled March 4-6, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Stillman College submitted a progress report in September 2023 (i.e., revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.) detailing their efforts toward meeting the recommendations provided by the Barksdale Institute for Science of Reading; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by Stillman College and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

**WHEREAS**, Stillman College is now and will continue to be engaged in a process of continuous improvement:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the following programs until December 31, 2030:

Class B Collaborative Special Education (K-6)  
Class B Elementary Education (K-6)  
Class B English Language Arts (6-12)  
Class B General Science (6-12)  
Class B General Social Studies (6-12)  
Class B Mathematics (6-12)  
Class B Music, Choral (P-12)  
Class B Music, Instrumental (P-12)  
Class B Visual Arts (P-12)

Approval of the aforementioned programs until December 31, 2030, is contingent upon Stillman College receiving CAEP accreditation. If the CAEP accreditation review produces any result other than full approval, the programs are conditionally approved until December 31, 2025.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
Troy University**

**WHEREAS**, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule 290-3-3-.59(3), allows a program leading to an Alabama Professional Educator Certificate to be approved through the Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP) program review process; and

**WHEREAS**, Troy University submitted their programs for review in March 2017 and was deemed to meet all Alabama specific standards for initial programs through June 30, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the CIEP program approval review constituted both a document submission and a formal visit to the institution; and

**WHEREAS**, Troy University documented compliance with all standards for the programs submitted; and

**WHEREAS**, the outcome of Troy University's Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) visit on June 30, 2020, was positive and the result of the CAEP Accreditation review resulted in unit accreditation until June of 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Troy University submitted an application and a self-study for accreditation to CAEP for continued approval; and

**WHEREAS**, Troy University submitted a progress report in September 2023 (i.e., revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.) detailing their efforts toward meeting the recommendations provided by the Barksdale Institute for Science of Reading; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by Troy University and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

**WHEREAS**, Troy University is now and will continue to be engaged in a process of continuous improvement:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the following programs until December 31, 2030:

Class B Biology (6-12)  
Class B Chemistry (6-12)  
Class B Collaborative Special Education (K-6)  
Class B Collaborative Special Education (6-12)  
Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Class B Elementary Education (K-6)  
Class B English Language Arts (6-12)  
Class B General Science (6-12)  
Class B General Social Studies (6-12)  
Class B History (6-12)

Class B Mathematics (6-12)  
Class B Music, Choral (P-12)  
Class B Music, Instrumental (P-12)  
Class B Physical Education (P-12)  
Class B Theatre (P-12)  
Class B Visual Arts (P-12)

Alternative Class A Biology (6-12)  
Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)  
Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (6-12)  
Alternative Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Alternative Class A Elementary Education (K-6)  
Alternative Class A English Language Arts (6-12)  
Alternative Class A General Science (6-12)  
Alternative Class A General Social Studies (6-12)  
Alternative Class A History (6-12)  
Alternative Class A Mathematics (6-12)  
Alternative Class A Music, Choral (P-12)  
Alternative Class A Music, Instrumental (P-12)  
Alternative Class A Physical Education (P-12)  
Alternative Class A Visual Arts (P-12)

Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)  
Class A Collaborative Special Education (6-12)  
Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Class A Elementary Education (K-6)  
Class A English Language Arts (6-12)  
Class A Gifted (P-12)  
Class A History (6-12)  
Class A Instructional Leadership (P-12)  
Class A Mathematics (6-12)  
Class A Music, Choral (P-12)  
Class A Music, Instrumental (P-12)  
Class A Physical Education (P-12)  
Class A School Counseling (P-12)  
Class A Visual Arts (P-12)

Class AA Early Childhood Education (P-3)  
Class AA Elementary Education (K-6)  
Class AA Instructional Leadership (P-12)  
Class AA School Counseling (P-12)  
Class AA Teacher Leader (P-12)

Approval of the aforementioned programs until December 31, 2030, is contingent upon Troy University receiving continued CAEP accreditation. If the CAEP accreditation review produces any result other than full approval, the programs are conditionally approved until December 31, 2025.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
Tuskegee University**

**WHEREAS**, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.59(3), allows a program leading to an Alabama Professional Educator Certificate be approved through the Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP) program review process; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University submitted their (Elementary Education, English Language Arts, Mathematics, General Science, and Physical Education) programs for review in 2016 and were granted conditional approval through May 31, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University resubmitted programs in 2020 and had new conditions cited in their report with an expiration date of June 30, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University resubmitted these programs on January 1, 2023, for a final CIEP review; and

**WHEREAS**, the CIEP program approval review constituted both a document submission and a formal visit to the institution; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University documented compliance with all standards for the programs submitted; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University has made the necessary progress to seek Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation outlined in the *Alabama Literacy Act*; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University was required to submit an application and a self-study for accreditation to CAEP; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University submitted a CAEP self-study report, and has an accreditation continuing visit scheduled from May 13-15, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University was required to ensure that they have three core faculty members for their Elementary Education program prior to approval; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University now has three full-time persons with doctorates and with professional education work experience in Grades K-6; and

**WHEREAS**, one faculty member has a major specialization in elementary education and one in reading; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University submitted a progress report in September 2023 (i.e., revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.) detailing their efforts toward meeting the recommendations provided by the Barksdale Institute for Science of Literacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by Tuskegee University and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee University is now and will continue to be engaged in a process of continuous improvement:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the following programs until December 31, 2030:

- Class B Elementary Education (K-6)
- Class B English Language Arts (6-12)
- Class B Mathematics (6-12)
- Class B General Science (6-12)
- Class B Physical Education (P-12)

Approval of the aforementioned programs until December 31, 2030, is contingent upon Tuskegee University receiving CAEP accreditation. If the CAEP accreditation review produces any result other than full approval, the programs are conditionally approved until December 31, 2025.

Done this 14th day of December 2023

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-4-1-.04, PERTAINING TO FLEXIBILITY FOR STUDENTS IN PRIORITY SCHOOLS**

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-3-1-.02, PERTAINING TO REGULATIONS GOVERNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**APPROVE THE 2023-2024 STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S EVALUATION**

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

<b>ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION K-12 MEETING AND WORK SESSION DATES SCHEDULE</b>			
<b>2024</b>			
<b>MEETING DATES</b>		<b>WORK SESSION DATES</b>	
January 11	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	January 11	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
January 31	State Board Retreat Location: TBD		
February 8	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	February 8	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
March 14	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	March 14	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
April 11	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	April 11	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
May 9	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	May 9	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
June 13	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	June 13	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
*July 9	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	July 9	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
August 8	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	August 8	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
August 28	State Board Retreat Location: TBD		
September 12	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	September 12	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
October 10	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	October 10	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
November 14	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	November 14	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
December 12	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	December 12	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103

\*Meeting required by State Law

## EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Mackey stated that State Superintendent's evaluation was conducted in December as required.

### STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey recognized and congratulated Korri Cunningham from John Herbert Phillips Academy in the Birmingham City School System as the recipient of the 2023 Milken Educator Award. He said that he has never been to a more upbeat and powerful assembly than the one at John Herbert Phillips on October 25, 2023, when Mrs. Cunningham was presented the award. Dr. Mackey stated that it was a testament to Mrs. Cunningham; Dr. Mark Sullivan, Superintendent of Birmingham City School System; Dr. Emeka Nzeocha, Principal of John Herbert Phillips Academy; Mrs. Raynetta K. Wiggins, Assistant Principal of John Herbert Phillips Academy; and Mr. Tristan Cunningham, Husband, who were all in attendance. Dr. Mackey told Mrs. Cunningham that he knows her students loves her because he witnessed their reactions at the assembly.

Dr. Mackey acknowledged Mr. Alan Vance Herron, Superintendent of Lamar County School System; Ms. Tracey Walker, Principal of Vernon Elementary School; Ms. Amanda Rogers and Ms. Sharon Little, Teachers at Vernon Elementary School; and Ms. Shannon Sanford, Reading Specialist at Vernon Elementary School, who were in attendance representing Lamar County School System for being recognized as a *National Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA) School.

Dr. Mackey acknowledged Dr. Frankie Mathis, Assistant Superintendent of Saraland City School System; Dr. Stan Stokley, Principal of Saraland Elementary School; and Mr. Jeff Ward, Federal Programs Director, who were in attendance representing Saraland City School System for being recognized as a *National Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA) School. Dr. Mackey stated that "the work that we do only gets done because the people in the schools do it, and we all recognize that and appreciate the work that you do."

Dr. Mackey stated that it is rare that the ministers stay through the entire meeting, but he challenged Father Williams this morning by asking him if he can pray as beautiful prayer today as he did to open the Montgomery Chamber luncheon two days ago, then he will be impressed. He had a completely different one, but very much the same amount of beauty of a prayer. Dr. Mackey thanked Father Williams for blessing us with his presence today.

Dr. Mackey stated that today is Alabama day. Our state celebrates its 224th birthdate today and congratulations to all Alabamians.

Dr. Mackey stated that Mrs. Bonnie Short, Program Director for the Alabama Reading Initiative Section, who is recognized in a featured story in *Leadership Birmingham Magazine*. The article is not about Mrs. Short because she would not allow it. The article is about the work that the Alabama Reading Initiative is doing to make sure every child in the state can read on grade level.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

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Vice President

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Secretary and Executive Officer