MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION THE STATE OF ALABAMA MARCH 13, 2025 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Board in accordance with *Alabama Code* (1975), §16-3-7, as amended.

PRESIDING: GOVERNOR KAY IVEY, PRESIDENT

The invocation was done by Brother Cleve Mallory, Associate Pastor, Eastmont Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag that was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present

Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person
Governor Kay Ivey in person
Dr. Allen Long in person
Mrs. Marie Manning in person
Mrs. Kelly Mooney in person
Dr. Wayne Reynolds in person
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

Absent

Mrs. Tracie West

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 13, 2025, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of February 13, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 290-3-3, PERTAINING TO EDUCATOR PREPARATION

At this time, Dr. Beth Quick, Dean of the College of Education, The University of Alabama in Huntsville; Dr. Robin McGill, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, Alabama Commission on Higher Education; Dr. Jeremy Zelkowski; Dr. Sara McDaniel, Professor, The University of Alabama; Dr. David Crowe; and Dr. June Preast, who registered to speak prior to the Alabama State Board of Education meeting on agenda item G.2.d (Repeal and Replace *Alabama Administrative Code* Chapter 290-3-3, Pertaining to Educator Preparation), did so individually via in person. Their speeches may be viewed in full, as well as the complete Board meeting, at <u>Alabama Achieves | SBOE | Meeting Videos</u>. The Board Members and State Superintendent thanked the members of the public for providing their input and sharing their views.

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Wayne Reynolds, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

RESOLUTION OF DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION FOR MRS. SHELLEY KALER PELL CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COUNSELING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, an innovative and dedicated Alabama educator, who has made it her personal mission to incorporate strategies that make career development more engaging, accessible, and relevant for students, has earned the prestigious National Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Counseling and Career Development Professional of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the National ACTE Counseling and Career Development Professional of the Year Award represents the highest honor bestowed by the National Association for Career and Technical Education, recognizing excellence and outstanding contributions in the field of career and technical education; and

WHEREAS, this award honors counseling and career professionals who dedicate their careers to advocating for students, guiding them to achieve academic success, personal growth, and career readiness, while instilling the skills and confidence they need to thrive in school and throughout life; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's career coaches play a vital role in shaping the future of the state's workforce by providing students with invaluable hands-on learning experiences through programs such as career awareness initiatives, career fairs, job shadowing, mock interviews, and industry tours, which inspire students to explore and prepare for fulfilling careers; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shelley Kaler, now in her 10th year as a career coach in the Pell City School System, has been instrumental in developing impactful programs, including a volunteer initiative for HOSA students at Enhabit Hospice, where she not only guides her students but also leads by example, volunteering her time on weekends to visit patients alongside her students, demonstrating the value of service and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shelley Kaler innovative approach to career counseling and dedication to student success have left a lasting impact on her school, community, and the future of career and technical education in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shelley Kaler's work exemplifies the highest standards of excellence, and her achievements reflect positively on the great state of Alabama, which is immensely proud to celebrate her as the National ACTE Counseling and Career Development Professional of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education, recognizing her exceptional contributions and leadership, recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby extends its sincere appreciation and heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Shelley Kaler for her remarkable achievements and her unwavering commitment to advancing career development and career and technical education and further commends her for earning the National ACTE Counseling and Career Development Professional of the Year Award.

Done this 13th day of March 2025

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS University of Alabama at Birmingham

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, the University of Alabama at Birmingham submitted their programs for review in summer 2019. Many of the programs received met with conditions and were resubmitted in summer 2022; and

WHEREAS, the materials submitted December 2018 were reviewed and deemed either approved until June 30, 2028: Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3), Elementary Education (K-6), Choral Music (P-12), Instrumental Music (P-12), Physical Education (P-12); Alternative Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3), Elementary Education (K-6), English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12), French and English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12), French (P-12), Choral Music (P-12), Instrumental Music (P-12), Physical Education (P-12), Visual Arts (P-12), Spanish (P-12); Traditional Class A Biology (6-12), Chemistry (6-12), Collaborative Special Education (K-6), Collaborative Special Education (K-6), English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12), English Language Arts (6-12), French (P-12), French and English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12), General Science (6-12), General Social Studies (6-12), History (6-12), Mathematics (6-12), Choral Music (P-12), Instrumental Music (P-12), Physical

Education (P-12), Physics (6-12), Psychometry (P-12), Reading Specialist (P-12), School Counseling (P-12), Spanish (P-12), Spanish and English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12), Visual Arts (P-12); **Traditional Class AA** Biology (6-12), Chemistry (6-12), Collaborative Special Education (K-6), Collaborative Special Education (6-12), Early Childhood Education (P-3), English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12), English Language Arts (6-12), Elementary Education (K-6), General Science (6-12), General Social Studies (6-12), History (6-12), Instructional Leadership (P-12), Mathematics (6-12), Physical Education (P-12), Physics (6-12); **Class B UABTeach** Biology (6-12), Chemistry (6-12), General Science (6-12) UABTeach, Mathematics (4-8), Mathematics (6-12), Physics (6-12), **Alternative Class A UABTeach** Biology (6-12), Chemistry (6-12), General Science (6-12), Physics (6-12), Physics (6-12), General Science (6-12), Early Childhood Special Education (F-3), English Language Arts (6-12), General Social Studies (6-12); Instructional Leadership (F-12); and

WHEREAS, the outcome of UAB's CAEP visit in December 2021 was positive and the result of the CAEP Accreditation review resulted in unit accreditation until June of 2028; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alabama at Birmingham requested that the following programs be closed due to low enrollment in May 2022: **Alternative Class A** French (P-12), Spanish (P-12), **Traditional Class A** French (P-12), History (6-12), Spanish (P-12), Visual Arts (P-12), and **Traditional Class AA** History (6-12); and

WHEREAS, the University of Alabama at Birmingham received an extension from 2022 until 2023 and submitted revised CIEP documents in the summer 2023 for all other previously approved programs expiring in 2025; and

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

WHEREAS, the University of Alabama at Birmingham documented compliance with all standards for the programs submitted; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alabama at Birmingham 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 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 State Department of Education ended all AA Reading Specialist programs due to the changes with the Alabama Literacy Act in May 2024; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alabama at Birmingham submitted a request in November 2024 to end the following programs Alternative Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3), Elementary (K-6), Traditional Class AA Collaborative Special Education (K-6), Collaborative Special Education (6-12), Early Childhood Education (P-3), and Elementary Education (K-6); and

WHEREAS, the University of Alabama at Birmingham is now 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 March 30, 2032:

Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3)
Class B Elementary Education (K-6)
Class B English Language Arts (6-12)
Class B General Social Studies (6-12)
Class B Music, Choral (P-12)
Class B Music, Instrumental (P-12)
Class B Physical Education (P-12)

UABTeach Class B Biology (6-12) UABTeach Class B Chemistry (6-12) UABTeach Class B General Science (6-12) UABTeach Class B Mathematics (4-8) UABTeach Class B Mathematics (6-12) UABTeach Class B Physics (6-12)

Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)
Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (6-12)
Alternative Class A Early Childhood Special Education (P-3)
Alternative Class A English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12)
Alternative Class A English Language Arts (6-12)

Alternative Class A French and English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12)

Alternative Class A General Social Studies (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)

Alternative Class A Spanish and English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12)

UABTeach Alternative Class A Biology (6-12)
UABTeach Alternative Class A Chemistry (6-12)
UABTeach Alternative Class A General Science (6-12)
UABTeach Alternative Class A Mathematics (6-12)
UABTeach Alternative Class A Physics (6-12)

Class A Biology (6-12) Class A Chemistry (6-12)

Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)

Class A Collaborative Special Education (6-12)

Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3)

Class A Early Childhood Special Education (P-3)

Class A Elementary Education (K-6)

Class A English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12)

Class A English Languages Arts (6-12)

Class A French and English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12)

Class A General Science (6-12)

Class A General Social Studies (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 Physics (6-12)

Class A Psychometry (P-12)

Class A School Counseling (P-12)

Class A Spanish and English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12)

Class AA Biology (6-12) Class AA Chemistry (6-12)

Class AA English for Speakers of Other Languages (P-12)

Class AA English Language Arts (6-12)

Class AA General Science (6-12)

Class AA General Social Studies (6-12)

Class AA Instructional Leadership (P-12)

Class AA Mathematics (6-12)

Class AA Physical Education (P-12)

Class AA Physics (6-12)

Approval of the aforementioned programs until March 30, 2032, is contingent upon the University of Alabama at Birmingham receiving CAEP accreditation. If the CAEP accreditation review produces any result other than full approval, the programs are conditionally approved until June 30, 2028.

Done this 13th day of March 2025

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Allen Long, the Board voted 6-2-0 to approve the following. Dr. Wayne Reynolds and Mrs. Jackie Zeigler opposed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION ORGANIZATION

American Board

(American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence)

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted Rule 290-3-3-.60, Alternative Teacher Preparation Organization (ATPO) as a section within the Educator Preparation chapter of the *Alabama Administrative Code*; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to code regulation, American Board applied to operate within the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Board verified that they were founded in 2001, have been in operation in 14 states, and have certified over 19,000 individuals to be teachers across the United States; and

WHEREAS, American Board has indicated that they are not currently on probation or under investigation in any of the states where they are in operation; and

WHEREAS, American Board has been made aware that they must submit an annual progress report detailing the number of program completers during the year and continued compliance with Rule 290-3-3-.60; and

WHEREAS, American Board has been made aware that Alabama's test requirements for certification must be met as prescribed; and

WHEREAS, American Board has indicated how they will ensure individuals being prepared as a Collaborative Special Education Teacher will also participate in a program with intensive supervision and structured guidance, participate in high-quality professional development, and demonstrate progress toward full certification; and

WHEREAS, American Board will be required to submit data for the annual Educator Preparation Report Card; and

WHEREAS, American Board understands that training with the Educator Certification Section of the Alabama State Department of Education is required to learn about and discuss the background clearance and certification process; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of documents, the Alabama State Superintendent recommends approval of American Board to operate in Alabama for the following programs:

6-12 Teaching Fields				
Algebra I	English Language Arts	History		
Biology	General Science	Mathematics		
Chemistry	General Social Science	Physics		

4-8 Teaching Fields				
English Language Arts	General Social Science	General Science	Mathematics	

K-6 Teaching Field		
Elementary Education		

Collaborative Special Education Teaching Field		
Collaborative Special Education Teacher	Collaborative Special Education Teacher	
Grades K-6	Grades 6-12	

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education reserves the right to require special reviews in response to the adoption of new laws, standards, significant changes to existing standards, or evidence of contributing factors:

NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of American Board to operate in Alabama as an ATPO until March 31, 2028, pending all requirements are met annually in the progress report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education will review the annual reports and all necessary documentation to determine if American Board should be granted continued operations within Alabama.

Done this 13th day of March 2025

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

REPEAL AND REPLACE ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 290-3-3, PERTAINING TO EDUCATOR PREPARATION

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCH 3-7, 2025, AS "NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK" IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education has recognized for 50 years, the School Breakfast 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 March, the School Nutrition Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture join to celebrate the National School Breakfast Week; and

WHEREAS, the National School Breakfast Week 2025 (#NSBW25) theme is "Clue In," which spotlights the wide variety of flavors, dishes, delivery options, and tastes that can be customized in today's school Breakfast; and

WHEREAS, research indicated that partaking in school breakfast supports obesity prevention and overall student health by improving children's diets and combatting food insecurity; and

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

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Breakfast Program served over 45,456,043 million breakfast meals for the school year 2023-2024 to Alabama students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to the Alabama school nutrition professionals who make the local School Breakfast Program work in 1,378 school sites statewide; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does designate March 3-7, 2025, as "National School Breakfast Week" in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 13th day of March 2025

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCH 17-21, 2025, AS "CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM" IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in Alabama through the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Child Nutrition Program Section, which reaffirms the vital role that positive nutritional habits play in the healthy growth of children; and

- **WHEREAS,** ALSDE recognizes the importance of nutritional education for the most vulnerable and youngest children, as well as adults, through CACFP care centers and homes across Alabama; and
- **WHEREAS**, the CACFP provides daily meals and snacks to children and adults, thereby increasing the quality of care; and
- **WHEREAS,** in 2024, Alabama served 23.2 million meals through the CACFP to children and adults at more than 770 care centers; and
- **WHEREAS,** the innovative approach to CACFP implementation, which pairs childcare homes and centers, adult daycare centers, and after-school sites with ALSDE, highlights a unique public-private partnership that supports working families and small businesses; and
- **WHEREAS,** the third week of March is annually recognized as National CACFP Week to raise awareness of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the nutritional benefits established by the USDA:
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its appreciation to Child Nutrition Program professionals who make the Child and Adult Care Food Program successful in 1,445 child and adult care sites statewide.

Done this 13th day of March 2025

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING INTERVENTION OF THE DALLAS 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 of Education 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 Alabama State Board of Education; 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 of Education to intervene in local school boards under certain conditions; and
- WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education received information of deficiencies and challenges in board governance and finances in the Dallas County School System (DCSS); and
- **WHEREAS,** the State Superintendent met with the Dallas County Board of Education (DCBOE) on February 18, 2025, and informed them of the significant deficiencies that warrant consideration of intervention in the DCSS; and
- **WHEREAS**, as a result of the information received from the State Superintendent, the DCBOE agreed to allow the State Superintendent to intervene in the DCSS; and
- WHEREAS, in compliance with Alabama law, the State Superintendent then issued a show-cause Notice on February 21, 2025, to the DCBOE outlining the deficiencies that warrant consideration of intervention in the DCSS and instructed the DCBOE to submit a written response to the show-cause letter within 21 days of the show-cause letter, or on or before Friday, March 14, 2025; and
- **WHEREAS,** in lieu of providing a written response, the DCBOE held a meeting on February 27, 2025, and unanimously voted to fully consent to the proposed intervention of the DCSS as provided by law and thereby has received all required notices and information due; and

WHEREAS, the DCBOE passed a Resolution consenting to the proposed intervention of the DCSS (attached as Exhibit "A" hereto); and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education fully authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to intervene in the Dallas County School System pursuant to the *Educational Accountability and Intervention Act of 2013* and that Dr. Mackey 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 Dr. Daniel Boyd 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 Dallas County School System until such time the DCBOE 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, plans addressing board governance plan, finances, personnel, facilities, and student learning.

Done this the 13th day of March 2025

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Mackey stated that there was no report necessary for the month of March.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey thanked the six speakers who spoke today on the reorganization of *Alabama Administrative Code* Chapter 290-3-3, Pertaining to Educator Preparation. He told the speakers that they shared some very good points. Dr. Mackey stated that even though the code was adopted today, please know that your concerns were heard, and the Department will continue to work with the universities to make sure Alabama educators are prepared. The Department will continue to work with universities on specific programs. Dr. Mackey stated that one speaker mentioned aligning the code chapter with the *Alabama Numeracy Act*. The necessary changes were incorporated in the code change that the Board Members voted on today. Dr. Mackey thanked Governor Ivey, Board Members, Teacher Certification Group, Deans of Colleges, and their staff, who worked so hard on the project as well as the six speakers who took the time to read the chapter and offer comments.

Dr. Mackey acknowledged Mrs. Shelley Kaler of the Pell City School System, as the National Association for Career and Technical Education Counseling and Career Development Professional of the Year. He asked Mrs. Kaler to remain after the meeting for portraits.

Dr. Mackey stated that Dr. Walter Gonsoulin, Superintendent of the Jefferson County School System, who was recognized in December as the 2025 Alabama Superintendent of the Year, has now been named the 2025 National Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Walter Gonsoulin, who has led the district since 2020, received the award at the School Superintendents Association's national conference in New Orleans on March 6, 2025. He is the first superintendent from Alabama to earn the title in the 37 years that the prize has been awarded. Dr. Mackey stated that Dr. Gonsoulin will be joining us in Montgomery on April 10, 2025, for a kind of Walter Gonsoulin day. He extends congratulations to Dr. Gonsoulin and all of Jefferson County Schools.

Dr. Mackey stated that Dallas County Board of Education has been very cooperative to work with. They voted 5-0 to agree to state intervention. Dallas County School System has some financial concerns. The intervention will start immediately. Dr. Daniel Boyd will serve as the Chief Administrative Officer for both Bessemer City and Dallas County School Systems.

Secretary and Executive Officer