

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 11, 2025
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 10:00 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. MARIE MANNING, VICE PRESIDENT

The invocation was done by Dr. Agnes Lover, Pastor, St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal 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
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. Tracie West in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

Absent

Governor Kay Ivey

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Allen Long, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 14, 2025, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of August 14, 2025.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS THE RESOLUTION TO MODIFY ALABAMA
FOUNDATIONAL READING ASSESSMENT AS A PRECONDITION FOR INITIAL
CERTIFICATION**

At this time, Mrs. Kelly Murray, Certification Officer, Jacksonville State University, who registered to speak prior to the Alabama State Board of Education meeting on agenda item G.2.a (Resolution to Modify Alabama Foundational Reading Assessment as a Precondition for Initial Certification), did so in person. Mrs. Murray speech may be viewed in full, as well as the complete Board meeting, at [Alabama Achieves | SBOE | Meeting Videos](#). The Board Members and State Superintendent thanked Mrs. Murray for providing her input and sharing her views.

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

**RESOLUTION TO MODIFY ALABAMA
FOUNDATIONAL READING ASSESSMENT
AS A PRECONDITION FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION**

WHEREAS, by Resolutions from time to time, the Alabama State Board of Education has adopted certain assessments and minimum passing scores as a condition for initial educator certification in the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, earning a passing score on the appropriate assessments is a prerequisite for initial certification in all subjects wherein content and pedagogical assessments have been adopted; and

WHEREAS, a foundational reading assessment is required for initial certification, via the Alabama-approved Educator Preparation Program Approach, and other certification approaches, for the areas of elementary education (K-6), early childhood education (P-3), and collaborative special education (K-6); and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education approved Foundations of Reading 190, a Massachusetts foundational reading assessment administered by the Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson, as the required foundational reading assessment beginning September 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education approved the passing score of 233 on Foundations of Reading 190, based upon the recommendation of the Alabama Standard-Setting Study conducted on December 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson is transitioning the Foundations of Reading assessment into their National Evaluation Series, which is a nationally available program comprised of content and professional knowledge assessments; and

WHEREAS, the transition to the National Evaluation Series will result in a test number change from 190 to 890; and

WHEREAS, the content, structure, and item bank of Foundations of Reading 890 will remain identical to Foundations of Reading 190:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, effective September 15, 2025, the Alabama State Board of Education hereby discontinues Foundations of Reading 190 and adopts Foundations of Reading 890 as the Alabama foundational reading assessment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby adopts the recommended passing score of 233 for Foundations of Reading 890; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Superintendent of Education is hereby directed to take any and all actions necessary to implement this resolution.

Done this 11th day of September 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 13-17, 2025,
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 that the National School Lunch Program has contributed to the health and educational development of Alabama’s children by making nutritious meals available to all grade levels at public and private schools, and Residential Child Care Institutions who participate in the National School Lunch Program; and

WHEREAS, every October, the School Nutrition Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture join together to celebrate the National School Lunch Week which was established in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child’s life and how balanced nutrition throughout the day contributes to student success in and outside of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Week 2025 (#NSLW25) theme is “Taste the World: Your School Lunch Passport” invites students to experience and appreciate global cuisines; and

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

WHEREAS, the School Lunch Program served over 84,977,201 million lunch meals for the school year 2024-2025 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 1,465 school sites statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages Alabama schools to participate in promoting National School Lunch Week; and designates October 13-17, 2025, as “National School Lunch Week” in Alabama schools.

Done this 11th day of September 2025

On motion by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

**ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE
290-080-030-.05, PERTAINING TO SCHOOL-BASED CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM
PERSONNEL**

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

**ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2026 OPERATING
BUDGET**

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Mackey announced that he will present a report next month regarding the three school systems currently under state intervention. Sumter County, Bessemer City, and Dallas County School Systems have all indicated an encouraging start to this school year. All three school systems have shown improvement compared to last year, and we feel positive about where they stand. Dr. Mackey stated that last week he communicated with Mr. John Heard and Dr. Daniel Boyd, the Chief Academic Officers, who are currently preparing reports for next month. Dr. Mackey expressed confidence in the progress being made with the three school systems, while recognizing the challenges they continue to face.

Dr. Mackey extended his appreciation to all members of his staff for their hard work and dedication. He noted that the agenda for today’s meeting included only four items requiring a vote from the Board Members; however, more extensive matters are scheduled for discussion during the upcoming Work Session. Dr. Mackey extended an invitation to all attendees to join the Board Members for the Work Session, scheduled to begin immediately after the meeting. Several superintendents, along with other attendees, are scheduled to address the topic of high school accountabilities during the Work Session. Dr. Mackey recognized the Accountability Work Group, chaired by Dr. Ann Jackson, Superintendent of the Jasper City School System, and co-chaired by Mr. Charles Willis, Superintendent of the Calhoun County School System.

Dr. Mackey stated that in October and November, there will be some big items coming before the Board Members. A counseling plan has been developed by the committee on which Mrs. Kelly Mooney served. Dr. Mackey mentioned that an update will be provided by the Mathematics Committee, chaired by Dr. Karen Anderson. Dr. Tonya Chestnut is a member of both the Mathematics Committee and the Accountability Workforce Group. A discussion will be held regarding Social Studies textbooks, along with the appointment of members to the new Course of Study Committee scheduled to convene next year. Dr. Mackey stated that the Digital Literacy and Computer Science Course of Study will be coming soon. He emphasized that several heavy issues are expected to arise in the coming months—issues that will impact our schools for the next decade or beyond.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer