

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
NOVEMBER 13, 2025
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, November 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 Reverend Shane Isner, Pastor, First Christian 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
Mrs. Marie Manning in person
Mrs. Kelly Mooney in person
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person
Mrs. Tracie West in person

Absent

Dr. Allen Long
Dr. Wayne Reynolds
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. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 9, 2025, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Tracie West and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of October 9, 2025.

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING 2025 A+ COLLEGE READY
SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE**

WHEREAS, A+ Education Partnership's A+ College Ready program, in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education, recognizes schools that demonstrate exemplary implementation of A+ College Ready program components; and

WHEREAS, A+ College Ready proudly partners with secondary schools to raise academic expectations and instructional rigor, to empower school leadership to create strong academic school cultures, to support educators to deliver high-quality instruction in well-equipped classrooms, to prepare a diverse pipeline of students for challenging curricula, to open the doors to Advanced Placement coursework for all students, regardless of circumstance, and to increase student academic success, as evidenced by growth and achievement on the PSAT 8/9 and/or the number of qualifying scores on AP exams; and

WHEREAS, the high schools listed below met or exceeded their individual goals for qualifying scores on the spring 2025 Advanced Placement (AP) exams by increasing the number of AP qualifying scores; and

WHEREAS, the middle schools listed below met or exceeded their individual goals on the PSAT 8/9 exam; and

WHEREAS, A+ College Ready recognizes the Schools of Excellence for their outstanding academic achievement and unwavering ardent commitment to the A+ College Ready program goals:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the following schools on achieving the status of an A+ College Ready School of Excellence in 2025.

Blount County School System
Southeastern School

Pike Road City School System
Pike Road Junior High School

Cullman City School System
Cullman High School

Russellville City School System
Russellville Middle School

Mobile County School System
Citronelle High School

Tuscaloosa City School System
Northridge High School
Northridge Middle School

Perry County School System
Francis Marion School

Done the 13th day of November 2025

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING 2025 A+ COLLEGE READY
SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION**

WHEREAS, A+ Education Partnership's A+ College Ready program, in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education, recognizes schools that demonstrate exemplary implementation of A+ College Ready program components; and

WHEREAS, A+ College Ready proudly partners with secondary schools to raise academic expectations and instructional rigor, to empower school leadership to create strong academic school cultures, to support educators to deliver high-quality instruction in well-equipped classrooms, to prepare a diverse pipeline of students for challenging curricula, to open the doors to Advanced Placement coursework for all students, regardless of circumstance, and to increase student academic success, as evidenced by growth and achievement on the PSAT 8/9 and/or the number of qualifying scores on AP exams; and

WHEREAS, the high schools listed below met or exceeded their individual goals for qualifying scores on the spring 2025 Advanced Placement (AP) exams by increasing the number of AP qualifying scores; and

WHEREAS, the middle schools listed below met or exceeded their individual goals on the PSAT 8/9 exam; and

WHEREAS, A+ College Ready recognizes Schools of Distinction for meeting or exceeding their goals for two years and for their outstanding academic achievement and unwavering ardent commitment to the A+ College Ready program goals:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the following schools on achieving the status of an A+ College Ready School of Distinction in 2025.

Alexander City School System
Benjamin Russell High School

Hartselle City School System
Hartselle Junior High School

Birmingham City School System
John Herbert Phillips Academy
W. J. Christian School

Jasper City School System
Jasper Junior High School

Etowah County School System
Hokes Bluff Middle School

St. Clair County School System
Moody High School

Fort Payne City School System
Fort Payne Middle School

Walker County School System
Bankhead Middle School

Done the 13th day of November 2025

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING 2025 A+ COLLEGE READY
MARY D. BOEHM SCHOOL OF ACHIEVEMENT**

WHEREAS, A+ Education Partnership's A+ College Ready program, in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education, recognizes schools that demonstrate exemplary implementation of A+ College Ready program components; and

WHEREAS, A+ College Ready proudly partners with secondary schools to raise academic expectations and instructional rigor, to empower school leadership to create strong academic school cultures, to support educators to deliver high-quality instruction in well-equipped classrooms, to prepare a diverse pipeline of students for challenging curricula, to open the doors to Advanced Placement coursework for all students, regardless of circumstance, and to increase student academic success, as evidenced by growth and achievement on the PSAT 8/9 and/or the number of qualifying scores on AP exams; and

WHEREAS, the high schools listed below met or exceeded their individual goals for qualifying scores on the spring 2025 Advanced Placement (AP) exams by increasing the number of AP qualifying scores; and

WHEREAS, the middle school listed below met or exceeded their individual goals on the PSAT 8/9 exam; and

WHEREAS, A+ College Ready recognizes Mary D. Boehm Schools of Achievement for meeting or exceeding their goals for all three years in the grant program and for their outstanding academic achievement and unwavering ardent commitment to the A+ College Ready program goals:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the following school on achieving the status of an A+ College Ready Mary D. Boehm School of Achievement in 2025.

Mobile County School System

Denton Magnet School of Technology

Done the 13th day of November 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF INCLUSION IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS
DECEMBER 8-12, 2025**

WHEREAS, Inclusive Schools Week is celebrated December 8-12, 2025, to celebrate the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to students with special needs; and

WHEREAS, the 50th anniversary of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) in 2025 marks a significant milestone in the history of education for children with disabilities; 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 in Alabama to celebrate the commitment to children with disabilities and stand steadfast in providing 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 8-12, 2025, as a week to celebrate inclusion in Alabama public schools.

Done this 13th day of November 2025

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

**ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-080-030-.05,
PERTAINING TO SCHOOL-BASED CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM PERSONNEL
EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)**

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey indicated that he had several points to address in his report today. As regular attendees may be aware, we have accumulated a substantial number of items throughout the year. He noted that this month's agenda is relatively short. Dr. Mackey expressed his gratitude to Governor Kay Ivey and the Board Members for adopting the Amended *Alabama Administrative Code* rule 290-080-030-.05, which pertains to School-Based Child Nutrition Program Personnel. The rule represents several years of work to revise child nutrition regulations, enabling a broader pool of candidates to qualify for positions on the child nutrition management team. Dr. Mackey noted that for many years before assuming his current role, several school systems—particularly in rural counties—expressed concerns that the regulations were so stringent they struggled to find qualified candidates. The qualifications were established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture relaxed its regulations, granting states more flexibility. The Alabama State Board of Education promptly embraced the change, stating that added independence would allow them to provide greater flexibility to local school boards and superintendents. Dr. Mackey stated that the adoption of the rule expands the candidate pool for child nutrition program director positions. He said it may take just a minute to complete, but years to get it done. Dr. Mackey thanked the Board Members for making the rule official.

Dr. Mackey acknowledged the presence of numerous school representatives in the audience, commending them for their outstanding contributions to College Board programs, particularly through Advanced Placement programs. He noted that Alabama is administering more Advanced Placement tests, and many of our schools are performing well in these programs. Dr. Mackey invited the honorees and school representatives to remain after the meeting for photos with Board Members. He recognized all local school representatives by inviting them to stand and be honored for their outstanding work with the College Board and Advanced Placement through the A+ Advanced Placement Program.

Dr. Mackey recognized Mrs. Sally Smith, Executive Director, Mrs. Tracey Meyer, Governmental Relations Coordinator, and the staff of the Alabama Association of School Boards for their ongoing efforts in coordinating annual meetings between local school boards and the Alabama State Board of Education. Last evening, members of the boards gathered for a roundtable dinner session to exchange ideas and strengthen partnerships. Dr. Mackey noted that many local board members remained overnight to attend this morning's State Board Meeting. Dr. Mackey invited Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Meyer, and representatives from local education agency boards to stand in recognition of their dedicated service.

Dr. Mackey shared that every December, Alabama celebrates Schools of Inclusion, which champion the participation of special education students in statewide academic and extracurricular programs. He expressed gratitude to the Board Members for their leadership in ensuring inclusive practices and ample support for children with special needs. Dr. Mackey noted that because of this commitment, Alabama consistently outperforms other states in special education success. Alabama students are performing exceptionally well, but the true measure of success lies in our commitment to full inclusion—ensuring that students with special needs have fair access to enrichment programs such as career and technical education, band, and athletics. Dr. Mackey announced that Alabama will place a strong emphasis on Inclusion Week this December, highlighting the importance of inclusive practices across the state.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer