

**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

**Cullman City School System**  
Cullman High School

**Mobile County School System**  
Citronelle High School

**Perry County School System**  
Francis Marion School

**Pike Road City School System**  
Pike Road Junior High School

**Russellville City School System**  
Russellville Middle School

**Tuscaloosa City School System**  
Northridge High School  
Northridge Middle 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

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

**Etowah County School System**  
Hokes Bluff Middle School

**Fort Payne City School System**  
Fort Payne Middle School

**Hartselle City School System**  
Hartselle Junior High School

**Jasper City School System**  
Jasper Junior High School

**St. Clair County School System**  
Moody High 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.

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Vice President

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Secretary and Executive Officer