

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
THE STATE OF ALABAMA  
JANUARY 8, 2026  
MOBILE, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in the Faculty Club of the University of South Alabama, Mobile, 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 Reverend Anthony E. Rosetta, Jr., Pastor, Kingswood United Methodist Church, Mobile, 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. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 11, 2025, MEETING**

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of December 11, 2025.

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE  
AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM  
Auburn University at Montgomery**

**WHEREAS**, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.59(2)(a)2., requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for a new program is reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education authorized a review of a proposed Class A Visual Impairments (P-12) program provided by Auburn University at Montgomery; and

**WHEREAS**, a review of the proposed program determined that all applicable standards were met; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the program be approved:

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

Class A Visual Impairments (P-12)

Done this 8th day of January 2026

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2026  
AS ALABAMA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, February 2026 has been designated National Career and Technical Education (CTE) month by the Association for Career and Technical Education, providing an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and impact of CTE programs across the nation and state; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's CTE programs continue to serve as a vital and rigorous component of the state's educational system, equipping students with the academic knowledge, technical competencies, and employability skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex and competitive workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's CTE initiatives strengthen the alignment between K-12 education, postsecondary institutions, and workforce development, fostering innovation and economic growth at the local, regional, and state levels; and

**WHEREAS**, strategic partnerships between Alabama's CTE programs and business and industry leaders ensure that students are prepared with the communication, leadership, and technical skills essential for success in both college and career pathways; and

**WHEREAS**, students across Alabama benefit from meaningful, hands-on learning experiences through apprenticeships, internships, simulated workplaces, and other work-based learning opportunities that prepare them for real-world challenges and lifelong success; and

**WHEREAS**, two out of every three Alabama high school students are currently enrolled in CTE programs, underscoring the broad reach and transformative impact of these opportunities on student engagement, achievement, and career readiness; and

**WHEREAS**, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) such as DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, JAG, JROTC, SkillsUSA, and TSA play a pivotal role in cultivating student leadership, civic responsibility, and workforce preparedness through co-curricular experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past year, more than 118,000 Alabama students actively participated in CTOS, and students statewide earned more than 40,000 industry-recognized credentials, demonstrating the strength and effectiveness of Alabama's CTE system in preparing students for high-skill, in-demand careers; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's CTE programs prepare students for a lifetime of success by providing opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials, gain workplace experience, and earn college credit while still in high school; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim February 2026 as Alabama Career and Technical Education Month and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and community organizations to participate in this celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of Alabama's career and technical education programs and their positive impact on student achievement.

Done this 8th day of January 2026

**EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)**

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

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Mackey thanked the Board Members for traveling to Mobile. He noted that Mrs. Zeigler has worked humbly and diligently to help organize the meeting and build connections at the University of South Alabama (USA). Mr. Chuck Marcum, Chief of Staff, and Mrs. Anna Morris, Public Affairs Liaison at the Department, partnered with Mrs. Zeigler to bring everything together. Dr. Mackey mentioned that some Board Members arrived last night, while others

traveled in this morning. During Dr. Mackey's report, he noted that he would outline the plans for the remainder of the day. He said that January meetings are typically brief because they come right after the holidays. Dr. Mackey mentioned that the workflow is a bit different this year because New Year's Day was just one week ago. Normally, the items planned for the first week of January are pushed to February.

Dr. Mackey reminded everyone that the Board Members would move directly into the Work Session once the meeting is concluded. Dr. Mackey mentioned that the agenda will open with a presentation from the Mobile County School System at approximately 11 a.m. He noted that some items may shift depending on individuals' schedules. Dr. Mackey announced that after the lunch break, Mr. Josiah (Jo) Bonner, President of USA, would join the Board Members to welcome them to his campus. Dr. Mackey stated that Board Members would have an opportunity to hear additional USA staff discuss the exciting developments happening on their campus. Dr. Mackey explained that some scheduled speakers had to cancel today due to illness. He said they would cover some legislative matters, ongoing issues, and any questions Board Members might have. Dr. Mackey introduced Rena Philips, Director of Communication for the Mobile County School System, who coordinated the Board Members' visit to Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies, an impressive school that is housed in the oldest school building in Alabama. Dr. Mackey remarked that Barton Academy is an exceptional school.

Dr. Mackey recognized Dr. Angela T. Barlow, Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, and her staff; Dr. Stephanie I. Hulon, Director of the South Alabama Regional Inservice Center, and her staff; the Alabama Reading Initiative staff; the Alabama Technology in Motion staff; the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative staff; and the Office of School Improvement staff who were in attendance. Dr. Mackey expressed his appreciation to the USA staff for hosting the Board Meeting at their facility.

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 10:27 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, 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