

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 12, 2026
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, February 12, 2026, 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. Veronica Jackson, Pastor, Grace Fellowship Church, Selma, 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 Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 8, 2026, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of January 8, 2026.

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
LEGISLATIVE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRAM AWARD**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes, appreciates, and encourages schools to implement instructional programs that result in having higher levels of performance for Alabama students; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative School Performance Recognition Program was created within the Alabama State Department of Education to reward public schools that either:

1. Demonstrate high performance by being ranked in the top 25 percent of public schools, as ranked in the school grading system

or

2. Demonstrate exemplary progress by improving the overall annual ranking of the school by at least one letter grade, as ranked in the school grading system; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative School Performance Recognition Program provides an opportunity for all public schools across the state to be recognized for their positive educational advances and the outstanding academic achievement of their students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Legislative School Performance Recognition Program Schools comprised of the 25 Top 25 Percent Schools and 25 Most Improved Schools listed below for their hard work and determination to improving student outcomes.

<p><u>Birmingham City School System</u> BCS Virtual Academy of Learning – Most Improved Huffman Academy – Most Improved Norwood Elementary School – Most Improved Robinson Elementary School – Most Improved Wenonah High School – Most Improved EPIC Alternative Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><u>Butler County School System</u> Greenville High School – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Cherokee County School System</u> Cherokee County High School – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Choctaw County School System</u> Southern Choctaw Elementary School – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Cleburne County School System</u> Ranburne High School – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Cullman County School System</u> Hanceville Elementary School – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Decatur City School System</u> Austinville Elementary School – Most Improved Oak Park Elementary School – Most Improved Benjamin Davis Elementary School – Top 25 Leon Sheffield Magnet Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><u>Gadsden City School System</u> Walnut Park Elementary School – Most Improved Eura Brown Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><u>Hale County School System</u> Greensboro Elementary School – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Haleyville City School System</u> Haleyville High School – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Homewood City School System</u> Edgewood Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><u>Hoover City School System</u> Brock’s Gap Intermediate School – Top 25 Deer Valley Elementary School – Top 25 South Shades Crest Elementary School – Top 25</p>	<p><u>Huntsville City School System</u> Chapman Middle School – Most Improved Montview Elementary School – Most Improved Hampton Cove Elementary – Top 25 Monte Sano Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><u>LEAD Academy Charter School System</u> LEAD Academy Building A – PK-4 – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Lee County School System</u> Beulah Elementary School – Most Improved Sanford Middle School – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Mobile County School System</u> Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies – Top 25 Eichold-Mertz School of Math and Science – Top 25 Old Shell Road Magnet School – Top 25 W H Council Traditional School – Top 25</p> <p><u>Montgomery County School System</u> Highland Gardens Elementary School – Most Improved Morris Elementary School – Most Improved Bear Exploration Center – Top 25 Forest Avenue Elementary School – Top 25 Loveless Academic Magnet Program High School – Top 25</p> <p><u>Mountain Brook City School System</u> Brookwood Forest Elementary School – Top 25 Cherokee Bend Elementary School – Top 25 Crestline Elementary School – Top 25 Mountain Brook Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><u>Orange Beach City School System</u> Orange Beach Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><u>Randolph County School System</u> Wedowee Elementary School – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Selma City School System</u> Clark Elementary School – Most Improved</p> <p><u>Tuscaloosa City School System</u> Oakdale Elementary School – Most Improved Tuscaloosa Magnet School - Elementary – Top 25</p> <p><u>Vestavia Hills City School System</u> Vestavia Hills Elementary East – Top 25 Vestavia Hills Elementary West – Top 25</p>
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Done this 12th day of February 2026

On motion by Mrs. Tracie West and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
LAKEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PHENIX CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A NOMINATED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes and commends schools that ranked in the top 15% statewide for academic achievement and were nominated for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools Award for their outstanding contributions to education; and

WHEREAS, five public schools were nominated statewide out of more than 1,300 public schools for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools Award, one of the state’s most prestigious education honors; and

WHEREAS, effective Fall 2025, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizing public elementary, middle, and high schools has been discontinued; and

WHEREAS, Alabama State Superintendent of Education Eric G. Mackey celebrates these schools for their exceptional contributions to academic success:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Lakewood Elementary School in the Phenix City School System for being nominated as a 2025 Blue Ribbon School.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
SHADES MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A NOMINATED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes and commends schools that ranked in the top 15% statewide for academic achievement and were nominated for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools Award for their outstanding contributions to education; and

WHEREAS, five public schools were nominated statewide out of more than 1,300 public schools for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools Award, one of the state's most prestigious education honors; and

WHEREAS, effective Fall 2025, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizing public elementary, middle, and high schools has been discontinued; and

WHEREAS, Alabama State Superintendent of Education Eric G. Mackey celebrates these schools for their exceptional contributions to academic success:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Shades Mountain Elementary School in the Hoover City School System for being nominated as a 2025 Blue Ribbon School.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
KILBY LABORATORY SCHOOL, FLORENCE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A NOMINATED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes and commends schools that ranked in the top 15% statewide for academic achievement and were nominated for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools Award for their outstanding contributions to education; and

WHEREAS, five public schools were nominated statewide out of more than 1,300 public schools for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools Award, one of the state's most prestigious education honors; and

WHEREAS, effective Fall 2025, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizing public elementary, middle, and high schools has been discontinued; and

WHEREAS, Alabama State Superintendent of Education Eric G. Mackey celebrates these schools for their exceptional contributions to academic success:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Kilby Laboratory School in the Florence City School System for being nominated as a 2025 Blue Ribbon School.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
MONTE SANO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HUNTSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A NOMINATED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes and commends schools that ranked in the top 15% statewide for academic achievement and were nominated for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools Award for their outstanding contributions to education; and

WHEREAS, five public schools were nominated statewide out of more than 1,300 public schools for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools Award, one of the state's most prestigious education honors; and

WHEREAS, effective Fall 2025, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizing public elementary, middle, and high schools has been discontinued; and

WHEREAS, Alabama State Superintendent of Education Eric G. Mackey celebrates these schools for their exceptional contributions to academic success:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Monte Sano Elementary School in the Huntsville City School System for being nominated as a 2025 Blue Ribbon School.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MADISON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A NOMINATED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes and commends schools that ranked in the top 15% statewide for academic achievement and were nominated for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools Award for their outstanding contributions to education; and

WHEREAS, five public schools were nominated statewide out of more than 1,300 public schools for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools Award, one of the state's most prestigious education honors; and

WHEREAS, effective Fall 2025, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizing public elementary, middle, and high schools has been discontinued; and

WHEREAS, Alabama State Superintendent of Education Eric G. Mackey celebrates these schools for their exceptional contributions to academic success:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Heritage Elementary School in the Madison City School System for being nominated as a 2025 Blue Ribbon School.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION OF DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION
2026 ALABAMA SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR
KIMBERLY JONES
NAN GRAY DAVIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, an innovative Alabama educator, who makes it her personal mission to incorporate strategies to make learning more engaging and relevant for students, has earned the prestigious Alabama School Counselor of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Counselor of the Year Award is one of the highest honors bestowed by the Alabama School Counselor Association; and

WHEREAS, the School Counselor of the Year Award honors school counseling professionals who devote their careers advocating for students—helping them to achieve success in school and throughout life; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's school counselors make significant contributions to the total and overall well-being of students and advocate for academic achievement, career development, and foundational wellness; and

WHEREAS, Alabama School Counselor of the Year Kimberly Jones is a counselor at Nan Gray Davis Elementary School in the Mobile County School System; and

WHEREAS, Alabama School Counselor of the Year Kimberly Jones is committed to making a difference in the lives of others and has a servant's heart; and

WHEREAS, Alabama School Counselor of the Year Kimberly Jones enjoys mentoring new school counselors and sharing different aspects of her comprehensive school counseling plan with her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Alabama School Counselor of the Year Kimberly Jones received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Alabama and her master's degree from the University of West Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Great State of Alabama is proud of Alabama School Counselor of the Year Kimberly Jones and her many accomplishments:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby extend appreciation and heartfelt congratulations to Alabama's 2026 School Counselor of the Year, Kimberly Jones.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION OF DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION
2025 ALABAMA SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION**

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Counseling Program of Distinction recognizes school counseling programs that demonstrate an exemplary level of implementation of a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program; and

WHEREAS, the program components align with the Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Model for Alabama Public; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Counselor Association recognizes schools and school systems as 2025 Alabama School Counseling Programs of Distinction:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the following school counselors on achieving the status of an Alabama School Counseling Program of Distinction in 2025.

Cullman City School System

Cullman City Primary School - Christy Free
Cullman Middle School - Savanna Ponder
Cullman High School - Jill Bishop-Hollis, Shannon Dutton,
and Kristen Gragg
West Elementary School - Regan Caldwell

Cullman County School System

Cold Springs Elementary School - Tiffany Davis
Cold Springs High School - Amy Kinney
Good Hope Middle School - Laura Rankhorn
Good Hope Primary School - Mattie Looney
Hanceville Elementary School - Jessica Reeves
West Point Intermediate School - Kelly Scott

Mobile County School System

Ben C. Rain High School - Shaniki Dailey and Demetria Smith
Eichold-Mertz Magnet School of Math, Science, & Technology - Buckley Freeman
Erwin Craighead Elementary School - Jennifer Feagin
North Mobile County K-8 School - Amber Turner
Palmer Pillans Middle School - Zatavia Spears

Shelby County School System

Calera High School - Jenn Elliott, Jerry Riggins, and Melissa Stano
Chelsea Park Elementary School - Carrie Cashion and Ansley Prather
Forest Oaks Elementary School - Jacqueline Garrett and Ansley Prather
Helena Elementary School - Kathleen Keelin and Michelle Ocampo
Inverness Elementary School - Benjamin Graham
Oak Mountain High School - Lindsey Barnett, Katherine Blight, Hannah Smith, and Amy Willis
Shelby Elementary School - Mary Hall
Vincent Elementary School - Ginger Forsythe
Wilsonville Elementary School - Mary Hall

Tallapoosa County School System

Dadeville High School - Kim Counts
Horseshoe Bend High School - Brittney Kelly and Vicki Lewis
Edward Bell Career Technical Center - Kathryn McElvy
Reeltown Elementary School - Elizabeth Lovelady
Reeltown High School - Allison Rodgers

Trussville City School System

Cahaba Elementary School - Mandy McIntosh

Done this 12th day of February 2026

On motion by Mrs. Kelly Mooney and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West., the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
TOP CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM PERFORMANCE AWARD**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes, appreciates, and encourages schools to implement instructional programs that result in having higher levels of performance for Alabama students; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) *Summative*, and *ACAP Alternate* assessments are the primary measures of student mastery of the Alabama Course of Study Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics for Grades 3-8; and

WHEREAS, the Mountain Brook City School System has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to instructional rigor, data-driven decision-making, and the success of every individual learner within their care; and

WHEREAS, based on the most recent assessment data, the Mountain Brook City School System has achieved the highest combined proficiency score in the state for a city school system on the *ACAP Summative and ACAP Alternate* assessments; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious achievement reflects the collective hard work, dedication, and collaborative spirit of the system's students, teachers, administrators, support staff, and the local Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Mountain Brook City School System serves as a model of educational excellence for the state of Alabama, proving that high expectations and a focused mission lead to superior academic outcomes for all student populations; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the Alabama State Board of Education recognize this exemplary achievement and the system's pursuit of academic greatness:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby commends and congratulates the Superintendent, Board Members, faculty, and students of the Mountain Brook City School System for earning recognition as the Top City School System, having achieved the highest combined proficiency score on the *ACAP Summative and ACAP Alternate* assessments in the state of Alabama.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
TOP COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM PERFORMANCE AWARD**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes, appreciates, and encourages schools to implement instructional programs that result in having higher levels of performance for Alabama students; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (*ACAP Summative and ACAP Alternate*) assessments are the primary measures of student mastery of the Alabama Course of Study Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics for Grades 3-8; and

WHEREAS, the Houston County School System has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to instructional rigor, data-driven decision-making, and the success of every individual learner within their care; and

WHEREAS, based on the most recent assessment data, the Houston County School System has achieved the highest combined proficiency score in the state for a county school system on the *ACAP Summative and ACAP Alternate* assessments; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious achievement reflects the collective hard work, dedication, and collaborative spirit of the system's students, teachers, administrators, support staff, and the local Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Houston County School System serves as a model of educational excellence for the state of Alabama, proving that high expectations and a focused mission lead to superior academic outcomes for all student populations; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the Alabama State Board of Education recognize this exemplary achievement and the system's pursuit of academic greatness:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby commends and congratulates the Superintendent, Board Members, faculty, and students of the Houston County School System for earning recognition as the Top County School System, having achieved the highest combined proficiency score on the *ACAP Summative and ACAP Alternate* assessments in the state of Alabama.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING MR. MARK MCGHEE
“BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER”
JANUARY-MARCH 2026**

WHEREAS, Mr. Mark McGhee, Education Administrator in the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Office of Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development, exhibits a positive and professional attitude and is always cooperative in his service to the educators and students of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mark McGhee is a trusted expert and advisor on multiple initiatives here at the ALSDE and is a team player who consistently meets goals and deadlines in a timely and confidential manner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mark McGhee is always helpful and has a willing attitude, interacts well with coworkers, colleagues, superiors, and subordinators, no matter how difficult or detailed the problem; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mark McGhee consistently demonstrates a strong team-oriented spirit and a willingness to wear many hats, and during a period of staff vacancies has stepped forward to assume additional responsibilities to ensure continuity of operations and support departmental needs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mark McGhee maintains a positive image, communicates extremely well with the public, and represents the department well:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education expresses their deepest gratitude to Mr. Mark McGhee for his commitment to public education, his tireless work ethic, and his impactful contributions to the students and educators of Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Mr. Mark McGhee for his deep commitment, continuous improvement, and devotion to education, and further congratulates him as the “Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter” for the first quarter of 2026.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2026
AS ALABAMA SCHOOL COUNSELING MONTH**

WHEREAS, Alabama school counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Alabama school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

WHEREAS, Alabama school counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal, and overall growth of their children; and

WHEREAS, Alabama school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Alabama school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can support students becoming productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, Alabama comprehensive school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim February 2026 as Alabama School Counseling Month.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF KAYLEIGH TANNER
EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CULLMAN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
ELEMENTARY DIVISION BEST OF SHOW
2026 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children's education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for artistic literacy, educational excellence, and for a well-rounded education for every student; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration; and providing opportunities to access, develop, express, and integrate meaning across a variety of content areas, curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Kayleigh Tanner, East Elementary School, Cullman City School System; her teacher, Lea Casey; her principal, Melanie Harris; and her superintendent, Mr. Kyle Stephen Kallhoff, and congratulates her for winning Elementary Best of Show in the 2026 State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF CRINAN MARLIN
JAMES CLEMENS HIGH SCHOOL, MADISON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
SECONDARY DIVISION BEST OF SHOW
2026 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children's education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for artistic literacy, educational excellence, and for a well-rounded education for every student; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration; and providing opportunities to access, develop, express, and integrate meaning across a variety of content areas, curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Crinan Marlin, James Clemens High School, Madison City School System; his teacher, Elizabeth Vaughn; his principal, Dr. Kerry Donaldson; and his superintendent, Dr. Edwin C. Nichols, Jr., and congratulates him for winning Secondary Best of Show in the 2026 State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE
2026 ANNUAL STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital, enriching, and core segment of children’s education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for educational excellence and artistic literacy for students; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration; and providing opportunities to access, develop, express, and integrate meaning across a variety of content areas, curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the 2026 State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit award-winning students and their teachers upon the honor of being selected as Alabama’s outstanding young artists and visual arts educators.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCH 2026 AS
ARTS EDUCATION MONTH IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize the arts as a vital and enriching segment of children’s well-rounded education; and

WHEREAS, the National Art Education Association has designated March as “Youth Art Month”; the National Association for Music Education has designated March as “Music in Our Schools Month”; the American Alliance for Theatre Education has designated March as “Theatre in Our Schools Month”; and the National Dance Education Organization has designated March as “Dance in Our Schools Month”; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, the Alabama Dance Educators Association K-12, the Alabama Music Educators Association, the Alabama Chapter of the Educational Theatre Association, the Alabama Conference of Theatre, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and Amp Up Arts have voiced their support for designating March 2026 as “Arts Education Month” in Alabama schools; and

WHEREAS, the arts education teachers in the public schools of Alabama continue to strive for educational excellence and artistic literacy for their students; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to arts teachers as they attempt to strengthen arts education programs in their schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, every chance given, arts education provides to every child every day powerful benefits including the following: arts education develops students' creativity through problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities; arts education teaches sensitivity to beauty, order, and all other expressive qualities; arts education gives students a deeper understanding of multicultural values and beliefs; arts education connects arts learning with and enlivens what students learn in other subjects; and arts education interrelates students' learning in arts processes of creation, production, performance, presentation, and responding:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That support should be given to arts education teachers as they attempt to strengthen arts education in their schools and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That education in the arts, including dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts, is an essential component of a well-rounded K-12 public education in Alabama to every child; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to arts educators, classroom teachers, and administrators for their efforts to improve arts education in Alabama public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby designate March 2026 as "Arts Education Month" in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCH 2-6, 2026, 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 nearly 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 2026 (#NSBW26) theme "The Quest for School Breakfast," brings the magic of fairytales to the cafeteria, where every meal fuel young heroes for the adventures ahead; and

WHEREAS, research indicates 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 46,966,445 million breakfast 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 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 2-6, 2026, as "National School Breakfast Week" in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE 2025-2026
ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR, KATIE COLLINS, BLUFF PARK ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, IN BEING SELECTED A FINALIST FOR
NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, the 2025-2026 Alabama Teacher of the Year, Katie Collins, a first-grade teacher at Bluff Park Elementary School, Hoover City School System, is an outstanding example of educational excellence and classroom innovation; and

WHEREAS, as a highly-skilled educator, Katie Collins inspires students to achieve academic goals and high standards; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) announced that from a cohort of 56 state Teachers of the Year, the National Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, comprised of 15 individuals and education organizations, has selected Katie Collins as one of the five finalists for National Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, she has taught first grade, middle and high school French, English as a Second Language (ESL) on the elementary school level, and adult education; she believes education is a life-long journey and continues to embrace every opportunity to teach students of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Katie Collins has served as an educator for 21 years, and students and their families still inspire her each day. She has remained focused on developing meaningful and authentic classroom approaches to help students achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, one of her proudest professional accomplishments has been creating the *Communities Family Literacy Program*, with the support of two remarkable colleagues, in response to seeing a need for parents of pre-school students to receive ESL services within their community, this grassroots program has impacted literacy outcomes at the youngest grade levels; and

WHEREAS, she uses a variety of strategies to elevate student learning and masterfully coordinate classroom learning and engaging activities, she believes it is essential to provide all students with interesting real-world experiences to help them connect their personal learning to the world around them; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year, Katie Collins, believes all members of the education community and every parent have a personal responsibility to advocate for an outstanding educational experience for all K-12 and postsecondary learners; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year, Katie Collins, encourages her students to understand that academic excellence requires perseverance, she is a trailblazer for educators:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognize and commend Katie Collins for this accomplishment sponsored by the CCSSO, a nonpartisan nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, Bureau of Indian Education, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions.

Done this 12th day of February 2026

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

For the record, Dr. Mackey affirmed that the Bessemer City School System Board of Education is currently on hiatus from convening public meetings.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey expressed appreciation to all attendees for their outstanding work. Dr. Mackey stated that February is a month of celebrations. He noted that this month is a time to recognize and celebrate the many positive things happening in our schools. Dr. Mackey mentioned that the Board Members would be engaging in extensive work during the Work Session. He added that additional routine work is expected in March.

Dr. Mackey announced that Mrs. Katie Collins has been named a national finalist for Teacher of the Year. He stated that there is great excitement surrounding the news and that she will join the Board Members during the Work Session.

Dr. Mackey noted that Mrs. Bonnie Short, Director of the Alabama Reading Initiative, also represented the state well during a recent congressional hearing in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Short is another individual who brings great pride to our state. She appeared before Congressman Robert Aderholt's Appropriations Committee to discuss the significant progress being made on the Science of Reading. Short's contributions, together with those of other Alabama educators, have helped position the state as a leader in integrating the Science of Reading into policy and classroom practice. Mrs. Peggy Rossmanith, an attorney in the General Counsel Section, accompanied Mrs. Short during her time in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Mackey congratulated Mountain Brook City School System and Houston County School System for being recognized as the top city and county school systems in the state. He noted that among the top five counties, Houston, Dale, and Geneva are contiguous. Dr. Mackey remarked that notable momentum is building in the southeastern region of the state with some healthy competition.

Dr. Mackey reminded everyone that February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. He introduced Mr. Dodd Hawthorne, Assistant State Superintendent of Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development (WFD). Mr. Hawthorne provided some brief updates on CTE/WFD. The Hazel Green FFA Quartet performed a beautiful selection. The Quartet members were Cole Moore, Rylann Hosch, Daltyn Bynum, and Sailor Priest. Dr. Mackey invited the Quartet Members to attend the Work Session for a meet-and-greet conversation with the Board Members. Dr. Mackey asked all honorees to remain for photos immediately at the conclusion of the meeting. After photos, the Board Members will proceed to the Rotunda for a performance by Duncanville Middle School in the Tuscaloosa County School System.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer