

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
JULY 14, 2026
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its Annual meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 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 Minister Ed Cleveland, First Baptist 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
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

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 11, 2026, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of June 11, 2026.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT PRO TEM

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted 7-2-0 in support of the motion to elect Mrs. Kelly Mooney as Vice President. Drs. Tonya Chestnut and Yvette Richardson opposed. On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted 7-0-2 to elect Dr. Allen Long as President Pro Tem. Drs. Tonya Chestnut and Yvette Richardson abstained.

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING MS. ALISON MCCLURE
“BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER”
JULY – SEPTEMBER 2026**

WHEREAS, Ms. Alison McClure, Administrative Support Assistant III in the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Office of Student Learning, and Alabama Reading Initiative Section, has faithfully served for approximately four years, consistently demonstrating exceptional commitment to excellence and service; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Alison McClure serves as a foundation of the Alabama Reading Initiative by providing exemplary administrative support to nine state staff members and more than one hundred regional staff members, ensuring that essential operations are carried out efficiently and effectively; and

WHEREAS, through her careful coordination of personnel actions, travel arrangements, invoices, hiring processes, technology support, logistics, and the routing of critical documents, Ms. McClure performs countless responsibilities with remarkable accuracy, professionalism, and attention to detail; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Alison McClure is recognized by her colleagues for her quiet diligence, unwavering dependability, and ability to anticipate the needs of others before they arise, consistently responding with thoughtful solutions, a positive attitude, and genuine kindness; and

WHEREAS, her commitment to maintaining an organized, welcoming, and efficient work environment enables her colleagues to focus on advancing educational opportunities for Alabama's schools and students, while her willingness to serve others strengthens teamwork and promotes organizational excellence; and

WHEREAS, although much of her work occurs behind the scenes, the lasting impact of her dedication is evident through the success of her team and the appreciation expressed by colleagues across the Alabama Reading Initiative:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education expresses its deepest gratitude to Ms. Alison McClure in appreciation of her exemplary service, outstanding professionalism, steadfast commitment, and meaningful contributions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby extends its sincere congratulations and gratitude to Ms. Alison McClure for her continued dedication to supporting the Department's mission of providing an excellent education for every child in Alabama, and congratulates her as the "Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter" for the third quarter of 2026.

Done this 14th day of July 2026

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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Athens State University

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule No. 290-3-3-.03(6)h.(ii), 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 State Superintendent of Education has received a written request from the President of Athens State University to develop a new program; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed program for which Alabama State Board of Education approval is sought, along with information on the factors considered in determining the need for this program; and

WHEREAS, Athens State University personnel have been advised that the proposed program may not be implemented until they receive Alabama State Board of Education approval, which is contingent upon documentation demonstrating compliance with all applicable standards and the AL-PIE new program approval process; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the program be reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorizes development of the following program:

Class B Theatre Education (P-12)

Done this 14th day of July 2026

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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Auburn University at Montgomery

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule No. 290-3-3-.03(6)h.(ii), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for new programs is reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has received a written request from the President of Auburn University at Montgomery to develop new programs; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed programs for which Alabama State Board of Education approval is sought, along with information on the factors considered in determining the need for these programs; and

WHEREAS, Auburn University at Montgomery personnel have been advised that the proposed programs may not be implemented until they receive Alabama State Board of Education approval, which is contingent upon documentation demonstrating compliance with all applicable standards and the AL-PIE new program approval process; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the programs be reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorizes development of the following programs:

Class B General Science (6-12)
Alternative Class A Visual Impairments (P-12)

Done this 14th day of July 2026

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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Faulkner University

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.03(6)h.(ii), 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 State Superintendent of Education has received a written request from the President of Faulkner University to develop new programs; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed programs for which Alabama State Board of Education approval is sought, along with information on the factors considered in determining the need for these programs; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University personnel have been advised that the proposed programs may not be implemented until they receive Alabama State Board of Education approval, which is contingent upon documentation demonstrating compliance with all applicable standards and the AL-PIE new program approval process; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the programs be reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorizes development of the following programs:

Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3)
Alternative Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3)
Class B Early Childhood Special Education (P-3)

Class B Collaborative Education (K-6)

Class B Biology (6-12)
Class B Chemistry (6-12)
Class B Mathematics (6-12)

Done this 14th day of July 2026

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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Tuskegee University

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule No. 290-3-3-.03(6)h.(ii), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for new programs is reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has received a written request from the President of Tuskegee University to develop new programs; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed programs for which Alabama State Board of Education approval is sought, along with information on the factors considered in determining the need for these programs; and

WHEREAS, Tuskegee University personnel have been advised that the proposed programs may not be implemented until they receive Alabama State Board of Education approval, which is contingent upon documentation demonstrating compliance with all applicable standards and the AL-PIE new program approval process; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the programs be reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorizes development of the following programs:

Class B Agriscience Education (6-12)
Class B Computer Science Education (6-12)
Class B General Social Studies Education (6-12)

Class B Choral Music (P-12)
Class B Instrumental Music (P-12)

Done this 14th day of July 2026

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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
The University of Alabama

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule No. 290-3-3-.03(6)h.(ii), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for new programs is reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has received a written request from the President of The University of Alabama to develop a new program; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed program for which Alabama State Board of Education approval is sought, along with information on the factors considered in determining the need for this program; and

WHEREAS, The University of Alabama personnel have been advised that the proposed program may not be implemented until they receive Alabama State Board of Education approval, which is contingent upon documentation demonstrating compliance with all applicable standards and the AL-PIE new program approval process; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the program be reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorizes development of the following program:

Accelerated Alternative Class A General Science Education (6-12)

Done this 14th day of July 2026

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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

University of Mobile

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule No. 290-3-3-.03(6)h.(ii), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for new programs is reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has received a written request from the President of the University of Mobile to develop new programs; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed programs for which Alabama State Board of Education approval is sought, along with information on the factors considered in determining the need for these programs; and

WHEREAS, the University of Mobile personnel have been advised that the proposed programs may not be implemented until they receive Alabama State Board of Education approval, which is contingent upon documentation demonstrating compliance with all applicable standards and the AL-PIE new program approval process; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the programs be reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorizes development of the following programs:

Class B Early Childhood Special Education (P-3)

Class A Instructional Leadership (P-12)

Done this 14th day of July 2026

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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

University of Montevallo

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule No. 290-3-3-.03(6)h.(ii), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for new programs is reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has received a written request from the President of the University of Montevallo to develop new programs; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed programs for which Alabama State Board of Education approval is sought, along with information on the factors considered in determining the need for these programs; and

WHEREAS, the University of Montevallo personnel have been advised that the proposed programs may not be implemented until they receive Alabama State Board of Education approval, which is contingent upon documentation demonstrating compliance with all applicable standards and the AL-PIE new program approval process; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the programs be reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorizes development of the following programs:

- Class A Collaborative Education (K-6)
- Class A Collaborative Education (6-12)
- Class B English Language Arts (6-12)
- Class B General Studies (6-12)

Done this 14th day of July 2026

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN
ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION ORGANIZATION**
Troy University

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted Rule 290-3-3-.60, Alternative Teacher Preparation Organization (ATPO) as a section within the Educator Preparation chapter of the *Alabama Administrative Code* on November 14, 2023, and as section 290-3-3-.46 in the newly revised chapter effective May 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Troy University documented meeting the requirements for successful operation by submitting documentation verifying that they are fully CAEP accredited between Fall 2023 and Fall 2030; and

WHEREAS, Troy University has successfully operated in Alabama as an Educator Preparation Provider preparing professional educators and offering initial and advanced certification programs across multiple instructional levels and content areas; and

WHEREAS, Troy University’s programs emphasize strong content knowledge, effective pedagogy, professional dispositions, and extensive clinical experiences to ensure that candidates are well prepared to meet the diverse needs of P-12 learners; and

WHEREAS, Troy University has developed eight self-paced modules using a mastery-based model; and

WHEREAS, Troy University has designed its modules so that students cannot progress to the next module until they have mastered the previous one; and

WHEREAS, Troy University has been made aware that Alabama’s test requirements for certification must be met as prescribed; and

WHEREAS, Troy University understands that continued training with the Educator Certification Section of the Alabama State Department Education is required to stay abreast of requirements relevant to the certification process; and

WHEREAS, Troy University has been made aware that they must submit an annual progress report detailing the number of program completers during the year and continued compliance with Rule 290-3-3-.46; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of documents, the Alabama State Superintendent recommends approval of Troy University to operate as an ATPO in Alabama for the following programs:

6-12 Teaching Fields				
English Language Arts	General Science	General Social Studies	History	Mathematics

P-12 Teaching Fields			
Choral Music	Instrumental Music	Physical Education	Theatre

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of Troy University to operate in Alabama as an ATPO until July 31, 2033, pending all requirements are met annually in the progress report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education will review the annual reports and all necessary documentation to determine if Troy University should be granted continued operations within Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Superintendent of Education reserves the right to require special reviews in response to the adoption of new laws, standards, significant changes to existing standards, or evidence of contributing factors.

Done this 14th day of July 2026

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

**ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE
290-2-1-.01, PERTAINING TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF FOUNDATION PROGRAM
FUNDS**

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

**ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE
290-2-1-.06, PERTAINING TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF RAISE ACT FUNDS**

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey acknowledged Dr. Chad Holden, Executive Director of the Alabama Association of School Boards, and asked him to stand. He noted that Dr. Holden succeeds longtime leader Mrs. Sally Smith, who recently retired.

Dr. Mackey recognized Ms. Alison McClure, Administrative Support Assistant for the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) Section at the Alabama State Department of Education. He remarked that while some may not know her, she is one of the individuals who helps ensure everything runs smoothly within the section. Ms. McClure was accompanied by Mrs. Bonnie Short, Director of the ARI, and Mrs. Karen Rutledge-Bell, Educator Administrator, ARI. Dr. Mackey stated that he was proud to recognize Alison as the Employee of the Quarter. Her award presentation took place on July 9, 2026, during the Alabama Reading Initiative statewide meeting.

Dr. Mackey thanked Reverend Ed Cleveland for delivering the invocation. He shared that although he does not know Reverend Cleveland well, he knows him to be a great father. Reverend Cleveland's son, Patrick, served as Dr. Mackey's son Christopher's cross-country coach. Dr. Mackey described Patrick as an outstanding individual and stated that Reverend Cleveland must be an exceptional person to have raised him. He also noted, as mentioned by Governor Kay Ivey and Mrs. Kelly Mooney, that Reverend Cleveland is a talented vocalist. Dr. Mackey commended him for his service to the community and his many years as an educator in Birmingham.

Dr. Mackey then commented on several items approved by the Board earlier this morning. He noted that a significant amount of work takes place behind the scenes prior to Board action. He reminded everyone that he had been under the weather during the previous month's meeting and left immediately afterward to avoid exposing Board members and others to illness. He expressed appreciation to his staff and the Board Members for conducting the Work Session in his absence and for reviewing the many programs listed on the agenda.

Dr. Mackey provided a brief overview of the educator preparation programs under consideration. He emphasized that none of the programs approved that morning received final approval. Rather, the Board's action recognized the universities' intent either to create new programs or update existing ones and authorized them to continue their development. The programs will return to the Board at a later date for final approval.

The proposed programs include offerings in theater, general science, visual impairment, special education, elementary education, early childhood education, biology, chemistry, mathematics, agricultural education at Tuskegee University, choral music, instrumental music, and leadership. Dr. Mackey also highlighted a unique proposal from Troy University, which seeks to become both a traditional college of education and an Alternative Teacher Preparation Organization (ATPO). He explained that ATPOs are typically private organizations and that state law does not prohibit a university from operating in both areas. Pending final Board approval, Troy University would manage both alternative teacher certification pathways and traditional college of education programs. Unlike degree programs, ATPOs provide certification pathways for individuals who already hold college degrees.

Dr. Mackey commended the deans and faculty members for the substantial work involved in developing these programs and thanked the Board for taking the time during the previous month's Work Session to review them. He noted that some institutions were not yet ready to present their proposals at that time. The Department has authorized those institutions to complete their work and submit the programs for review and recommendation. Dr. Mackey stated that he expects to bring those programs before the Board in the near future.

Dr. Mackey concluded by discussing the final two items on the agenda. He explained that the Foundation Program action fulfills a legal requirement that allows local education agencies to implement teacher pay raises. While the action may appear technical, he noted that teachers across Alabama certainly appreciate its importance. He also addressed the *RAISE Act*, which provides hundreds of millions of additional dollars to local school systems beyond traditional Foundation Program funding. Dr. Mackey thanked the Legislature for creating the program and noted that this marks its second year of implementation. He expressed confidence that the long-term impact of the *RAISE Act* will become evident in the years ahead. Dr. Mackey concluded by thanking Governor Ivey and the Board Members for their leadership and support during his absence from the previous month's Work Session.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 10 a.m. in the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering, Huntsville, Alabama, followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer