

RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO COMPONENTS OF THE ALABAMA LITERACY ACT REGARDING SUMMER READING ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, the *Alabama Literacy Act*, enacted June 10, 2019, and now codified as Section 16-6G-1, *et seq.*, *Code of Alabama* (1975) affirms Alabama's commitment to improving K-3 reading proficiency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, each local education agency shall provide summer reading camps to all K-3 students identified with a reading deficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Act also establishes the Alabama Summer Achievement Program for all K-3 students in public elementary schools that are among the lowest performing five percent of elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education shall provide guidelines for the administration of the Alabama Summer Achievement Program and convene a standing task force (Alabama Literacy Task Force) to provide recommendations for comprehensive core reading and reading intervention programs, a state continuum of teacher development, and an annual list of vetted and approved assessments that are valid and reliable reading screening, formative, and diagnostic assessment systems for selection and use by local education agencies; and

WHEREAS, also pursuant to the Act, summer reading camps shall be staffed with highly effective teachers, shall provide direct, explicit, and systematic reading intervention services, shall include 70 hours of reading instruction and intervention, and shall include the administration of an Alabama State Board of Education approved reading assessment system at the beginning and end of the summer reading camp to measure student progress; and

WHEREAS, multiple early reading assessment systems were submitted for consideration by the Alabama State Department of Education and reviewed by the Alabama Literacy Task Force; and

WHEREAS, following said review, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education published the first annual vetted and approved early reading assessment list on or about March 11, 2020. Not only will schools be able to use these assessment systems for the identification of students at risk for math and literacy difficulties, including dyslexia, but the reading assessment systems may also assist schools in meeting annual screening and reporting requirements of the *Alabama Literacy Act*:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby adopts the Alabama State Superintendent of Education's annual vetted and approved early reading assessment list and those replacement lists that continue hereafter, as the Alabama State Board of Education approved reading assessment system to be used at the beginning and end of the summer reading camp to measure student progress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Superintendent of Education is hereby directed to take any and all actions necessary to implement this resolution.

Done this 11th day of March 2021