

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ALABAMA’S “GROW OUR OWN” INITIATIVE
AND “FUTURE TEACHERS OF ALABAMA” ORGANIZATION**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Education Association (AEA) have formed a partnership dedicated to encouraging Alabama’s students to pursue a career in the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, research shows there will be an even greater demand for highly qualified teachers in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the Future Teachers of Alabama (FTA) organization and the TEACH Alabama program are innovative approaches focused on attracting more talented students to careers in the field of education; and

WHEREAS, the Future Teachers of Alabama organization and the TEACH Alabama program are rigorous, progressive, and vital parts of Alabama’s total education system; and

WHEREAS, these programs are committed to providing students with opportunities to gain valuable hands-on experiences through internships, classroom observations, and project-based learning; and

WHEREAS, Future Teachers of Alabama and TEACH Alabama started the “Grow Our Own” initiative to provide Alabama’s local school systems with additional opportunities to focus on activities that promote teaching as a career, highlight the importance of America’s educators, and encourage students to strongly consider the field of education as a future career choice; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Education Association and the Alabama State Department of Education also want to honor the service, dedication, and professionalism of Alabama’s educators:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognize Alabama’s “Grow Our Own” Initiative and the Future Teachers of Alabama Organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages local boards of education and all educational organizations statewide to support these special programs through activities that demonstrate the true importance of the teaching profession and the opportunities teaching provides for students to achieve personal and professional success.

Done this 9th day of May 2024