

December 2011

Dear Chamber Executive Director:

You and your community are invited to help celebrate Alabama's 19th annual School Board Member Recognition Month in January. Schools across the state will salute some 800 local school board members for their contributions and dedication to public education. The event also will be observed nationally.

Alabama's theme, "Making a World of Difference," acknowledges school board members' role in preparing today's students and tomorrow's leaders for productive citizenship. Throughout the month, community leaders like you are being asked to honor the men and women who voluntarily oversee educational efforts for over 749,084 Alabama schoolchildren. Your local school board members are part of a statewide team that supervises 47,573 teachers, 3,084 administrators and 36,680 support workers in 1,523 schools.

As community servants, your school board members devote countless hours attending school functions, training for their roles as local education leaders, and preparing for and making difficult decisions that affect thousands of students and school employees. They are most deserving of our encouragement and appreciation.

We urge your Chamber to plan to participate in recognizing the school board members in your area. The superintendent's office has a list of suggested activities, as well as information about board members and their years of service. You also may choose to place an ad or article commending the board members in your publications or local newspaper. Camera-ready materials to simplify this process for you can be found online at www.AlabamaSchoolBoards.org. In addition, we encourage you to send "thank you" letters to your school board members' employers. A sample letter is also online, and your superintendent can provide you with the employers' names.

Thank you for your efforts to promote this special celebration and help your community express its gratitude to its school board members. If you have questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to call your local superintendent's office or AASB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sally Howell, J.D.
Executive Director