

# Resolution Opposing School Start Date Legislation

**WHEREAS**, the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education is aware that members of the Alabama Legislature may consider legislation that would outline school start and/or end dates for public schools in the state of Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, each local board of education already is required by *Alabama Code* §16-8-30 to set a uniform start date for all schools within its system, thereby recognizing that school calendars are local decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, unique decisions take place in 137 Alabama school systems regarding student achievement, holiday preferences, community events, teacher professional development, partnerships with local colleges and universities, and workdays for educators to meet with parents; and

**WHEREAS**, the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education is charged with making decisions that are in the best interest of its students and student achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education is held accountable for student achievement not only by the community, but under both state and federal accountability programs; and

**WHEREAS**, local decisions about school calendar directly impact student performance, student and faculty morale, and community input;

**WHEREAS**, a statewide school start date would compromise the \_\_\_\_\_ school system's academic calendar and force students to lose instructional time prior to standardized testing;

**WHEREAS**, the (school system)'s academic calendar is an education priority and not a business or tourism decision; and

**WHEREAS**, the education community urges policymakers to Leave Our Calendar Authority Local

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education unequivocally oppose statewide efforts to mandate a school calendar and ask all lawmakers representing (school system) to vote against any bill which proposes to outline a statewide start and/or end date for Alabama public schools.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be recorded in the board minutes and provided to the Alabama Association of School Boards, each member of its Legislative delegation and the Governor.

Done this the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_).