

Resolution #20-01

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SCHOOL START DATE LEGISLATION

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

WHEREAS, the City of Madison 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 Madison City school system's academic calendar and force students to lose instructional time prior to standardized testing;

WHEREAS, Madison City'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 City of Madison Board of Education unequivocally oppose statewide efforts to mandate a school calendar and ask all lawmakers representing Madison City 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 6th day of February, 2020.

Ms. Ranae Bartlett,
President

ATTEST:

Mr. Robert V. Parker,
Superintendent