



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, throughout my Administration, I have made students' education my top priority. Recent national news stories have highlighted Alabama's unique strategies in advancing the overall quality of learning. I believe Alabama serves as an instructional model for other states looking to improve education, and as I mentioned in my 2025 state of the state address, "We are, in fact, not just a football state... Alabama is an education state!"; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, I launched "Strong Start, Strong Finish," an education initiative to create a seamless classroom to workforce pipeline. We are continuing to strengthen partnerships between Alabama's public schools and industries to expand career technical education and workforce pathways, while investing in the recruitment and retention of high-quality educators to ensure classrooms are led by prepared, passionate teachers; and

WHEREAS, Alabama continues to lead by investing in our youngest learners through the expansion of our nationally recognized First Class Pre-K program and the implementation of the Literacy and Numeracy Acts, ensuring more children enter kindergarten ready to learn and are reading on grade level by the end of third grade — because a strong start lays the foundation for lifelong success; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's public schools have demonstrated measurable, meaningful progress that reflects the dedication of our educators, students and families. In 2017 when I took office, we ranked dead last at 52nd in 4th grade math, and in 4th grade reading, we were 49th. Today, Alabama has the largest increase in 4th grade math and is now ranked 32nd in math and 34th in reading. We rank first in the nation in math recovery and third in reading and are a top five state for computer science; and

WHEREAS, I believe in setting high expectations for Alabama students because I have confidence they can achieve success. I have focused on student attendance. Very impressively, Alabama has the lowest percentage of chronic absenteeism in the country — ranking first in classroom attendance; and

WHEREAS, through hard work, accountability and a steadfast belief in our students, Alabama has turned progress into measurable opportunity. Alabama's high school graduation rate is 92 percent — one of the highest in the nation — and the College and Career Readiness Rate increased to 88 percent — an all-time record for our state. Our teachers are also earning high marks. And we have 500,000 more credentialed men and women joining our workforce; and

WHEREAS, quality education for our students starts at the top, and it has been my goal to ensure an increase in our teachers' pay and opportunities. This year, I have proposed another pay raise for our teachers that would mean our teachers have seen an almost 20 percent pay increase since I became governor.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim February 23 through 27, 2026, as

Public Schools Week

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 23rd day of February 2026.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor