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Alexander City Schools Receive B on State Report Card *For Immediate Release*

December 14, 2023

Alexander City, AL - The Alabama State Department of Education released its school report cards for the 2022-2023 school year. The state issued report cards assign letter grades to each of the state's public schools and school systems. The grades are based on multiple indicators including: academic achievement, academic growth, college and career readiness, graduation rate, chronic absenteeism, and progress in English language proficiency.

Alexander City Schools received an 81 for the district as a whole. ACS is proud to have maintained a B average at the district level.

Each school's individual grade shifted from the previous report card. Most notably, Benjamin Russell High School saw great gains as their score increased by 12 points and a full letter grade which is a testament to the commitment to academic excellence of the faculty and staff at BRHS. Radney Elementary's grade also reflects growth at the 5th and 6th grade level, increasing by two points.

Jim Pearson and Stephens Elementary schools saw a slight decrease in their scores. This decrease is not attributed to academic progress, but is due to chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism is a problem facing many schools across the state and nationwide. Alexander City Schools identified this as a concern within our district and has put measures in place to address this matter. ACS understands the critical role regular attendance plays in student achievement and overall well-being.

While we celebrate the successes of several of our schools we acknowledge the challenges faced by Alexander City Middle School. Although their score decreased, ACS views this as an opportunity for positive change and growth. The district has recently welcomed new leadership to ACMS, bringing fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to address challenges. Recognizing the importance of ongoing professional development, Alexander City Schools has implemented additional training programs for teachers, ensuring they are familiar and confident with the A+ College Ready curriculum. With this enhanced knowledge and a renewed focus, our dedicated educators at ACMS are better prepared to meet the diverse needs of their students. We are optimistic that these proactive measures will contribute to a

positive turnaround, fostering an environment of continuous improvement and ultimately leading to increased success at the middle school level.

The individual scores are as follows:

- Jim Pearson Elementary School: 81
- Nathaniel H. Stephens School: 83
- Williams L. Radney Elementary School: 85
- Alexander City Middle School: 65
- Benjamin Russell High School: 82

"We celebrate the achievement of Benjamin Russell High School and view the challenges faced by our middle schools as an opportunity for positive transformation," said Dr. Beverly Price, Superintendent of Alexander City Schools.

Dr. Price emphasized the importance of continued growth and the role that good attendance plays in the success of students. "Our commitment to continued growth is unwavering. We believe in the potential of every student, and we are dedicated to providing the support and resources necessary for their success. We will continue to stress the importance of good attendance, as it is a fundamental factor in academic achievement, and we encourage all families and students to make attendance a priority."

Expressing her pride in the school system as a whole, Dr. Price added, "I am incredibly proud of the hard work, dedication, and resilience demonstrated by our students, teachers, administrators, and support staff. Together, we will continue to foster an environment that promotes excellence and success for all students."

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