

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF BENJAMIN E. BAKER, ARITON SCHOOL,
DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, 2016-2017 HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE
YEAR**

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) sponsors a national program to honor outstanding middle and high school principals from across the United States and more than 45 countries; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin E. Baker, Principal of Ariton School in the Dale County School System, was selected as Alabama's 2016-2017 High School Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin E. Baker has served as an educator for 19 years and 12 years as an administrator; and

WHEREAS, secondary and middle-level principals are nominated for this achievement by peers in their state and final selections are made by committees appointed by each of the National Association of Secondary School Principals' state affiliate offices; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin E. Baker earned a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Troy University; and

WHEREAS, as principal of Ariton School, one of his greatest contributions is the life lessons he teaches to his students who are not only prepared for college and career, but know what it is to be great citizens; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin E. Baker instills in his students integrity, compassion, honesty, love, and patriotism that set students up to become successful; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin E. Baker, as principal of Ariton School, initiated a program to supply food for students on the weekends and partnered with local businesses and churches, the school currently provides more than 70 meals on the weekend for students receiving free and reduced lunch; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin E. Baker has added an "enrichment block" to provide students and teachers an opportunity to enhance their creativity, and the block established an award-winning choir, art classes, award-winning school newspaper, and a nursery/greenhouse business where students with excessive absences, excessive referrals, or low grades use this time to meet with a mentor; and

Action Item No. _____
Alabama State Board of Education
October 13, 2016

WHEREAS, each year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals congratulates principals from across the nation for their exemplary achievements by recognizing them in its Principal of the Year program; and

WHEREAS, the Principal of the Year program, established in 1993, honors outstanding secondary and middle-level principals who ensure that America's students acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement; and

WHEREAS, the program annually honors secondary and middle-level principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Benjamin E. Baker upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2016-2017 Alabama Principal of the Year.

Done this 13th day of October 2016