

Gov. Kay Ivey's Statement on the ACAP Reading Cut Score & Alabama Literacy Act at the November 10 Meeting of the State Board of Education

We will now consider a resolution establishing a cut score for the lowest level in reading for the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program. Establishing the cut score for the lowest level in reading for the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program is a very important step required by the Alabama Literacy Act. The resolution before us sets the cut score at 452, which is consistent with Dr. Mackey's recommendation and the recommendation of the Alabama Committee on Grade-Level Reading. This step is separate from the decision related to whether the promotion policy of the Alabama Literacy Act should be delayed. Setting the cut score for the lowest level in reading for the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program must be done today because it is required by the Alabama Literacy Act, and we cannot assume whether the Legislature will delay the promotion policy. I would like to say that, based on a review of the data, Dr. Mackey's recommendation, and the recommendation of the Alabama Committee for Grade-Level Reading, I am recommending a one-year delay of the promotion policy to the Legislature. The reason is simple: because we are implementing a new assessment, we need the Spring 2022 data to further validate the cut score before we implement the promotion policy. In the meantime, we will be doubling down on providing the supports needed to implement the Alabama Literacy Act to fidelity. These investments include professional learning for our educators in the science of reading, funding for high-quality summer and after-school programs, programs to mitigate learning loss linked to COVID-19, and funding to increase the number of reading coaches in our schools. As we continue working to implement the Alabama Literacy Act, we must also work to improve mathematics education in Alabama. Literacy and numeracy are both essential to student success. In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to working with you to place the same sense of urgency on mathematics as we have rightfully placed on reading. I urge you to adopt the resolution before us today setting the cut score for the lowest level in reading for the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program at 452.