

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

STATE OF ALABAMA

May 9, 2019

Dear State Board of Education Members:

Due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict, I will not be able to be with you to preside over today's meeting of the State Board of Education.

That said, I wanted to follow-up the individual conversations I had with each of you yesterday to expound upon my reasoning for supporting the legislation we discussed that will be introduced later today.

As you will recall, this bill, if passed by the Legislature and approved by the people of Alabama with a Constitutional Amendment, would change our current elected State Board of Education to a Board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Alabama State Senate.

As you know, I did not arrive at this decision lightly.

Like many, I trust and respect the people of Alabama's judgement and their right to vote for their elected officials. Moreover, my support for this legislation should, in no way, be seen as a negative response to any one individual or any one issue.

In fact, since joining the Board in April of 2017, I have known that you and your colleagues love our state and want the very best for the students of Alabama.

However, it is because of this love for the children of our state – and genuine, heartfelt concern for their well-being – that I sincerely believe we must move in a bold, new direction as it relates to the governance of our State Board of Education.

As we know all too well, statistic after statistic – and study after study – shows that our children are not getting the best education possible or even the best education that is available.

Let me be clear... this is not the fault of our children.

And as a former teacher myself, I refuse to lay the blame for this at the feet of our many good, dedicated teachers and administrators all across the state. I trust you would agree that the vast majority of our teachers and administrators do the very best they can with the resources the people of Alabama provide them through the Alabama Legislature and local tax revenue.

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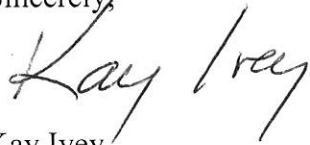
But the fact is our current system of governance is broken and desperately needs fixing.

If we truly want the very best education possible for the children of Alabama, then we need to find a model that has worked elsewhere but of equal importance, one that will work in Alabama.

My goal would be to bring together the best, most dedicated minds who share this passion for a truly world-class education system and begin an honest, sincere conversation about what is currently working in Alabama's schools, what is broken and what we need to do – together – to get the kind of results that today's students – and tomorrow's future leaders – so richly deserve.

I look forward to working with you over the coming weeks and months. You have my personal assurance that during those times where we may disagree, we will always put our differences aside to do what the people of Alabama expect and deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Kay Ivey
Governor